



Principal's update

I am very pleased to introduce myself to you as the new Principal of Montem Academy. It is a genuine privilege to take on this role and to join such a dedicated and hardworking team.

Montem is a school with a strong sense of community and a deep commitment to its pupils. I am very much looking forward to working alongside you all. I am passionate about ensuring that every child receives the highest quality education, and I know this is a shared commitment across the school.

With over 20 years' experience in education, I have worked in a range of leadership roles. I am excited to bring this experience to Montem and to build on the many strengths already in place.

Over the coming weeks, I look forward to meeting you all, as building strong, positive relationships is a key priority for me.

Thank you for the warm welcome I have already received. I am excited about what we can achieve together for our pupils and the wider community.

Mrs Nel
Principal

Parent Meetings

Thank you to all the parents who attended our recent parent meetings, and to those who took the time to complete our Parent Evening feedback survey.

As part of our ongoing work to strengthen partnerships with parents, we greatly value your views. Your feedback is important and helps us to continually improve how we support our children and families.

We will now be carefully reviewing all responses and will follow up on your feedback as part of our 'you said, we did' approach.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Dates for your diary

4th May

Bank Holiday

6th & 7th

Y2 Hindu Temple visit

8th May

Y1 Visit to Windsor Castle
(Oak & Sequoia)

11th May - 14th May

Y6 SATs Week

Attendance

The class with the best attendance this week is:

1st place: 2 Sequoia - 99.7%

2nd place: 6B Sequoia - 98.3%

3rd place: 1 Sequoia - 98.2%

Classes with 100% attendance will have a non-uniform day on



Attendance Matters

Every student. Every day.





MONTEM ACADEMY

The Park Federation Academy Trust

Montem Newsletter

Children's Safety

Please remember that children are **not** allowed to play on any of the climbing equipment in any of the playgrounds **before or after school**. This is for their own safety, as there are no staff supervising them, and first aid facilities may not be available in the event of an accident.

We will remind the children, but please support us by reminding them yourselves and asking them to stop if they do go on the equipment.

Thank you



Lost Property

We are still getting lots of lost property that doesn't have a name in it. Please name **all** your child's belongings, even if it just with a pen. We will reunite items with your children as long as they are named.

Thank you

Nut Allergies

Please remember we aim to be a nut free school and packed lunches should not contain anything that has nuts in. Birthday sweets or cakes sent into school should also not contain nuts (E.g Celebration chocolates) and should be halal.

Thank you



Allergy Season

If your child suffers from hayfever, please give them their medication before they come to school. If they have prescribed medication that needs to be given in school, you must complete the appropriate paperwork with Mrs Babar, our Welfare Assistant,.

Children who have allergies should not miss out on outdoor activities, so it's important that they have the necessary treatment. Symptoms such as runny nose, itchy eyes and sneezing should be discussed with your pharmacist or GP.

Thank you





Year 6 Park Federation Netball Champions 2026

We are incredibly proud of our Year 6 netball team, who recently competed in The Park Federation Netball Tournament alongside eight schools from across the Trust.

Our team demonstrated excellent teamwork, determination and sportsmanship throughout the competition and went on to secure **first place** - an outstanding achievement! They were awarded medals and a 1st place trophy, which is now proudly displayed in our school trophy cabinet.

A huge well done to all the players for representing the school so brilliantly. We are very proud of you!



Slough Schools Kurling Silver Medalists 2026

We are proud to celebrate our 2026 Slough Schools Kurling team, who achieved a fantastic **silver medal** in this year's competition.

The pupils demonstrated great teamwork, concentration and determination throughout, representing the school with pride.

Well done to everyone involved on this excellent achievement!



**TEAM
WORK
MAKES THE
DREAM
WORK**





Y4 Hampton Court Palace

We are delighted to share that our Year 4 pupils recently visited Hampton Court Palace, bringing their Tudor learning to life.

