



December 21st 2018 Issue 14

Festive Fun

The Carol Service last Friday was a lovely occasion. I think the singing in school has really improved over the last few years. Well done to all of the children and Miss Richardson who leads our singing practices and organised the service.

A small choir from school carried on the tradition of attending the Rokeby Carol Service last night and they did very well in what might be the last ever carol service there, due to the proposed widening of the A66. Thank you to Dr Greenwell for organising this and accompanying the children.

Christmas parties were great fun this week and I saw some great dancing! Continuing the dancing theme, this week each class entertained the rest of the school with a dance from a different era and the energy, enthusiasm, skills and dance moves were great to see! We covered each decade from the 1910s to the present and obviously had to finish with a very, very, Crazy Shark dance!

What a Year!

As we approach the end of 2018, it is nice to look back on the year and reflect on the many things we have achieved. It is hard to imagine the school without a mass of machinery, fencing and construction workers but the end is in sight! The progress made since March when they started has been remarkable and we are nearly there! We aim to be completed by February half term all being well.

Like us all, the builders have coped with The Beast from the East and enjoyed the long, glorious summer. The children and staff deserve huge credit for being able to work as normally as possible under changing and challenging circumstances and I thank everyone for their understanding. The new additions were much needed and we are delighted with the spaces created.

This year we have employed several new teachers and other staff who have fitted into the team seamlessly. Being able to teach in single year groups and being able to put split year groups back together has had many benefits. Developments to our curriculum have been exciting and innovative, giving our children broad and balanced experiences and equipping with the knowledge and skills they will need for the future.

Academic achievement continues to be very strong at Montalbo. Our results at the end of each Key Stage were tremendous and our children continue to achieve much better than the national average in each area, including the children achieving above the expected standards. Having a committed and talented teaching team right across the school allows us to focus on not just English and Maths but develop talents right across the curriculum.

Our work with you as parents/carers continues to be very important to us. We hope that you have enjoyed the many opportunities to visit school for assemblies, school performances, World Book Day, workshops or FOMS events. You have been so supportive of our work and we really appreciate it. On top of this, we have worked with several parents in their line of work making cakes, sharing archaeological information and undertaking fantastic science experiments! Parents also helped to arrange the excellent STEM events at GlaxoSmithKline.

Working with the wider community has been more prevalent this year and we have had some good workshops and activities at The Hub, The Bowes Museum, The Witham and Scout Hut. We have supported McMillan superbly and other charities too. We have linked with important organisations such as the police, fire service, NSPCC and Dog's Trust to give our children advice on keeping themselves safe.

The support from Friends of Montalbo School has been remarkable. I think that the events they arrange for our school are amazing and the children really enjoy them. The funds that they have raised will provide some excellent resources which can be used by our children for years to come. We have a really strong core group of people in our Friends group and it would be really great if anyone else could join to give them a hand! We only meet once a half term to arrange the next event and the meeting do not last long! If you are interested please see let me know and I will pass it on to the Friends. Thank you. Friends of School will be collecting old clothing to support school and a firefighter charity with a collection on Thursday 28th February. A reminder will be sent in the New Year but if you were having a sort out over Christmas please bare this in mind.

Looking forward to 2019

I for one am looking forward to February when all of the classes will be in the right places! We have moved so much furniture around this school over the past couple of years and it will be nice to have settled and familiar spaces. Once this is done, we can turn our attentions to other improvements.

One change that I imagine will be popular with parents and that we have been planning for a while, is the introduction of Parent Pay which is a way of paying for all school bills online such as school lunches, clubs or educational visits. As we are moving the school office and the difficulties with IT and phone lines, this will start in April 2019 to coincide with the new financial year. Information about how this system works will be sent out nearer the time.

We have many new ideas to develop our curriculum that I will share in the new year. To give you a flavour, we are going to have a Space Camp in the school hall and we are fortunate to have access to some amazing space related resources like a large telescope and expertise to support us. We are aiming to achieve a Space Mark science award and I look forward to informing you of the different activities nearer the time. On another note, I have set most of the teachers a local history challenge which will be a great project for our children and hopefully for the town.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

From all of us at Montalbo, we wish you a Merry Christmas and hope that you and your children have a fabulous family time. We hope that 2019 brings you happiness and good health and look forward to seeing you and your children on **Tuesday January 8th 2019**.

Attendance for w.b. 17.12.18

Class	Present
Reception	93.7%
Year 1	95.8%
Year 2	94.1%
Year 3	93%
Year 4	99%
Year 5	95.2%
Year 6	95.3%

School overall attendance 95.1%

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

1 HOUR and 55 minutes of learning was lost to lateness this week.

Dates for the diary

January 7 th	Teacher Training Day
January 8 th	Start of the Spring Term
January 14 th	Mrs Unwin's Music Tuition begins
January 16 th	DigVenturers Miracles to Medicine Workshop for Year 1 and Year 4
January 17 th	Swimming starts again for Year 4 and selected Y5/6 children
January 25 th	Year 5 Class Assembly
January 31 st /1 st	Space Camp
February 13 th	Year 6 Netball festival
February 15 th	Band Workshop
February 18 th – 22 nd	Half term

Mr Minikin

Head Teacher