



World Book Day

Well done to all the children and staff for their superb efforts to dress as a book character for World Book Day. There was an excellent range of imaginative costumes and it was lovely to see so much positivity around book related tasks. We have taken many photos which will be uploaded on to the website and sent in to *The Teesdale Mercury*. We had a whole school competition to design a book cover depicting their favourite book and character and a lovely hardback Roald Dahl anthology was kindly donated by *Oswell's* which went to the winning design. It was won by Harry from Class 4 and a winner from each class also won a small prize. We are working hard to promote a life-long love of reading and are having an improved focus on reading for pleasure at school and home. Please support us by encouraging your child to read or share a book as often as possible. Thank you.

OurSchoolApp

A separate letter has been sent out today with guidance on how to use a free app entitled OurSchoolApp. It is free for parents to use and helps keep you updated with school events and sends reminders too. I am probably a little too excited about this and feel that this will be a useful App for busy parents! I am sure it will help compliment the newsletter and website in keeping parents informed. Please let me know what you think!

Parents' Evening Appointments

Parents' Evenings have been timetabled over three days again to allow plenty of time for you to meet and talk with your child's teacher. The dates are Monday 20th March, Tuesday 21st March and Wednesday 22nd March and you can arrange a 10 minute slot between 3.40pm to 5.50pm. Please arrange this via the School Office. Thank you.

Mother's Day Afternoon Tea

We would like to invite Mums and grandmothers in to school on March 24th at 2pm for Mother's Day Afternoon tea. If you are unable to make it, another female relative could attend. We hope you can join us then.

Dogs Trust

As part of the Junior Education Programme, Class 4 were visited by the Dog's Trust and their dog, Molly. The children learnt more about how to keep themselves safe around dogs and avoid being bitten.

Guide Dogs

Earlier in the term, Class 3 did some activities on National Blind Day. As part of this mini topic, Dr Greenwell arranged for the two ladies, Sue and Marie and their dogs, Toby and Misty, to visit school and talk about how guide dogs are trained and how they support people with sight difficulties. They were very popular in an assembly and helped children to understand the special bond between the ladies and their dogs. Thank you to Dr Greenwell for arranging this.

Encouraging Bees

Class 4 were visited by Mandy Oliver from the North Pennine Area of Outstanding Beauty to talk about the importance of bees and how they help pollinate plants. In future sessions, the children will be planting some bee-friendly plants around the school to support bees, which are declining in number across the country.

Helping Out at Home

On Tuesday Miss Smith invited parents of Reception children into school to talk about ways to support their child's learning at home. The session proved extremely useful and was attended by most parents of reception children. Thank you to those of you who were able to attend.



Cross Country Team

Miss Richardson, Mr Foster and Mrs Dupuy accompanied 21 children to the Cross Country Level 2 Sainsbury's School Games event at Bishop College. The selected Year 3 – 6 children were competing against 28 other schools with some races having around 200 pupils in. I was very proud of how all of the children represented the school and their efforts to compete in boggy conditions for the second week running!

Huge congratulations must go to Adele from Class 4 who finished 3rd in her race, which means she qualifies for the Level County Event later in the year. Well done again to all who took part.

Garden Update

The first phase of the garden redevelopment starts next week. This ambitious project will be around a train theme (linking to our location's past) and will see the existing school garden transformed. Some parts of the development will require planning permission and I will inform you of this when this process begins. The first phases involve clearing the site, some levelling and new fencing. There will be some machinery around the garden area and we will make sure the children are safe and that work stops around playtimes and lunchtimes, and before and after school.

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.

FOMs Meeting

The next Friends of Montalbo School meeting will be at school on Tuesday 7th March. New and established members are very welcome.

Attendance for w.b. 27.2.17

Class	Present
Reception	91.8%
Class 1	98.6%
Class 2	94%
Class 3	95.9%
Class 4	99.3%

Overall attendance this week was 96.3%

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 18 minutes of learning time lost this week

Dates for your Diary

- March 6th Garden clearance starts
- March 7th FOMs Meeting at 5pm
- March 8th Class 3 to Hitachi
- March 8th Class 4 - Indoor Athletics at Teesdale Leisure Centre
- March 17th Science Day in school
- March 20th-22nd – Parents' Evenings
- March 24th – Mother's Day Afternoon Tea

Mr Minikin

Head Teacher