



December 7th 2018 Issue 13

School Funding

Today we sent out a separate letter 'School Funding Crisis and Petition', which has been circulated by the National Association of Head Teachers, highlighting the school funding issues that are affecting many schools around the North East and country as a whole. Whilst we are fortunate to be a growing school and can manage our budget accordingly, I believe funding shortfalls will have a negative impact on education and schools in Durham. The Governors and I fully support the idea of raising awareness of the issue and if this continued longer term, all schools would be affected. The figures quoted on the letter are alarming and if you feel that you would like this to be discussed in parliament please follow the instructions on the letter. Thank you.

FOMS Raffle Tickets

Many of you have bought or sold the raffle tickets that FOMS sent home a couple of weeks ago and we are very grateful. If you have any unsold tickets, stubs or money please can you return them to the School Office as soon as possible. Thank you.

Christmas arrangements

As we approach December and the busy festive period, rehearsals and preparation for forthcoming events are gathering momentum! We are continuing with similar ideas for school performances, with Nursery and Reception performing a Nativity on December 13th at 2.00pm.

Our Year 1/2 children are performing a Christmas Play on December 12th at 6pm.

The whole school apart from Nursery will go to St Mary's for the Carol Service. Key Stage 2 are involved in our Christmas Market but their main large performance will be in the Summer term.

This year as there is quite a lot going on we are having one Nursery/Reception Nativity and one Year 1/2 performance. Each child will receive 4 tickets for their performance and these will be sent home in school bags. If you do not require 4 tickets please send any spares back. If you would like more tickets please let the School Office know and we will check if it is possible to fulfil the request.

Christmas Carol Service December 14th at 2pm

Tickets are not required for the Carol Service at St Mary's and we that hope many of you can join us there in your Christmas jumpers! Last year many of you were able to attend and most decided to collect their child from St Mary's at the end of the concert. To make these arrangements as easy as possible, we are encouraging children not to bring a school bag on this day and they will only need their packed lunch box with them (if they have packed lunch). Please make sure that your child has a warm coat, hat etc. for the journey. We will be walking down to church and aim to get to there for 1.45pm but will need a little time to get organised, so will look to start at 2pm.

Any children who are not being collected at church will be walked back up to school by staff.

Christmas Parties

Children's Christmas party dates are listed in the dates for the diary section at the end of this newsletter. School will provide party food and the children should come to school in their school uniform with their party clothes in a named carrier bag so that they can change into them. Nursery children who do not usually attend on that day are very welcome to come along too at 1.45pm. Please let Nursery staff know if you intend to do this. Thank you.

Sports

There are quite a lot of sporting festivals next week. Please check your child has their kit on the appropriate day. (See Dates for the Diary section).

Friends of Montalbo School Christmas Market

The Christmas market promises to be a lovely event. At the market on December 11th, there will be many Christmas stalls selling a variety of things that may be good stocking fillers, so please come along between 5pm-7pm! If the weather is too bad we will be able to use the school hall. The event will be open to the wider community so if you know anyone who may like to come please pass the date and time on. Both the main gate and back gates will be open.

Recorder and Clarinet Concert

Mrs Unwin would like to showcase the work the Year 4 children have been doing this term on their recorders and also the Year 5/6 clarinetists through their tuition. She has arranged for an assembly on December 10th at 2.30pm for the parents of Miss Scott's Class plus the parents of the clarinetists. I hope that you are able to join us for this.

After School Clubs

Throughout December we will only have after school care (Chill Out) available rather than the usual range of clubs. The hall is being decorated for the Christmas festivities and staff are working towards the Christmas Market and other events during this period. We aim to offer a range of new clubs in January.

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 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.

Attendance for w.b. 3.12.18

Class	Present
Reception	94.7%
Year 1	100%
Year 2	98.9%
Year 3	98.5%
Year 4	97%
Year 5	98.1%
Year 6	97.1%

School overall attendance 97.8%

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

26 minutes of learning was lost to lateness this week.

Dates for the diary

December 10 th	Recorder and Clarinet Concert
December 11th	Reception Sports Festival at Staindrop
December 11th	Christmas Market in the Garden; 5:00 – 7:00pm
December 12th	Year 2 Multiskills at Alun Armstrong Centre, Shildon
December 12th	Christmas Play Year 1 and Year 2; 6:00pm
December 13th	Year 3 Multiskills at Staindrop
December 13th	Nursery & Reception Nativity & Christmas Raffle Draw; 2:00pm
December 14th	Christmas Jumper Day/Christmas Carol Service at St Marys; 1.45 - 3:00pm
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

Mr Minikin

Head Teacher