



## **Congratulations**

This week the School Governors and I made several teaching posts permanent. Miss Smith was appointed permanent Deputy Head Teacher and I congratulate her. Miss Blackburn, Dr Greenwell and Miss Lauder have all been appointed on permanent contracts and they too have very bright careers ahead. After a period of change, the chance to develop the school further with the full staff is very exciting.

## **WE Citizenship Assembly**

On Thursday, we had a truly inspirational assembly about how young people can make a difference in the world around them. Frankie, the presenter, spoke with real passion to the children and staff about how we can all make small changes, raise awareness and contribute more to local or global issues. The children listened very well and from their answers and comments afterwards I know several of them were really inspired.

## **Calling all Knitters!**

As a result of the assembly mentioned above, Emily (Class 4) and Becky (Class 3) thought it would be nice to make a difference. They decided knitting something would be good and researched RSVP's Trauma Teds, which is a charity that provides knitted teddies for children suffering some kind of trauma in the North East or further afield. We are thinking of creating a knitting group, which will be a mixture of volunteers and groups of children, to create the teddies.

If you are interested, please let us know in the School Office, or contact Mrs Ridley, who is going to help coordinate the project.

## **Tesco Bags of Help Scheme**

Mrs Abi Smith, of the Friends of Montalbo, has arranged to have our garden project accepted as one of 3 local good causes, which members of the public (Tesco shoppers) can vote on. To vote, you will need to make a purchase within store of any value. You will receive one token per transaction. You can place the token in the appropriate box - Montalbo School & Community Train Garden- in the store and the more votes we get, the greater the donation to the garden improvements. Votes can be placed in the stores in Bishop Auckland, Darlington and Newton Aycliffe from next week. Please spread the word to family and friends! Thank you.

## **FISCH Parents' Assembly**

All children from Year 2 to Year 6 should have received a letter from Families Initiative Supporting Children's Health (FISCH) about the work they are planning to do in school. They would like to talk to parents/grandparents at 3pm on Friday May 5<sup>th</sup> about this Healthy Lifestyle programme and Amanda, Lenny and Joanne are very knowledgeable and approachable about any diet/exercising questions you may have.

## **Class Photographs**

Class Group Photographs have been organised for the morning of Monday 22nd May. If you have a Nursery child who does not attend Monday morning sessions and you would like to be included, please bring them to school for 9am.

## **Competition Winner!**

You may remember a while ago, Mrs Thompson, one of our School Governors, launched a competition to design a leaflet encouraging walkers to the town – the 'Walkers are Welcome' initiative. Congratulations to Katy Pattison whose design was chosen and has been made into leaflets and posters. Katy received a prize in this week's Celebration Assembly. Well done Katy!

## **Attendance Termly Reward**

The Crazy Golf treat for Class 2 100% attenders will go ahead but they are a little short-staffed at present. I am trying to rearrange this for next Friday!



**Financial Information**

The old paper £5 notes will be withdrawn from circulation on 5th May 2017. Because of banking procedures, we will not be able to accept any old £5 notes after today's date.

**Gymnastics sessions**

Teesdale Leisure Centre now have some gymnastics spaces available. Pre School and Gymnastics classes are available for ages 3 and upwards at Teesdale Leisure Centre. For further information contact 03000 260862/63.

**Freezer problem**

Apologies that the token system for school lunches has not happened this week. Our school freezer malfunctioned and we lost of a lot of food stored over the weekend therefore the planned menu had to be altered. The token system will start again next week.

**Planting fun**

Key Stage 2 have done quite a lot of sowing, planting and watering in the polytunnel this week. So far the children have planted potatoes, peas, lettuce, sweet peas, sweetcorn and cauliflower. They have sown some flower seeds in seed trays which we'll eventually plant around school. There are still several beds to fill and Key Stage 1 will get planting next week! It's nice to be able to work in the warmth whilst the weather is so bad outside.

**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. 24.4.17**

| Class     | Present |
|-----------|---------|
| Reception | 99.4%   |
| Class 1   | 99.1%   |
| Class 2   | 95.3%   |
| Class 3   | 98.8%   |
| Class 4   | 98.3%   |

Overall attendance this week was 98%

**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. 50minutes of learning was lost to lateness this week.

**Dates for your Diary**

- May 1<sup>st</sup> – May Day Holiday
- May 5<sup>th</sup> Tennis tournament for Class 3
- May 5<sup>th</sup> Play Bus at school for Nursery and Reception children
- May 5<sup>th</sup> 3pm Parents assembly about the FISCH Programme
- May 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> Key Stage 2 SATs (Y6s)
- May 12<sup>th</sup> – Class 4 to The Hub
- May 16<sup>th</sup> – Chess for the chess team at Staindrop Primary
- May 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> – Class 4 to Lockerbie
- May 22<sup>nd</sup> – Class photographs
- May 23<sup>rd</sup> – Year 4 Song for Europe at the Gala Theatre
- May 25<sup>th</sup> – Class 4 Athletics at Teesdale School
- May 29<sup>th</sup> – June 2<sup>nd</sup> – Half Term Holidays
- June 5<sup>th</sup> – Teacher Training Day
- June 16<sup>th</sup> – Father's Day Event in school 2pm

**Mr Minikin**

Head Teacher

**Whit Procession**

We would like to enter the Whit Procession on Monday 29th May. If you would like your child to take part, send this reply back. The theme will be a Victorian train so your child would need a Victorian costume – we do have a limited number in school.

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I would like my child,

\_\_\_\_\_ to take part in the Whit Procession with Montalbo Nursery and Primary School.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_