

May Newsletter



May 2018

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

I hope you all had a lovely extended half-term break. Our training days included whole staff training on a new Local Authority recommended strategy for behaviour management. We all found the day quite thought provoking and will be reviewing our school weather system as a result later in the term. We introduced the weather system six years ago and whilst it has been hugely positive, it is time to consider whether it is still right for our school. We will be asking the children what they think and would love to know your opinion too. Please keep an eye out for the survey about it in the next few weeks.

We were also treated to a tour of our new building. Wow! It is really taking shape in there; it was great to get a feel for the new space and see how it all connects together. The roof was finished during half-term and things like cupboards and sinks go in next week. I know at times it has been frustrating for you when things are happening at drop off / collecting times but it does mean that the work is on schedule, which is needed so that we can start back in September with a new, fully functioning school.

May's highlights undoubtedly have to be

Sports Day



The sun shone once again for our annual sports day, on Tuesday 22nd May. It was fantastic to see the children with smiles on their faces as they took part in all the activities and races to win points for their houses. The teamwork, enthusiasm and passion displayed by all children was impressive. Thank you to everyone who came to support the children and also to the MVC young leaders for their support. Massive congratulations to all the children but especially to our overall winners on the day, Oak house.

Royal Wedding

According to the news, the Royal Wedding took place on Saturday 19th May, but here in Melbourn we believe that a much more exciting Royal Wedding happened the day before. It was amazing to see all the children arriving at school dressed to impress in their finest outfits ready to walk to All Saints Church for the wedding of the year. The bride and groom took their vows of friendship in front of a packed congregation complete with some lovely readings and songs. Then it was back to school for the wedding breakfast, party and amazing cake, where much fun and laughter was had by all. Thank you to Reverend Lizzie for letting us use the church and officiating our ceremony. It was truly a memorable and inspirational day.



Foundation Stage trip to the zoo

The Foundation Stage children boarded the coach with great excitement for their trip to Banham Zoo. At the zoo, we saw a wide array of amazing animals including snow leopards, lemurs, flamingos and giraffes. We observed the animals close up and learnt about where they live and what they eat. The children also had great fun riding the train around the zoo to see what other animals they could spot. Thank you to all the helpers who came on the trip and helped to make the day so special for all the children.

PE news

On Tuesday 15th May, a team of four Year 3/4 children went to MVC to take part in the Mini Red tennis tournament. The children played matches against children from other local schools to win points for their teams. Well done to all the team for your fantastic effort and sportsmanship throughout the evening.

Exciting News

You may have read that the National Funding Formula for schools has been reviewed and changed. This has meant that some schools have seen gains to their income whilst others losses. It is good news for Melbourn though, with some financial gain (not masses – it is still tight and not equitable when compared to schools in other parts of the country) but makes enough of a difference for the governors to be able to make some exciting strategic decisions which they will be writing to you about in the coming weeks. I am delighted to be able to share that for this reason, and the growing numbers in school, from September the whole school will be completely 2 Form Entry. We already have two classes per year group in Foundation and KS1 and this means that we can extend this model across the school. This removes the need for mixed age classes. This also means that for the next couple of years the KS2 classes will be relatively small with approximately only 22 - 24 children in them until more children arrive and the class size becomes more 'average'; you are very lucky if you have a child in KS2 next year! 😊

Staffing News

I am delighted to share that the May deadline for end of year resignations has passed and we have a full complement of teachers for September. With the exception of Mrs Pine, whose promotion news I have already shared, all staff will be with us again in September – I am not sure if I have ever written that in a May newsletter! Wow and phew!

I do have some sad staffing news though. It is with a heavy heart that I have to tell you that our wonderful Mrs Benson has been diagnosed with breast cancer. Mrs Benson is still at work at the moment but will be going on sick leave towards the end of June for a significant period of time. We are not quite sure yet how long Mrs Benson will be off for but she will not be with us initially for the autumn term. Mrs Benson is a much loved teacher and colleague. We all love her and her enthusiasm; she brings much joy to our school and staff team. If you have been lucky enough to have had a child in her class or attended one of her phonic workshops you will appreciate just how much we will miss her and her 'joie de vivre' whilst she is off. I am sure you will join me in sending her your love and good wishes for a full recovery.

Meet the leadership team

On Tuesday 12th June, we have our termly opportunity to meet the leadership team to come and chat with them about any school matters. If you would like to join us please email the school office and arrive at the front entrance for 2.15pm.

Fortnite

I shared with the KS2 children in assembly yesterday how worried I am about those playing Fortnite. Teachers and headteachers across the country are reporting increasing concerns about the possible impact of this game. Here at Melbourn, we are witnessing children acting out the game with inappropriate violence and language. Most concerning though, are the amount of references to death and killing that our children as young as seven are verbalising. I cannot stress enough, that we as a group of educators, think that this game is highly inappropriate. Fortnite is rated as **PEGI 12**. Please be aware that teachers will be raising concerns with you if they think your child is being adversely affected by their gaming. If you are in any doubt about the possible impact, please read this article:

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/mental-wealth/201609/is-your-childs-brain-video-games>

And finally

Thank you for your engagement in our recent survey monkey about the proposed changes to the school day. It has been fantastic to receive such a high response rate. We really appreciate your partnership with us and openness to our suggestion. Thank you. We have responded by letter about the new plans but I would like to stress our willingness to meet any parents who have specific concerns. Please email or phone the school office for an appointment.

Mrs Stephanie Wilcox
Headteacher

Dates for June

- Tuesday 12th – Parents invited to join the Leadership team for tea & chat 2.15pm
- Wednesday 13th – New Foundation Parents 2018 – 2019 Welcome Evening 7.00pm
- Friday 15th – Fathers invited for activities – pre booking required
- Friday 15th – PSHCE Day
- Monday 18th – Wednesday 20th – Year 4 Burwell Trip
- Wednesday 20th – E-safety working party meeting
- Monday 25th – Class photographs
- Monday 25th – Foundation Stage Cake Stall Fundraiser
- Tuesday 26th – Year 6 induction day at MVC
- Wednesday 27th – Year 1 Trip to the Garden Centre
- Friday 29th – Forest School afternoon – Parents invited to find out more about our outdoor learning.

	<p>Dates for the diary</p> <p>Summer Fayre – Friday 6th July Disco – Friday 20th July</p> <p>Easyfundraising.org.uk</p> <p>A reminder that you can help us every time you shop online by selecting your chosen outlet, holiday company or internet shop via easyfundraising.org.uk</p> <p>Find us on FACEBOOK for further information and details about events https://www.facebook.com/mpsptfa/</p>	
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