During the trip, the children explored the palace, once home to King Henry VIII, and were captivated by the Great Hall and the stories of the Tudor court.

A particular highlight was the famous maze, which the pupils thoroughly enjoyed as they navigated their way to the centre.

Throughout the day, the children showed great enthusiasm, curiosity, and exemplary behaviour. They asked thoughtful questions, engaged brilliantly with the activities, and represented the school with pride.

We are very proud of Year 4 for the way they embraced this enriching experience.





Earth Day

This year, pupils across the school came together to celebrate Earth Day, learning about how we can all use our “power” to protect our planet. Earth Day, celebrated annually on 22nd April, encourages people around the world to reflect on how we care for the Earth and take action to make a difference.

Each year group took part in creative and thoughtful activities linked to this year’s theme, “Our Power, Our Planet”, exploring how even small actions can have a big impact.

It was wonderful to see such enthusiasm creativity and commitment across the school. Through these activities, pupils have developed a deeper understanding of how we can all play a part in protecting our world.

Together, we are learning that every small action counts and that every day can be Earth Day.



Earth Day

2026

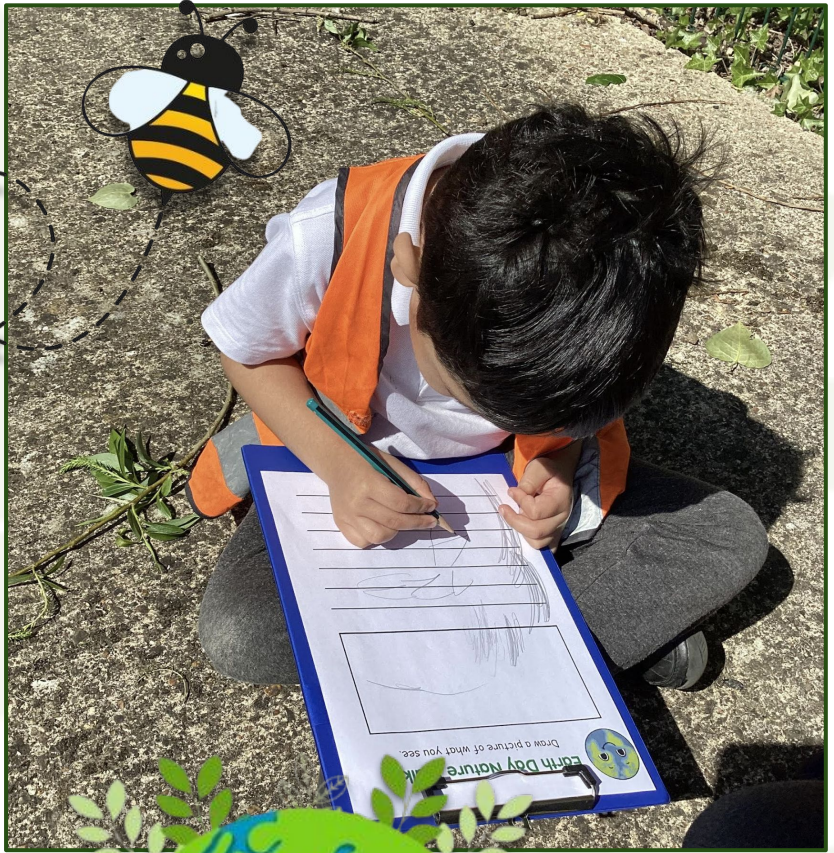




MONTEM ACADEMY
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Montem Newsletter

April 24, 2026
Edition 1



Everyone to Excel through Pride and Ambition



Year 1





Fresh Air Starts at the School Gate

Help Our Children Breathe Easier: The "No-Idling" Zone

We all want the school run to be as safe as possible. While we often think about road safety, **air safety** is just as important.

What is "Idling"?

Idling is leaving your engine running while your car is stationary (waiting in a parking spot or pulled over at the curb). It might seem harmless, but it has a big impact on the air our children breathe every afternoon.

