

Here's hoping 2013 will be a good year for everyone associated with Montalbo School!

BLOSSOM & GROW
AT MONTALBO

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WELCOME TO MONTALBO PRIMARY

SPRING TERM NEWSLETTER 2013

For Week ending January 11th

Happy New year to you all!!!

I hope that despite the flu and other viruses many have suffered over the festive period you are fully recovered and willing to support your child, children & our school during another Year.

The vast majority of pupils now seem fully recovered and ready for the challenges ahead in this New Year.

I am pleased that in recent work moderation pupils have made measurable progress from September to December. I have seen improved handwriting in Y1 and 2. Reception pupils are on track with learning letter sounds and several children now have reading books. Independent writing by Y1s has been impressive. It is good to see Key Stage 2 pupils reaching and in many cases exceeding targets. Year 3s and 4s are making good progress in Maths. Several of our Y5 and 6s are working at Level 5 in English and Maths. Level 5 is considered a high level of achievement.

At the end of term Class assessments have taken place as part of our regular monitoring procedures. This has identified who is on track or achieving better than expected. For pupils who have made less than expected progress we have a series of intervention programmes to help them catch up. Some children work on LEXIA to assist with literacy; some receive additional reading support to aid decoding and comprehension. Children work on maths concepts they find difficult. Mrs Honess continues to support children in achieving both literacy and maths targets. This is paid for through Government pupil premium funding. This funding is allocated on Free School Meal Entitlement. Classroom support assistants provide group or individual teaching to supplement or reinforce work by the teacher.

If you need additional information about your child's progress or about additional support they may receive please speak to your child's teacher. There will be a Parents' Evening this term for you to get detailed information too.

A key focus in all classes this year will be handwriting and presentation. We hope that you will support your child with any handwriting homework. Additional practice on letter formation in Reception & Key Stage 1 & practice joining in Key Stage 2 would be very helpful. ASK FOR DETAILS OF OUR HANDWRITING FORMATION & how letters are joined.

In Key Stage 2 can your child identify upper and lower case letters? Do they know what size these letters should be?

What is Upper case?.....CAPITAL LETTERS What is lower case?.....abcde etc.

Do they know that Capital P sits on a line whereas the curved part of lower case p sits on the line and the line part of p descends below the line? What about Oo, Ww Vv

NOW WE ARE BACK TO ROUTINE IT IS IMPORTANT THAT PARENTS READ REGULARLY/ HEAR & TALK ABOUT READING. Key Stage 2 parents you need to do this too. Discussion stimulates better understanding

YEAR 5 and 6s raised over £400 from their Business venture. They aim to buy additional DSs and are planning a TITANIC COCKTAIL PARTY as part of their studies

MRS DONALDSON BEGINS HER MATERNITY LEAVE FROM JANUARY 18th. We wish her well and hope all goes as expected. Miss Metcalfe will take over the teaching in Year 1 and 2 full time as from 21st January. The opportunity to team teach with Mrs Donaldson has been important in ensuring a smooth transition for pupils.

SWIMMING GALA

Mr Howell has picked a swimming team for the Gala on **WEDNESDAY 23rd JANUARY.** The children will need a packed lunch.

FOOTBALL COACHING

The new coach running Football training is John Walker, who may be known to many of you for the work he has done at the cricket club. I monitored the first training session and was very impressed by the attention to skill training and the full on activity of the session.

MONTALBO EXTRA

Ideas to revamp Montalbo Extra are beginning to flood in from the children. There have also been some good ideas for re-naming 'Care'.

Prize for the name chosen!!!!!! It's not too late to enter!

Please put your thinking caps on –what kind of activities would you prefer to see?

We plan to allow your children to dip in and out of activities rather than sign up for a half term block.

ROBINWOOD

Please make sure you pay the full amount by **JANUARY 31st** please as we have received the invoice for the full amount.

CLOTHING

Please ensure all your child's belongings are labelled with their name. It makes returning lost property so much easier.

WATER BOTTLES

All children need to bring a bottle to access our water dispenser.

BOOK BAGS

Please make sure you check your child's book bag for letters, newsletters and to check if they have handed in dinner money etc.

FREE SCHOOLS

Do you think you are entitled? Please claim. Our school receives additional pupil premium for new recipients of Free School meals.

WEBSITE

Mrs Hauxwell has updated the calendar section. Photographs and articles will be added by the end of January. Let us know what additional information you require on the website please.

FAMILY EXPLORER

Please return your form if your family are interested in visiting local attractions. There will be a family after school workshop in early February to give more details. There are still available places despite the great response so far.