



December 21th 2017 Issue 15

Christmas Carol Service at St Mary's

Last Friday we had a lovely event in church. The children read, sang and behaved beautifully and I was very proud of them all. I know many of you enjoyed the occasion and we hope to make this an annual event.

Rokeby

The Christmas Choir has performed at various places around the local area over the festive period and the final event was at Rokeby Church on Monday evening. I know the children enjoy singing to others and that the audiences have been impressed. Thank you to Dr Greenwell who has given up a lot of her own time to take them to the different places.

Attendance

In assembly today children who had 100% attendance for this half term were given certificates. This is usually one of the half terms when attendance is not as good due to the number of winter illnesses that are around but we gave out 54 certificates.

I also presented 36 children with 100% termly attendance certificates which is a great achievement and Mrs Ridley is planning a nice treat for those children when we return in the New Year.

Business Venture Profits

Miss Richardson is pleased to report that Class 4 made £285.17 profit from their Christmas stalls this year. They are very grateful to all their customers! They are currently planning what to do with the money and I will let you know when they have made their decision.

Recorder and Clarinet Concert

Well done to all of the recorder and clarinet players who played at the concert at Teesdale School on Tuesday evening. I was very impressed with the performance of our Year 4 recorder children. I hope many of you will continue to play an instrument in the future. The clarinet players did well with their part and Mrs Unwin was thrilled with their percussion skills to accompany the recorders too.

Father Christmas Flies In

On Monday we had a very special visitor who spent the afternoon with us in our fantastic Goods Wagon. It had been converted into a fabulous Santa's Grotto and the children were able to visit him and receive a gift. Thank you to Father Christmas for coming at his busiest time of year and his helpers for creating a magical grotto.

Swimming

Swimming will recommence for the same children as the previous term. We follow advice from the County's Aquatics Lead who suggests a continual year of swimming lessons for one group of children is the most effective method.

High Force Teacher Training

After Christmas, we welcome another trainee teacher into school. Miss Bean will be working in Miss Lauder's Class for 5 weeks, beginning on January 8th, and we hope she will enjoy her time with us.

After School Clubs

After School Clubs will start again on Monday 8th January. Forms were sent out last week for children to choose the clubs they are interested in. These can be downloaded from the 'School Office' page on the website if you have misplaced yours or you can call in to get a form.

Collecting Stamps

We will be collecting stamps to support the RSPB. We have had quite a lot of stamps already which is great. There will be a collection box near the children's entrance at the back of school.

Collecting Batteries

In the Spring term, Dr Greenwell and I are going to talk to the children in assemblies about the benefits to the environment of recycling materials rather than throwing items in general waste. Dr Greenwell sent home some collection boxes yesterday for children to store used batteries. Once, it is full, bring them to school and we will send them off to be recycled.

Firefighter's Charity Bags

A reminder that the charity bags sent home by FOMS are due to be collected on Tuesday January 16th. I have received some already and these can be brought to the School Office before that date. Thank you.

Starting School

The application process for school places for children who will be 5 on or between 1st September 2018 and 31st August 2019 is open now. Applications can be made via www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions where you can access a guide containing essential information to help you with your application.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

As we come to the end of another year, it is good reflect on events and plan ahead. We do this continually in school but 2018 will bring exciting new developments, the biggest changes to the school since it was built in 1974.

There have been many events and projects in 2017 which have been really enjoyable to be involved in. I have been particularly pleased to see the garden develop and am keen to improve the space further. It has been lovely to have been involved in many community events such as those at church, The TCR Hub, The Witham and The Bowes Museum which broadens the children's experiences. It has been good to develop the sporting provision we offer and the range of curricular and extra-curricular activities continues to grow.

However, the best thing about each year in school is spending time with the children and witnessing the excellent teaching and learning that occurs each day! Our results in every Key Stage go from strength to strength but I want our children to continue to enjoy a broad, balanced curriculum and for them to develop a love of school and learning.

The children at our school are a real credit to you and from us all at Montalbo we wish the children and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We will see you all back at school on January 8th 2018!

Dates for the diary

December 22 nd	Teacher Training Day
January 8 th	Spring Term begins
January 11 th	Swimming starts for the same children as last term
January 24 th	Reception and Year 6 height and weight review
February 5 th	Netball Competition Year 5 and 6 @ Alun Armstrong Centre
February 6 th	Multi-Skills Festival Year 2 and 3 @ Staindrop School
February 12 th	Half Term

Mr Minikin