MONTEM ACADEMY

The Park Federation Academy Trust

Montem Newsletter

July 10th, 2026
Edition 10

Principal's update

This week, our pupils enjoyed Transition Day, spending time with their new class teacher and becoming familiar with their new classroom. It was wonderful to see the children embracing this exciting step with confidence.

You can help prepare your child for September by talking positively about their new class, encouraging them to share any questions or worries, and reminding them of the exciting opportunities ahead. If your child finds change or transition challenging, please speak to their class teacher so we can work together to support them.

End-of-year reports will be emailed to parents and carers on Friday 17th July via Insight Tracking. Please ensure the school office has your most up-to-date email address so that you receive your child's report.

As we approach the end of the academic year, attendance remains important right up to the final day. There is still valuable learning taking place, and we expect all children to attend school every day unless they are too unwell. School closes for the summer holidays on Wednesday 22nd July at 2.00 pm.

We also look forward to welcoming parents and carers into school in September for our 'Meet the Teacher' sessions. These will provide an opportunity to meet your child's new teacher and learn about the key expectations, routines and curriculum for the year ahead. Further details will be shared at the start of the new academic year.

Thank you for your continued support throughout the year.

Mrs Nel
Principal

Dates for your diary

16th July
Meet the Instruments @ 3:30pm
Music Suite

17th July
Y6 Graduation

17th July
End of Reports will be emailed

20th July
Y6 Prizegiving

21st July
Prizegiving (invitations sent home for selected pupils)

Wednesday 22nd July
End of school year, school closes at **2.00pm**

Thursday 3rd September
First day of school for children.

Attendance

The class with the best attendance this week is:

🥇 1st place:
3 Redwood - 99.6%

🥈 2nd place:
R Sequoia - 98.6%

🥉 3rd place:
4 Sequoia- 97.6%

ATTENDANCE MATTERS
SUPPORTING EVERY STUDENT. EVERY DAY

End of Year Arrangements...

- School closes at **2.00pm on Wednesday 22nd July**. Please ensure you arrive promptly to collect your children.
- Please **collect any lost property** from our school office - we will donate or recycle anything that is left behind.
- Please **return any school reading books** you may have at home.

Getting ready for next year.....

- Make sure **all your child's belongings are labelled**, including their water bottle, lunch bag, clothes, shoes etc. Lost property will be returned to them if it is named.
- Ensure your **contact information is up to date** - we need to be able to contact you in the event of an emergency.
- **Discuss any changes in your child's health, medication or allergies** with Mrs Babar, our Welfare Assistant.

Y6 Federation Athletics at Thames Valley Athletics Stadium

It was an unforgettable day at the track as our young athletes powered their way to a fantastic **second-place overall finish** at the competition. The girls led a dominant campaign, capturing **gold in both the Relay and the Hurdles**, sweeping **first and second place in the triple jump**, and adding crucial points with a **second-place finish in both the 75m sprint and the 400m**, alongside a well deserved **third place in the 600m**. The boys rose to the occasion too, showing incredible determination to take **third place in both their relay and the 400m sprint**. Thanks to a brilliant mix of individual speed and immense teamwork, the entire squad rightfully earned their spot on the overall podium.

A message from Mr Walters

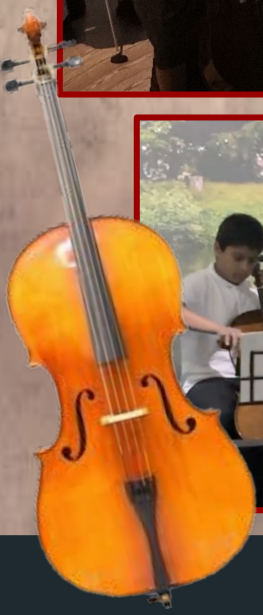
I will never forget my very first Federation Athletics competition at Montem Academy, purely because of this truly incredible group of children. From the first starting gun to the final whistle, they displayed a fierce, "never give up" attitude that left everyone in the stands deeply inspired. No matter how tough the competition got or how exhausted they were, they dug deep, supported one another, and ran every race with pure heart. It wasn't just about the medals they won, but the unstoppable spirit they showed in every single event—leaving a lasting impression that I will carry with me for a very long time.

Grand Opening of Creative Studio & Cello Concert

Our recent cello concert was a truly memorable occasion, celebrating not only the outstanding achievements of our young cellists but also the official opening of our brand-new Creative Studio.. The event marked the fulfilment of a long-held dream for Ms Ann Probert, whose vision for a dedicated creative studio has now become a reality. It was a privilege to celebrate this milestone together in such an inspiring new space.

