



School Garden Update

Mrs Smith, from FOMs, has been working away for several months, meeting with contractors, visiting businesses and filling in grant applications in order to redevelop our school garden. I have had the idea for around two years to develop the existing space and create a Railway Heritage Garden, building on the school's close proximity to the railway line and former Passenger and Goods Stations. It will be a great link with the past as well as giving us the chance to learn, grow fruit and vegetables, relax and play in.

Mrs Smith has secured funding for the first couple of phases of this project and work will start shortly clearing the site, creating pathways and bases for structures such as a large polytunnel, which would allow classes of children to grow things all year round. Most of the features in the garden will replicate railway features – for example, the path will look like a railway track. Many thanks to Mrs Smith on her hard work on this project!

Healthy Snacks at Playtime

Nursery, Reception and Key Stage 1 receive a piece of fruit each day as part of a government initiative. Key Stage 2 children could bring in fruit, vegetables, dry fruit, cereal bar or crackers if you wish. No crisps or chocolate please for playtime snacks.

Reminder forms

If you have not returned a form for our records, reminders have been sent out this week and next. Please return them as soon as possible. Thank you.

Junior Education and Diversion Programme

This week PCSO Darren Mills visited Class 4 to discuss anti-social behaviour. He gave the children some good advice about what to do in certain situations that they may come across as they get older. Next week the children will be learning more about road safety.

We have created a Keeping Safe board in the hall to remind children of key safety messages.

Parents – toilets/safeguarding/collection

If your child is of school age and requires the toilet on a morning before school starts, please allow them to enter school on their own through the playground entrance and visit their toilet. For safeguarding reasons, we do not allow parents in the boys' or girls' toilets. If your child is younger or needs assistance, please come to the main entrance where you can use the staff/visitors toilets.

If you need to collect a child from school for an appointment, please come to the main office and we will collect your child from the classroom. Thank you.

30 hour provision

A separate letter has been sent out today regarding the government's pledge to provide 'free childcare for 3-4 year olds for eligible parents'. In order for us to plan for this, please could any parents of 2 or 3 years olds return the letter to us with their thoughts on the provision they may require. Thank you.

Choir/Band payment

Please remember that payments to choir are £2 per week and are given directly to Amy who leads the sessions.

Census Information

School data from the census last week indicated that attendance was around 97% for school which is very pleasing. There were 9 children who had attendance below 90% and are classed as persistent absentees (more than 1 day off per 10 school days). I have spoken to the parents of these children and hope that their attendance will improve over the year.



Safer Internet Day 2017

Safer Internet Day will be celebrated globally on Tuesday 7th February with the slogan 'Be the change: Unite for a better internet.' One of Miss Richardson's responsibilities is as E-Safety Co-ordinator. She is working with our local authority adviser in the run up to Safer Internet Day and we will be sending out the most up to date forms and contracts to for you and your child sign shortly, to help safeguard them online whilst at school.

On Friday 10th February we would like to invite parents to school at 2.45pm and your child can take you around each class, where the children can explain a different element of e-safety to you.

Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers

If you or any friends or family shop at Sainsbury's, please could you ask them to collect the Active Kids Vouchers. This will enable school to exchange them for PE equipment. The collection box is located next to the staff room so your child could drop them off there themselves. Thank you.

Lockerbie

Payment of at least half of the fee for this exciting trip - £117.50 needs to be made by **March 1st** with the remainder by **6th June**. Payment by instalments or as a lump sum is equally acceptable, cash or cheque payable to 'Montalbo School Fund'.

Contact Details

Please keep the School Office informed of any change of contact details. Thank you.

Guitar or Ukulele Tuition

Mr Rudkin, who has worked with many local schools in the past and is a registered guitar tutor, called into school this week. He passed on his contact details and wondered if any children would be interested in some private tuition. His details are: - tel: 01833316128 or email fredrudkin1835@sky.com

Attendance for w.b. 9.1.17

Class	Present
Reception	83.5%
Class 1	95.2%
Class 2	96.7%
Class 3	99%
Class 4	94.5%

Overall attendance this week was 93.1%

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.

12 minutes learning time lost this week

Dates for your Diary

- February 8th Reception at Teesdale Leisure Centre for Multi-Skills Festival
- February 10th February Parents invited into school 2.45pm for e-safety tour with their child.
- February 16th Class 3's Assembly 9.00am
- February 20th-24th Half Term
- March 2nd World Book Day
- March 20th-22nd – Parents' Evenings
- March 24th – Mother's Day Afternoon Tea

Mr Minikin

Head Teacher