



July 19th 2019 Issue 39

An Amazing Year!

It's not easy to sum up this year as there has been so much happening, yet again! The day before we started in September we were working around a mountain of builders' rubble and tools whilst painters decorated and teachers set up the four new Key Stage 2 classrooms! Mrs Hauxwell, Mrs Collin and I had relocated into Miss Blackburn's current room as an office and Miss Lauder's children were in the hall! Nobody thought we would be ready but thanks to a typical Monty team effort we opened the following day to a well organised environment!

This theme of moving has continued throughout the year with Nursery and Reception moving from their temporary home into revamped and newly built rooms, the hall extension was completed, as was the movement of the offices and the reorganisation of Key Stage 1. Much of this phase was completed without a foreman or additional help to our staff. Throughout it all, the staff and children have continued to be as positive as ever, creating the fantastic atmosphere that we all feel.

There have been many notable events in school this year. The class Bake Off competition for MacMillan got us off to fantastic start, and was followed by EYFS nativities and the Y1/2 Play at Christmas. The Christmas Market was magical and this is going to become an annual event. The Christmas Carol service at St Mary's is a lovely occasion which was enjoyed by us all. Space Camp was a huge success and captivated the children. The introduction of a Y3/4 Play at Easter worked well and we will repeat this arrangement. The Year 6 residential to Ford Castle was brilliant as were the Y5/6 Summer performances, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Sports Day, a Dance Show, visits to Durham University, museums and a host of other events! One event that captured the excellent bond that exists between homes and school was our Barnard Castle Meet entry, which was vibrant, well attended and great fun.

Over the year, we have been developing the curriculum to make it bespoke to our school. The local history book project is one example which is unique and builds on recent developments such as the Railway Heritage Garden. The teaching staff and I have been working on improving the curriculum further for September and I am excited by the changes we are making.

As if all that were not enough, this year we have had a Safeguarding review, a Local Authority Healthcheck, NQT moderation, Key Stage 1 books moderation, OFSTED and a Financial Audit! All of these are big events which are usually far more spaced out than being over one year! But through it all, our children have shone, our staff have smiled (deliriously?!) and we have grown professionally! There were many pleasing points on our OFSTED report and one of my favourite parts was about how well supported our NQTs are and how enthusiastic they are about the teaching profession. We hope that Mrs Patterson, Miss Bean and Miss Scott maintain this enthusiasm and have rewarding, successful careers.

I have again been so grateful for your kind words towards our staff and me this year; the report comments echo the positive relationships that we have. Our team is incredibly strong and committed to doing the best we can for you and your children, often going above what is expected, and it is nice that you recognise that.

Goodbye Year 6

Today we said goodbye to our Year 6 children. They are a real credit to their family and our school. They have formed excellent friendships and I hope that these will continue and that they make lots of new friends too. They have all of the skills and knowledge to do well in their next schools and we wish them well. We presented dictionaries from the Rotary Club, as well as trophies and hoodies from us at school at today's emotional Leavers' Assembly. Good luck Year 6s!

Hub Treat

Year 6 enjoyed a great day on Wednesday at The Hub building rafts and playing games on their lake. Miss Richardson ended up in the water too! The Hub have a lot of activity weeks planned in the summer holidays and if you are interested visit <https://www.tcrhub.co.uk/> or ring 01833 690150.

Farewell Mrs Kicks

This week we say farewell to Mrs Kicks who begins her early retirement. Mrs Kicks has volunteered and worked in the school for twelve year years, most recently as a Teaching Assistant in Early Years and across the school. We wish her and her husband well as they make the most of their time with their dogs and motorhome!

Good Luck Miss Blackburn

During the holidays Miss Blackburn is marrying her fiancé. After their nuptials, she will become Mrs Newton. We hope that you have a lovely, special day and a very happy future together.

Space Education Quality Mark

Dr Greenwell has led a lot of work with our children and staff on the topic of Space this year and am delighted that we have received the Space Education Quality Mark in recognition. Well done and thank you Dr Greenwell.

Flu Vaccine Information

The flu vaccination team have sent some information regarding the programme that will be run over the autumn term. Please follow this link for more information. Please note the vaccination is for any child in Reception to Year 6 inclusive this year.

www.hdft.nhs.uk/electronic-consent School Name: Montalbo Code No: 114115

Reading books

We have taken in reading books so that we can check stocks and will hand out new books in September.

Happy Holidays

We hope that you and your children enjoy the school holidays and have a well-deserved rest. I hope that the weather is kind and that you have some great fun together! We look forward to seeing the children back in school on Wednesday 4th September.

Attendance for w.b. 15.7.19

Class	Present
Reception	97.9%
Year 1	97.9%
Year 2	95.6%
Year 3	96.4%
Year 4	90.5%
Year 5	91.9%
Year 6	97.1%

School overall attendance is 94.8%

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

15 minutes of learning was lost to lateness this week.

Dates for the diary

September 3rd Teacher training day
September 4th Children return to school
September 17th Meet the teacher (informal meeting with new class teacher)

Mr Minikin

Head Teacher