Performing in the immersive classroom, complete with digital projection, showcased the exciting opportunities it will bring to music education. We are incredibly proud of every pupil for their hard work, confidence and musical growth throughout the year.

Thank you to our families, friends, staff and our Guest of Honour, Ms Ann Probert, for joining us to celebrate this special occasion. We look forward to seeing our pupils continue to thrive as they make music in this remarkable new environment.



Reminder: Summer Reading Challenge 2026 – Read to the Beat!

A reminder that the **Summer Reading Challenge – Read to the Beat!** is now underway!

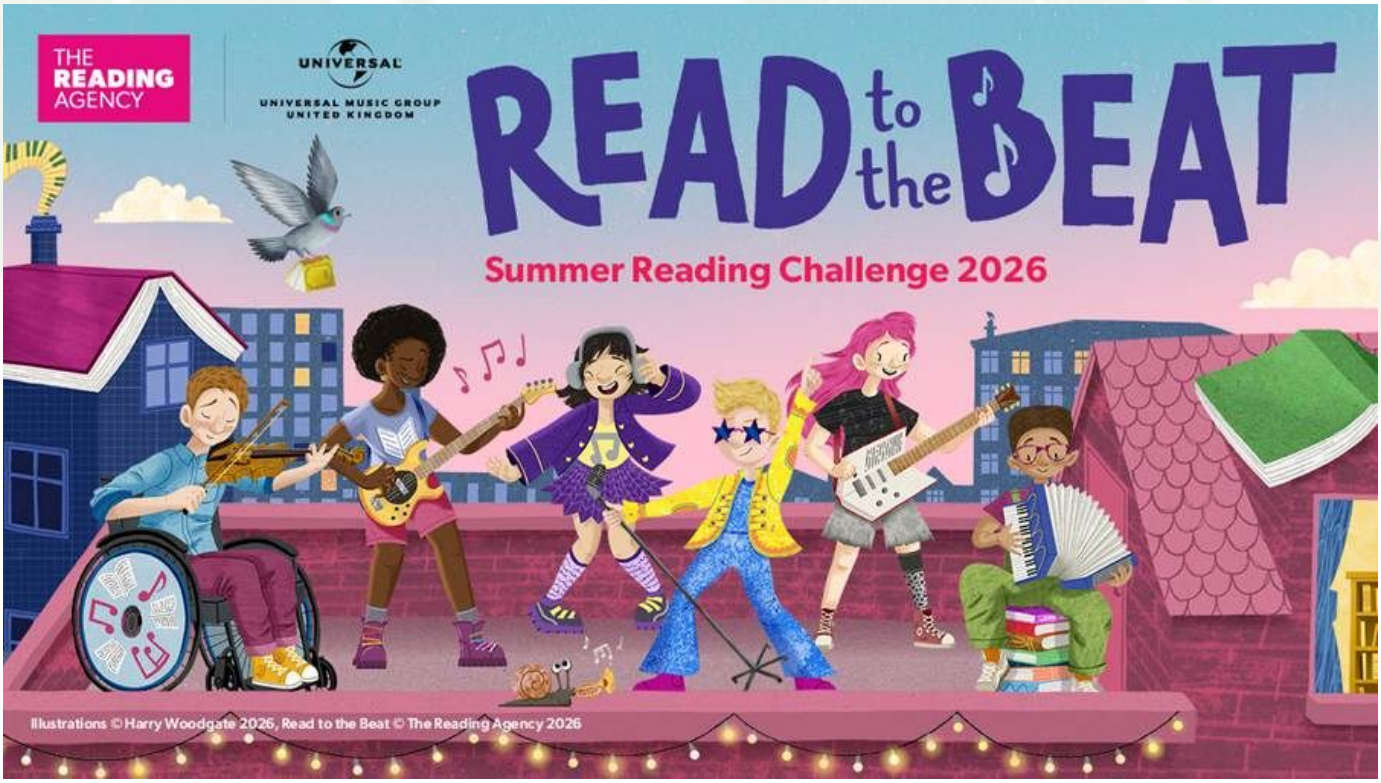
A few weeks ago, we welcomed a representative from Slough Library, who introduced the challenge to our pupils during a special assembly.

Children can take part by reading six library books over the summer, collecting rewards along the way. Everyone who completes the challenge will receive a certificate and medal, while younger children can join the Mini Challenge and earn stickers.

The challenge is free to join and runs from **30th June - 12th September**, making it a fantastic way to keep children reading and enjoying books throughout the summer holidays.

