



Christmas Fun

The Christmas Performances this week have been truly special! The fun started with the lovely Christmas Tree Nativity performed by Foundation Stage. The nerve and confidence of our youngest children was remarkable. They remembered all the songs, dances and transitions and made us all very proud.

After that, Key Stage 1 took to the stage supported by the Key Stage 2 choir. Their performances were full of fun and entertainment as the children danced their way through *Lights, Camel, Action!* Huge credit must go to the children for remembering all of their words and dance moves.

Congratulations to the Y5/6 children on their Business Venture. This is the culmination of their half term's Apprentice topic and the buzz of excitement around the stalls was incredible. I know they will think carefully about what to do with their profits!

Next, many thanks to The Friends of Montalbo, who have worked tirelessly to provide refreshments and the raffle, giving up much of their own time to support the school. This is greatly appreciated.

Finally, thank you to all of the staff involved over the afternoon and evening performances. They are all totally committed to the providing the best possible opportunities for your children and have helped the children make some fantastic memories.

Lockerbie Manor Residential for Class 4

This week we had a very informative presentation from a representative from Lockerbie Manor. I sent a separate letter out this week to parents of Class 4 children and a reminder that the deposit is due January 4th 2017.

Christmas Jumper Day

On the last Friday of term, we are encouraging the children and staff to wear Christmas jumpers. This is just for fun and the children do not need to bring any money. They should wear normal school uniform apart from this.

Clubs

Next week we will not be running any after school clubs, but care will still be available. Clubs will start on the second week back, week beginning 9th January. There will be several changes to clubs to offer different experiences for our children and details will be issued when school starts after the Christmas holiday.

Musikality

One of the new clubs will be around developing a choir/band which will be ran by Musikality, a group of talented music teachers. They will be working with Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 each Wednesday afternoon during the Spring Term and then will hold a club after school.

Payments

Please make sure that dinner money payments and care payments are up to date by the end of term, 16th December. Thank you.



Carol Service

On the last Friday of term, 16th December, we are having a Carol Service from 2pm in the hall. Parents are invited to this event but do not need a ticket.

Swimming After Christmas

After talking to the staff at Teesdale Sports Centre, we have been advised to take our Year 4 children swimming for the next 2 terms, plus those children in Year 5/6 who have not achieved the requirements set out in the PE National Curriculum.

The following year, the current Year 3 children, will swim for the whole year. This new arrangement should see all children achieve National Curriculum expectations before they leave primary school.

Christmas Parties

During the final week of term, week beginning 12th December, we will be having Christmas parties for the different year groups (see the Dates for your Diary section below). Please could you send your child with party clothes in a named carrier bag to change into after lunch.

Attendance for w.b. 5.12.16

Class	Present
Reception	85.6%
Class 1	95.7%
Class 2	96.7%
Class 3	95.3%
Class 4	95%

Overall attendance this week was 94.4%

Punctuality

Please ensure that your child arrives at school no later than 8.55a.m. in order to make a prompt start for lessons. Remember Wake Up, Shake Up usually starts at 8.45a.m.
42 minutes learning time lost this week

Application for a School Place (Primary School) for September 2017

Cards have been handed out to Nursery parents detailing the procedure for applying for a Reception place for their child. All information is available online from www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions and the deadline for applications is midnight on 15th January 2017.

Dates for your Diary

- December 12th Year 1 and 2 Party 1.30pm
- December 13th Nursery and Reception Party 1.30pm
- December 14th Year 3 and 4 Party 1.30pm
- December 15th Year 5 and 6 Party 1.30pm
- December 16th Christmas Jumper Day
- December 16th Carol Service in school from 2pm
- December 16th Last day of term
- January 4th School opens

Mr Minikin

Head Teacher