



October 25th 2019 Issue 8

Miss Richardson

This week the governors and I interviewed for the position of Temporary Deputy Head Teacher to cover Mrs Bartoli's maternity leave. Congratulations to Miss Richardson who will undertake this role. We are fortunate to have a very strong leadership team with Mrs Newton and Miss Lauder leading Key Stage 1 and EYFS and throughout the school we have very capable middle and senior leaders.

Halloween Discos

Thank you very much to the Friends of Montalbo, helpers and staff who organised and stayed back for the Halloween Disco on Thursday. The children looked amazing and terrifying in their costumes!

Birds of Prey Visit

Dr Greenwell, in her role as Science Lead, organised for a great treat for Nursery and Reception children, as well as some older children, to work with Walworth Birds of Prey. This tied in with their recent interest in owls and the book Owl Babies.

Buddy Bench

Mrs Patterson, who leads our School Council, was delighted with the number of entries to design a sign for the buddy bench. The winner, whose sign will be printed at William Smith's in town, will be chosen over the half term break. Thank you for your entries and good luck to everyone.

Reception and Year 1 Parent Workshop

I hope that the parents/carers who attended the Reading and Maths Workshop found it useful. As a school, we really value that link between school and home and as mentioned during the presentation, parents who read, listen to children read and encourage children to read can have a very positive influence. Whenever I visit our Read Write Inc sessions, I am amazed at the pace and confidence of our early readers and am equally impressed with their abilities in early Maths. Thank you to Miss Lauder and Miss Scott for sharing this information with parents.

Flu update

Flu vaccinations will take place in school on **6 November 2019** please follow this link for more information. 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

Sports this week

It has been a busy week for sports with selected children from Key Stage 2 competing in Cross Country. They did remarkably well in large fields and many came back in the top 10. A special mention to Alex in Y6 who came 6th and Owen who was 7th. On Wednesday our Year 3 children attended a tag rugby festival. It has not been easy to practise due to the very wet spell we have been having but the children have improved in each game, winning some matches and praise from the coach and Dr Greenwell. Yesterday, Year 5 enjoyed Multiskills in which they played a number of games and events. In all the events the children represented our school superbly – well done to you all!

Changes to timetables on Monday

As part of our review of the curriculum, we are changing the way we deliver some curriculum subjects. On a Monday afternoon each week, Subject Leaders will use their expertise and gain a better understanding of their subject in different year groups. On a Monday children in Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6 will learn French with Miss Bean, Music with Miss Scott, PHSE with Mrs Leonard and Reading/Independent study with Miss Richardson. Dr Greenwell will teach Year 1 Science on this afternoon. The rest of the week will be similar to this year although PE days have changed (see overleaf). I am really looking forward to seeing how this works as it should ensure we are meeting and enhancing the aims of the National Curriculum.

St Mary's Parish Church

On Saturday 2nd November between 10am and 11.30am, a community orchestra is offering the chance for children or adults to try a musical instrument listen to a free concert or enjoy refreshments.

PE Days and Teacher's Planning, Preparation and Assessment time

After half term, Mrs Miller (Higher Level Teaching Assistant) will be covering the majority of teacher's planning time, using her expertise in PE and Computing. Mrs Thomas, who has been working in Year 4, will be working in Nursery instead of Mrs Miller. As a result, PE times will alter.

Nursery PE – Tuesday	Reception - Wednesday
Year 1 PE – Tuesday and Thursday	Year 2 PE – Monday and Friday
Year 3 PE – Thursday and Friday	Year 4 PE – Thursday (Swimming)
Year 5 PE – Tuesday and Thursday	Year 6 PE – Tuesday and Wednesday

Christmas Fair and FOMS

Plans are taking shape for the event on Tuesday 3rd December from 5-7pm. We have a good number of stall holders who will be selling a variety of goods. If you would like a stall, please contact FOMS on friendsofmontalbo@gmail.com FOMS would like to hold a raffle and bottle tombola. Any donations for these would be gratefully received.

Willow Lantern Workshops

Mrs Sandra Moorhouse, Barnard Castle Mayor, has asked us to inform you of some workshops in town where children can make willow lanterns to be used in the tree lighting event nearer Christmas. These craft sessions are on Sunday 3rd November between 10.30am-12.30pm and again between 2pm-4pm. There are other sessions at the same times on Sunday 17th November but at the Hub.

Reception Places 2020 and Secondary School Applications!

Please remember to visit www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions if you have not already completed applications for Reception or Year 7 places. The Secondary School deadline is 31st October.

Attendance for w.b. 30.09.19

Class	Present
Reception	95.5%
Year 1	94.7%
Year 2	100%
Year 3	95.5%
Year 4	97.2%
Year 5	96.3%
Year 6	92.6%

School overall attendance is 95.9%

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

1 hour of learning was lost to lateness this week.

Dates for the diary

October 28 th – November 1 st	Half Term
November 4 th	Children back to school
November 7 th	EYFS Stay and Play
November 11 th – 14 th	Book Fair in School
November 12 th	Science Fair
November 12 th	School Nurse Drop In 3-5pm
November 12 and 13 th	Parents' Evening – appointments made from November 4 th via School Office
November 15 th	Children in Need
November 25 th	Safety Carousel

We raised £126 for Show Racism the Red Card. Thank you!

Mr Minikin
Head Teacher