We encourage all families to visit their local library and take part. Happy reading!

For more information, visit **summerreadingchallenge.org.uk**.



FOR PARENTS OF MONTEM ACADEMY

MONTEM ACADEMY PRESENTS:

MEET THE INSTRUMENTS

WHERE & WHEN:

3:30PM

16th JULY 2026

LOCATION:

Our Brand New Music Suite at Montem Academy

WHAT TO EXPECT:

COME & HAVE A TRY!

LESSON FEES:

£120 per year

Come and listen to a short concert and have a go yourself!

ON OFFER:

CELLO, GUITAR, VIOLIN

BOOK YOUR SPACE NOW!

Booking essential, book at reception

Explore Music at Montem Academy

MONTEM ACADEMY
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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about NINTENDO SWITCH 2

Nintendo launched its Switch 2 games console in early June 2025 – its first new console in eight years. While it builds on the original's success by remaining compatible with certain existing games, it also adds powerful hardware and new features like GameChat and a USB-C camera. As more children look to upgrade, it's important to understand how this new console might affect their play and safety.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EASIER TO ACCESS MATURE CONTENT

18 CENSORED

Despite Nintendo's reputation for family-friendly titles, mature games like Cyberpunk 2077 and Hitman have been released onto the platform. With the Switch 2's improved performance, developers will be able to port even more mature-rated games. These may appeal to children due to their popularity, but they contain content that is highly unsuitable for young audiences.

IN-APP & GAME STORE PURCHASES

The Nintendo eShop enables purchases with just a few taps. If payment details are saved and PIN protection is disabled, children may unknowingly make costly purchases – including game add-ons, cosmetic items or entire new releases – without parental approval.

UNRESTRICTED ONLINE PLAY IN SOME GAMES

While GameChat is one feature, Switch 2 also connects to the broader Nintendo Switch Online service. Many free-to-play titles like Fortnite or Splatoon 3 allow voice or text chat with strangers unless chat settings are adjusted, meaning children could encounter inappropriate language or unwanted contact.

GAMECHAT & REAL-TIME VOICE COMMUNICATION

GameChat enables live chatting with up to 12 people, even across different games, with optional video and screen-sharing. Though children under 16 are restricted to chatting only with approved friends, the sheer interactivity could raise privacy concerns or create pressure to remain online longer.

CAMERA COMPATIBILITY & PRIVACY CONCERNS

The optional USB-C camera supports video calling and facial overlays in games; however, this also raises the risk of cyberbullying or the unwanted sharing of personal images. The camera can be disabled, removed or covered, and parental controls are essential to manage how and when it is used.

POWERFUL PULL OF FAMILIAR CHARACTERS

Nintendo's mascot, Mario – along with Pikachu, Donkey Kong and others – remains hugely appealing to younger audiences, especially after the success of the recent film, 'The Super Mario Bros. Movie' (2023). These beloved icons are central to Nintendo's branding and often feature in merchandising, adverts and in-game promotions, creating strong emotional attachments in children and a sense of urgency to keep up with their peers.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHECK RATINGS & USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Every Switch and Switch 2 game comes with a PEGI age rating. Before buying one, ensure the content matches your child's age. Use the Nintendo Parental Controls app to monitor gameplay, set screen-time limits and manage friend requests.

REVIEW FRIEND LISTS AND CHAT PERMISSIONS

Child profiles are restricted to chatting with approved friends only, but it's good practice to regularly check their friend list and communication settings. Use the Parental Controls app to switch off voice or video chat if necessary.

REMOVE OR RESTRICT PAYMENT METHODS

Avoid accidental spending by unlinking credit cards from the device. Instead, consider adding funds via prepaid eShop cards or requiring a PIN for purchases. Some banking apps can also be set to approve transactions manually.

ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Teach children how to block, report and capture any behaviour or content that makes them uncomfortable. The console's built-in tools allow them to create screenshots and video clips, which can aid in reporting any issues. Keeping an open dialogue helps children feel supported and safe.

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CURVE EXPLORERS

£4 Per Session

or £12 for 4

From 10am to 3pm

Ages 5 - 11+ years

WED 29 JUL

WED 5 AUG

WED 12 AUG

Drama

Stop Motion Animation

Try Something New!

Singing

Arts and Crafts

Digital Animation

60 min Fun Filled Workshops

CURVE VENUE

The Curve, William Street, Slough, SL1 1XY

curvevenue.uk

01753 303 035

Visit SLOUGH .org

www.slough.gov.uk

Slough Borough Council

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND