



November 2nd 2018 Issue 8

Welcome back

I hope that you managed to have a nice half term and made the most of the great autumnal weather. There is a long eight week half term ahead of us and most of the children are refreshed and ready to learn. In assembly this week, I reminded the children about working to the maximum in each session and what it takes to be an effective learner. Together, we are working on a display that we go in each class to encourage and remind us of these key skills which help us today and in the future.

Extension Update

The partition between the old and new parts of the hall was removed during the holidays and the conjoined space is superb. The painters have been finishing off this week and the flooring will go down shortly. The children are very excited to use the space for PE and it will certainly give us more opportunities.

Work towards the front of school is progressing well and the shape of the new extension is becoming more apparent each day.

Me and My Bee

I mentioned last week about our creative curriculum and offering our children as many opportunities for different experiences as possible. This week our Year 6 children visited The Witham Hall to watch a play highlighting the importance of bees. The children enjoyed the experience and came back buzzing – ha ha!

Mrs Kay Wilson's Story Telling

This week the Year 1 and 2 children had a great experience when local children's author, Kay Wilson, visited and shared some spooky tales and activities with them. Having chance to hear stories told, as well as being read to, is an excellent way to capture children's imagination.

Fire Safety Assembly

On Friday, Miss Lauder arranged for the Fire Service to come to school to talk about fire safety, which is particularly relevant at this time of year. As her class have been learning about The Great Fire of London, her children built some houses and they were then set on fire, replicating the events on Pudding Lane (the children did know that this was going to happen when they built them!) Thank you to the Fire Service for ensuring that we were all safe during this event!

Encouraging as many visits and visitors, like the 3 events mentioned above, to enrich our curriculum is part of our School Improvement Plan and the staff are certainly keen to plan these exciting events.

Halloween Disco

The Halloween Disco on Thursday was great fun and it was nice to be able to use part of the new hall. The children looked 'frighteningly' good in their costumes! Thank you very much to Friends of Montalbo for their help with this and to the staff who helped on the night too.

Friends of Montalbo School Christmas Cards

Your child should have brought home the Christmas card that they designed this week. If you would like to place any orders please return the form to school by **Friday 9th November**, cash or cheque payable to Friends of Montalbo School please.

Parents' Evenings

Parents' Evenings have been arranged for Tuesday 20th November and Wednesday 21st November. If you would like to make an appointment, please call in or telephone the School Office. Thank you.

School Nurse Drop In

Lindsey Atkinson, our School Nurse, will be holding her next drop in session to coincide with Parents' Evening on Tuesday 20th November. She will be in school from 3.30-4.30pm on that afternoon to give advice.

Attendance

Despite the recent sickness bug that has been affecting our school and others in the area, we were able to hand out over eighty 100% attendance certificates this week for the first half term of the year. This is a great achievement. Well done!

Harvest Donations

This week we passed over your harvest donations to Reverend Harding who took them to the local foodbanks. His car boot was full and we thank you for your contributions.

Flu Immunisation

The children in Reception and Years 1 to 5 whose parents requested the flu immunisation had this on Wednesday. If you have a child in Reception to Y5 and you missed this date then there is a catch up session at Teesdale Leisure Centre on November 10th from 9-12. Parents/carers **need to book** a slot by calling 03000 030013.

Crafty Ceramics

Crafty Ceramics will visit us on November 23rd between 3.30-4.30pm. Here the children get the chance to paint their own pottery which is then taken to be glazed and fired. They have proved popular for Christmas gifts. The order forms plus payments should be returned to school by November 16th if you wish your child to take part.

Attendance for w.b. 29.10.18

Class	Present
Reception	83.2%
Year 1	86.8%
Year 2	96.1%
Year 3	91.1%
Year 4	96.2%
Year 5	98.9%
Year 6	98.8%

School overall attendance 93.2%

Please ensure that your child arrives at school no later than 8.55a.m. in order to make a prompt start for lessons. 36 minutes of learning was lost to lateness this week.

Dates for the diary

November 6 th	FOMS meeting 5pm in school
November 6 th	Diwali workshop for Year 6 in school
November 9 th	World Science Day activities
November 9 th	Mrs Unwin's Band Workshop (no clarinets on Monday 5 th Nov)
November 16 th	Children in Need
November 19 th	Book Fair in school all week
November 20 th + 21 st	Parents' Evenings
November 23 rd	Crafty Ceramics 3.30pm-4.30pm
November 23 rd	Miss Richardson's Class Assembly
December 11 th	Reception Sports Festival at Staindrop
December 11 th	Christmas Market in the Garden 5-7pm
December 12 th	Year 2 Multiskills at Alun Armstrong Centre, Shildon
December 13 th	Year 3 Multiskills at Staindrop
December 14 th	Christmas Jumper Day/Christmas Carol Service at St Marys 1.45-3pm

Mr Minikin, Head Teacher