The Facts: Why It Matters

- **Pollution Hotspots:** Idling creates clouds of dirty air right at the school gate where children stand and wait.
- **Developing Lungs:** Children breathe faster than adults and their lungs are still growing. High levels of exhaust can lead to **asthma** and other respiratory issues.
- **Wasted Fuel:** If your engine is on but you aren't moving, you are getting **0 miles per gallon**.

The Good News: You Can Help!

By simply turning your key and switching off your engine while waiting, we can make a massive difference together:

The "Switch-Off" Effect

Cutting out idling can reduce peak air pollution around our school by **20% to 30%**.

3 Quick Tips for the School Run

1. **The 10-Second Rule:** If you are stopped for more than 10 seconds, turn off the engine. It's better for your car and the air!
2. **Keep it Green:** Encourage your child to look out for "Green Drivers" who have their engines off.
3. **Spread the Word:** Tell other parents! Most people idle simply because they haven't thought about the impact.

**Let's clear the air for our kids.
Please switch off when
you're stationary!**



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

(Certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Online videos are often associated with apps such as YouTube, but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a potentially addictive, never-ending stream of short clips tailored to users' interests based on their viewing habits. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while most content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where young people are "most likely to encounter a potential harm".

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

TikTok's Following Feed shows videos from known creators, while the default For You Feed serves endless clips based on viewing history. Most are harmless, but unsuitable content can still appear, and watching for long enough signals interest to the algorithm. Although TikTok bans illegal or inappropriate uploads, the volume of posts means some slip through, increasing the chance that children encounter age-inappropriate material before it is detected or removed.

BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Ofcom reports that most online harms for girls involve body image, while boys more often see dangerous stunts. Both types appear frequently on TikTok and spread quickly through its engagement-driven algorithm. Harmful challenges have included the "blackout" trend, where users held their breath until passing out. Families filed lawsuits after children died linked to the trend, showing how extreme or risky content can rapidly reach young people and negatively influence them.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but children can still spend money. TikTok coins, costing £9.99 to £224.99, let users buy gifts for creators. TikTok Shop adds risk by allowing purchases from influencers or companies, sometimes leading to poor-quality items driven by persuasive marketing. A Canadian investigation found TikTok collected personal data from many children for targeting and advertising despite age limits, meaning young users may lose control over their personal information.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Between 1.6 and 1.9 billion people use TikTok, meaning there's a high risk of unwanted attention from strangers. Accounts created by over-16s (or young people using a fake date of birth) are set to public view by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and allows anyone to download or comment on them.

MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

TikTok's short videos may appear lighthearted, but they can expose young people to harmful ideas. Misinformation is common, and Ofcom reports that nearly one third of 12–15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source, increasing the chance of seeing racist, misogynistic, extremist or conspiracy material. Even brief clips can influence impressionable users and shape their worldview, making discussions about critical thinking, propaganda and online influence especially important for parents and educators.

ADDICTIVE DESIGN

TikTok's fast-paced stream of eye-catching videos can be potentially addictive for young users. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 127 minutes per day on the platform, double the time recorded in 2020. Excessive use can disrupt sleep, increase irritability, and distract from healthier activities. Constantly skipping between short clips may also affect attention span, making it harder to focus on longer tasks such as homework or reading.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's in order to manage settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children cannot alter these settings without parental approval.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure they don't share any identifying personal information or respond to dangerous trends, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they're worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's important to talk about misinformation and propaganda.

BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

Parents can restrict in-app purchases on iPhone and Android devices to prevent accidental or impulsive TikTok spending. Young people can easily spend large amounts on TikTok coins or low-quality products promoted through TikTok Shop. If a disappointing purchase occurs, turn it into a discussion about influencer marketing and how online promotions can be misleading.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is failing to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.

Everyone to Excel through Pride and Ambition