



December 13<sup>th</sup> 2018 Issue 14

### **Thursday Newsletter**

As we are in church tomorrow afternoon and are suggesting that the children do not bring bags, I thought I would send this newsletter out today as there is so much that has happened in four days! We will aim to start the Carol Service at 2pm and hope to see you all there in your Christmas jumpers.

### **Christmas Market**

I hope that everyone who attended the Christmas Market on Tuesday enjoyed it as much as we did. Putting on an event like this is not a small undertaking and I would like all of the children, staff, Friends of Montalbo and The Hub Choir for what was superb team effort! The hall and garden looked magical and offered a huge range of festive stalls and activities. To see families socialising and having a great time was lovely to see. It was really nice to see Mrs Eilbeck and Mrs Thomas, who both used to work at our school, admiring the changes and having a good time. I was pleased that many of our former pupils and parents attended too and the market had a wonderful, community feel.

As well as putting on an event for our children and families, the Christmas Market raised a great deal of money that we will spend on our children. I set the Key Stage 2 classes a challenge (similar to the McMillan Bake Off) to see which class could make the most profit and Mrs Leonard will be delighted to know that her class won the class challenge! Overall though, Enterprise Club ran by Mrs Daniels raised the most with a whopping £232.25. Together, the school activities raised £472.90 and this money helps contribute to the cost of visits, artists in school, parties and enrichment activities.

The Friends of Montalbo School raised another huge total which will go towards providing resources that all of our children can benefit from. Once the raffle and TV draw is totalled up, the Friends believe that they will have raised around £1600 which is an incredible total. Thank you once again to all of Friends of Montalbo School, donators of raffle prizes and the TV, and everyone who purchased tickets or refreshments. That amount of money will make a huge difference!

### **Key Stage 1 Midwife Crisis!**

On Wednesday Evening we were entertained with an amusing version of the Nativity entitled 'A Midwife Crisis' by our Year 1 and 2 children. The children impressed us all with their singing, acting, speaking and comic timing. They looked fabulous in their costumes and I was so proud of each of them, some of whom were incredibly shy when they joined us. To see how confident and relaxed they were on stage was remarkable. Thank you to Miss Blackburn, Miss Lauder, Miss Bean and Mrs Miller who helped our children shine! Well done to you all.

### **Nursery and Reception Nativity – Shine Star, Shine!**

I am sure this afternoon's performance of the 'Shine Star, Shine!' helped put our Nursery and Reception children's families in the Christmas spirit. I know that whole school enjoyed the Dress Rehearsal. It is so lovely to see our youngest children perform and they certainly win the cuteness award! Again, it is hard working pulling these performances together and I thank Mrs Bartoli, Mrs Patterson, Mrs Miller, Mrs Spence, Mrs Daniels, Mrs Wood, Mrs Kicks and Miss Earl.

### **Recorder and Clarinet Assembly**

I was delighted to hear that Monday's Recorder Concert was a huge success and very well attended by our musician's families. Mrs Unwin has commented many times on what a pleasure the Year 4s are to work with. I understand that Mrs Unwin is offering flute, clarinet or recorder tuition for any Year 4 children who may be interested which will commence in January. Please make sure that any reply slips are returned by the end of term if your child is interested in musical tuition. Thank you.

## Sports

This week we have also attended two Multi skills sports festivals for our Reception, Year 2 and Year 3 children. All classes were praised for their excellent behaviour and sporting skills. Next half term one of our sports coaches will work with the Year 6 children on High Five Netball and we will continue to work with Mr Connelly (gym) and Mr Foster (football) to enhance our provision.

## Starting School

Parents/Carers with a child due to start school in September 2019 need to apply for a school place online at [www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions) where you can access a guide to help you with your application. If you cannot access the Council's website please contact the School Admissions Team on 03000 265 896 and you will be sent a copy of the guide for parents and an application form. The deadline for applications is midnight on 15th January 2019.

## Monty Christmas Magic

This week has been a long but rewarding week for us all at school. The children have excelled themselves with their superb behaviour and attitude despite the changes in routine and exciting events.

I would like to thank all of our staff for going the extra mile yet again this week. We are lucky to have a team like ours who love their jobs and love to make a positive difference to our children academically, socially and emotionally. Creating the magic of the market, the performances and the lovely carol service make great memories. Next week it's Christmas Party fun...

## Parental Support

I just wanted to finish this newsletter by saying how grateful we are for your wonderful support, this week and throughout the year. We have received some lovely comments about the events that we have hosted and it makes a big difference to know that parents/carers and families appreciate the things that we do. You have attended in large numbers and we value this immensely. Growing a school community where everyone feels relaxed and happy has been one of my aims over the last few years and the atmosphere in school during lessons and events is second to none. This strong relationship can only benefit our children! Thank you!

## Attendance for w.b. 10.12.18

Class	Present
Reception	95.4%
Year 1	94.1%
Year 2	96.3%
Year 3	95.8%
Year 4	100%
Year 5	99.1%
Year 6	100%
School overall attendance	97.3%

Please ensure that your child arrives at school no later than 8.55a.m. in order to make a prompt start for lessons.

Only 5 minutes of learning were lost to lateness this week.

## Dates for the diary

December 17th           Nursery and Reception Christmas Party 1.30pm  
December 18th           Christmas Lunch  
December 19th           Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas Party 1.30pm  
December 20th           Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Party 1.30pm  
December 21st           Year 5 and Year 6 Christmas Party 1.30pm

January 7<sup>th</sup>               Teacher Training Day  
January 8<sup>th</sup>               Start of the Spring Term  
January 14<sup>th</sup>              Mrs Unwin's Music Tuition begins  
January 16<sup>th</sup>              DigVenturers Miracles to Medicine Workshop for Year 1 and Year 4  
January 17<sup>th</sup>              Swimming starts again for Year 4 and selected Y5/6 children

Mr Minikin, Head Teacher