



# MONTALBO NURSERY & PRIMARY SCHOOL

...Climbing to Success!

September 8th 2017 Issue 1

## Welcome Back

I hope you have all had a well-deserved break and managed to spend some quality time together. We all have very busy lives these days and relaxation is important. I managed to read lots of books for pleasure which was a real treat! This enjoyment of reading is something I am keen to develop in our children – we do have many, many bookworms but in a world of so many alternative free time choices it is important that we continue to promote and develop reading as it is the key skill in education.

Many of our staff have been very busy in school over the holidays, preparing classrooms and resources. We have lots of plans which I will share with you over the coming newsletters and it promises to be a very exciting year.

## Congratulations Mr and Mrs Bartoli!

Over the summer break, Miss Smith got married and is now Mrs Bartoli! We are so pleased for her and her husband and wish them both a long and happy future together.

## Returned Questionnaires

Thank you to the 67 parents who returned the questionnaires. Below is a summary of the findings.

	Strongly agree or agree	Disagree or strongly disagree
1. My child is happy at school	100%	
2. My child feels safe at school	100%	
3. My child makes good progress	100%	
4. My child is well looked after by staff	100%	
5. My child is well taught	100%	
6. My child takes part in an engaging curriculum	100%	
7. I feel that the school offers a broad range of after school activities throughout the year	100%	
8. My child receives appropriate homework for their age	97.2%	2.8% (2)
9. The school makes sure children are well behaved in school	98.6%	1.4% (1)
10. The school is well led and managed	100%	
11. The school responds to any concerns or worries that I raise	100%	
12. I feel I have been informed about my child's progress at Parents' Evening	100%	
13. I receive sufficient information via the newsletter and school app	100%	
14. I feel that there are sufficient opportunities for parents to be involved in the life of the school	100%	
15. I would recommend Montalbo Nursery and Primary School	100%	

These are very positive responses and we were touched by so many kind words written on the report feedback and the questionnaires. They were overwhelmingly positive but we are very keen to improve further. There were some very useful comments around areas we can improve on including looking at more efficient ways of collecting money, which we have begun to do already. There were some opposing parental views on homework with some feeling there was too much and some feeling there was not enough or that it wasn't challenging enough. We will work together as a staff to improve this. The Ofsted framework highlights the importance of setting appropriate homework that has clear and relevant objectives, and which develops children's learning.



**Informal Meet the Teacher Evening**

On Monday 18th September there is the opportunity to come into school between 3.30pm and 5.30pm to meet your child’s teacher and Teaching Assistant, look at books, find out how they have begun in the new term etc. There is no need to book an appointment as this is more informal than the Parents’ Evening later in the term.

**Roald Dahl Day**

We will be celebrating Roald Dahl’s birthday next week with various activities in school but we will not be dressing up this time!

**Our SchoolApp**

A reminder that we use our App quite a lot and it has proved popular with families who receive reminders, newsletters and information regularly. You can download OurSchoolsApp from the Google Play Android or Apple Store for Free. Find our school via the search and confirm by pressing OK.

**Reminder**

The Universal Free School Meals offer is for infants only (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2). Children from Nursery and Year 3 upwards who do not qualify for Free School Meals have to pay for their school lunch at a cost of £2 each meal. Payment can be weekly, monthly, half termly, cash or cheques payable to ‘Durham County Council’ which should be in a named envelope and handed to the class teacher or placed in the red collection box outside the School Office.

**Reading Raffles**

To develop children’s enthusiasm for reading, the teachers are to hold a reading raffle each week. It is important that our younger children are listened to reading at home as often as possible, and each time they are we would like you to sign their reading record. Older children may not be so keen to read aloud to parents but if you see them reading independently for 10 minutes, perhaps before bedtime, and sign their record, then that would be great. Each day that a child’s reading record is signed they can get a raffle ticket for a raffle which is drawn at the end of the week The more raffle tickets they have, the more chances they have to win a prize.

**Old Pound Coins**

Although you can still use pound coins until 15th October, we will not be able to accept any old £1 coins in school in October due to the way in which we bank cash. Thank you.

**Monty Mile is back!**

All Key Stage 2 children will take part in a daily mile challenge where they can either walk or run around the local streets with teachers and teaching assistants! We are determined to make it work this year as improving health and fitness has so many long term benefits.

**Attendance for w.b. 5.9.17**

Class	Present
Mrs Bartoli’s Reception	93.9%
Miss Lauder’s Class	97.9%
Miss Blackburn’s Class	100%
Dr Greenwell’s Class	100%
Miss Richardson’s Class	100%

**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. 5 minutes of learning was lost to lateness this week.

**Dates for your Diary**

- September 13<sup>th</sup> Roald Dahl Day
- September 18<sup>th</sup> Informal Meet the Teacher
- September 24<sup>th</sup> – Swimming for Y4 and selected Y5/6 children and each Thursday thereafter
- September 19<sup>th</sup> Dr Greenwell’s Class to Durham (details to follow)
- September 29<sup>th</sup> Macmillan Coffee morning/afternoon (details to follow)
- October 16<sup>th</sup> Dr Greenwell’s Class Tag Rugby Festival at Staindrop Academy
- October 17<sup>th</sup> Miss Richardson’s Class to Multi-skills Festival at Staindrop Academy
- October 18<sup>th</sup> Play in a Day for Miss Richardson’s Class and parents (details to follow)
- October 23<sup>rd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> Half Term

**Mr Minikin**  
Head Teacher