



February 8th 2019 Issue 20

Marvellous Maths

This week we were delighted to receive a letter from Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP and Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP for our performance in Key Stage 2 Maths. For the second year running, we have had 100% of our children reaching the age-related standards, putting us in the top 1% of all primary schools in England. We were very close to this in Reading and Writing too and our end of Key Stage results at the end of Reception, Year 2 and Year 6 (the years where data is published) are well above national averages. Well done to all of the children and staff!

Extension update – IMPORTANT INFORMATION

From Monday, entrance to the new School Office will be via a new path which continues straight forward as you pass through the pedestrian gates at the front of school. To drop children off or collect from the playground, please continue on this path around the back of the hall on the new path. The path is usable and safe now and will be finished completely in the February holidays.

This will allow both Miss Lauder and Miss Blackburn to relocate. Miss Blackburn's class will be in the class that the school office has been in, and Miss Lauder will move to Miss Blackburn's room. The Year 1 children need more space for their afternoon curriculum, hence this swap.

The Nursery and Reception team are busy setting up their new classrooms. They will be teaching from here after half term and I will give you more information on this next week.

Chinese New Year Dance and Workshops

Unfortunately I was at a meeting on Tuesday morning but heard some fabulous reports of the Chinese New Year Dance and Workshops. The new learning that took place was great and the Key Stage 2 children worked together, listened carefully to the advice and performed to the rest of the school. We are very grateful to the Friends of Montalbo School for paying for our special visitors.

Newcastle University Visit

On Wednesday we were visited by 4 scientists from Newcastle University. The day began with a whole school assembly which explored 'The story of Earth' involving explosions, smoke and illusions! They spent the rest of the day in the year 3, 4, 5 and 6 classrooms, thinking about different scientific professions through fun experiments.

Dr Greenwell's Class Assembly

Our next class assembly is our Year 3 children's on Friday next week. Parents and family members of children in Dr Greenwell's class are invited to attend. We look forward to seeing what they have been learning about at 9am on Friday 15th February.

Blagraves Visit

With all of the excitement of Space Camp, I omitted information about Year 3's visit to Blagraves which was also brilliant. As part of their local history studies, they have focused on Barnard Castle's oldest house and we were lucky enough to be shown in several rooms. The owner delivered an interesting talk on its history and the children amazed him with the facts that they had already learnt. This work is part of a local history project that we are running from years 2 to 6 and has captured the children's interest.

Durham Model Engineers Visit

Class 3 are also learning about the railways and this week were visited by some train enthusiasts who brought along a working model steam train for the children to see. It was an excellent experience and the class were able to ask questions and understand more about how steam trains worked.

Year 6 and Year 2 sporting events

Please see the dates for the diary section below about sporting events next week. Year 6s should wrap up well as they are playing in the extremely cold Alun Armstrong Sports Centre!

Ford Castle Residential

The Year 6 Residential has been arranged for May 22nd - May 24th. Parents and children who were unable to make this week's meeting can find out more information by visiting <http://www.montalbo.durham.sch.uk/y6-ford-castle-residential-presentation/>
It promises to be an amazing residential and I know that some of the parents at the meeting would like to go too!

Missing watch/Sleeping bag mix up

After space camp a child's purple watch has gone missing. Please could you check that it has not gone in someone else's bag in the grand tidying away process! Also, I believe two similar blue sleeping bags have been mixed up. Please could you see if you have a blue sleeping bag that has purple stitching around the zip as we may have yours in school!

Valentine's Disco

Tickets are available from the School Office for the upcoming Valentine's Disco. Nursery/Reception and Key Stage 1's (Year 1 and 2) disco will be 5.30pm-6.30pm and Key Stage 2's (Year 3 upwards) will be from 6.45pm to 7.45pm on February 12th.

Tax-Free Childcare

School is now registered with HMRC to receive Tax-Free childcare payments. This service is to help parents pay for childcare and for every £8 parents pay into their childcare service account £2 will be credited by H.M Government. Visit www.childcare-support.tax.service.gov.uk to register and create an account.

Please note school does not receive any official notice of a payment being made; therefore it could be several weeks before the amount paid can be credited to your account with school. If you make any payments please inform school in writing or by email to enable your credit to be identified and processed correctly.

OurSchoolsApp

Remember that updates are often given on OurSchoolsApp.. This app can be downloaded to any smartphone or tablet. Once downloaded, search for our school and press OK. Notifications will then be sent to your device.

Attendance for w.b. 4.2.19

Class	Present
Reception	88.9%
Year 1	97.4%
Year 2	94.7%
Year 3	78.1%
Year 4	78%
Year 5	93.7%
Year 6	95.9%

School overall attendance 88.9%

Dates for the diary

February 12th Valentine's Disco Nursery/Reception Y 1 and Y2 5.30-6.30pm Y3, 4, 5 and 6 6.45-7.45pm

February 13th Year 6 Netball festival

February 14th Year 2 Multiskills Festival

February 15th Dr Greenwell's Class Assembly

February 15th Band Workshop

February 18th-22nd Half term

February 25th 2nd Half Term Begins – children back at school

February 28th All Star Cricket Y1-3 (every Thursday for 6 weeks)

March 15th Miss Blackburn's Class Assembly

March 26th and 27th Parents' Evenings

Mr Minikin

Head Teacher

Please ensure that your child arrives at school no later than 8.55a.m. in order to make a prompt start for lessons. 39minutes of learning was lost to lateness this week.