



March 24th 2017 Issue 25

Mother's Day Afternoon Tea

It was lovely to see so many mothers, grandmothers and other guests this afternoon. I hope you had a nice time. At the time of writing, I have no idea if the Year 6 waiters and waitresses did a good job but hope you got what you ordered! Thank you to the children for their help and Mrs Wood and Mrs Dupuy for organising this.

Science Day

We had a fantastic day on Monday participating in lots of science experiments, and going around a carousel of activities in each class. Last week was British Science Week but we had various visits and visitors so decided to celebrate it on Monday instead. It was lovely to see the children so engaged in exciting science and I hope some may consider studying science in more depth as they grow older. Thank you, Dr Greenwell, for organising the day. On Tuesday next week, some tutors from Durham University will be visiting Class 2 to talk to them about their science topic of rocks.

Parent Governor

A vacancy has arisen for a parent governor on our governing body. The governing body is asking you to nominate someone with parental responsibility for a child at the school. If it receives more than one nomination, then a ballot will be held. If you would like to apply or find out more about this role, please contact Mrs Cole, Chair of Governors on 07944863824 or leave your contact details at the school office. Thank you.

Parents' Evenings

Parents Evenings have been very well attended and hope that you found them useful and informative. By working together, we can ensure that your child is happy and is making good progress. The children can be proud of their efforts.

Red Nose Day

The children looked amazing in their weird and wonderful outfits today. I will let you know next week how much we raised for this very worthy cause.

Garden Update

The weather has not been kind to us this week however some progress has been made. The path inside the polytunnel has been created. The path around the garden is starting to take shape and gives the impression of a railway track. Hopefully, we will have some drier weather next week.

Reading for Pleasure

I read an article this week which reinforced the message of giving children the opportunity to develop a love of reading. A piece in *Teach Primary* claimed 'one of the biggest predictors of academic success for children is being someone who reads widely in their own time.' This can perhaps be a challenge in the modern world with exciting technology and other activities, but something I would argue that can help relax, inspire, make you laugh and give many other benefits that are not just academic. We hope to strengthen links with the library and will look at many other ways in which we can help promote reading at home. Over the next few newsletters and starting today, I will ask some of the children for recommendations of their favourite book and share them with you.

My Favourite Book – by Maisie in Class 4

'Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban by JK Rowling is my favourite. I have read it 46 times and I love it because it is very descriptive and it's full of surprises! It is magical but also deals with average, everyday problems.' Thanks Maisie!

Cross Country Level 3 Competition

Huge congratulations to Adele from Class 4 who qualified for the Level 3 Sainsbury's School Games Cross Country event at Durham. She went last Friday with Mrs Wood and came a very creditable 29th out of a large field of athletes who qualified earlier in the year. Well done Adele!



Class 3 Tennis

On Monday morning (27th March) Class 3 will be walking to Teesdale School to take part in a tennis festival. As it is a prompt start, please could the children arrive at our school in their PE kits with a tracksuit or uniform over the top. Thank you.

Class 3 walk to the woods

Due to the strange weather this week, Class 3 did not walk to the woods. They plan to go on Thursday 30th March instead.

Easter Egg Raffle

The Friends of Montalbo School are organising an Easter Egg Raffle on Friday 7th April. They are asking for a donation of an Easter Egg as on the last Friday, the eggs will be raffled. Raffle tickets cost 50p each and can be bought on the day by the children. The idea is that the children sit in the hall with the raffle tickets and go and collect their prize once it's drawn. The more eggs we receive, the more children can win! Quite a collection is accumulating in the School Office so thank you to the children who have brought one in so far!

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.

Attendance for w.b. 20.3.17

Class	Present
Reception	98.8%
Class 1	95.9%
Class 2	98.3%
Class 3	97.5%
Class 4	93.8%

Overall attendance this week was 96.8%

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. There were 1hr 51 minutes of learning time lost this week which may be down to snow!

Dates for your Diary

- March 27th - Tennis Festival for Class 3 at Teesdale Sports Centre
- April 6th – Class 2 trip to the Locomotion, Shildon
- April 6th – Football team tournament at Staindrop Academy
- April 7th – Y5s African Drumming at The Hub
- April 7th – Class 2 assembly 9.00a.m
- April 7th – Easter Egg Raffle
- April 10th -21st Easter Holidays
- April 24th Summer term begins
- May 1st – May Day Holiday
- May 8th-11th Key Stage 2 SATs (Y6s)

Mr Minikin

Head Teacher