



## Hard Working Class 4

The run up to the SATs is never the easiest of times but I have been impressed with how our Year 6 have risen to the challenge. They have worked incredibly hard and can be proud of their efforts. The expectations of the New Curriculum on Year 6 children are tough but I know that our children have had really good preparation and can go into next week feeling relaxed, confident and as positive as possible. Thank you to Miss Richardson and Mrs Dupuy for their work in this extra-busy period. I have a couple of nice rewards planned for the children.

## Outdoor Learning

As well as preparing the children as best we can for the next stages of their education, we are keen to develop a well-rounded curriculum. There are many research papers highlighting the importance of learning outside the classroom as this has been found to promote academic, social and physical development. It has other benefits, such as improving the emotional health and wellbeing of children and staff and I am keen to offer our children as many opportunities as possible for this. Redeveloping the garden has been part of this and I have noted many curriculum lessons occurring outside such as Maths, English, Science and Art. A number of educational visits will occur this term and the Class Teachers are busy planning exciting and stimulating places to visit.

## Lockerbie

One of the best activities in Primary Education is the residential experience. Class 4 travels to Lockerbie for kayaking, high ropes, zip wire, archery, team building games and much more shortly. A reminder to parents of children in Class 4 that full payment is due by 6<sup>th</sup> June and also to return the video/photograph consent form if you have not already done so. Thank you.

## Trauma Ted Knitters

We have had a little bit of interest in volunteering some time to work alongside groups of children in school to knit teddies for children in North East who have suffered some kind of trauma. To give you a little more detail, we plan to run the group on a Wednesday afternoon, from 1.30pm to 3.20pm. Mrs Bowron, our school expert knitter, will help supervise the activities! You do not have to commit each week or stay for the whole time but we'd really like this idea to work as many of our children are keen to help children who have suffered. If you can help, please let us know in the School Office. Thank you.

## Class 1 Assembly

The next Class Assembly will be Class 1's on Friday 26th May at 9am. Families of the children in Class 1 are welcome to join us. I am sure the children will be excited to perform to an audience!

## Whit Procession

Last week, I added some information to the bottom of the newsletter about the Whit Procession. Mrs Finlay, one of the Friends of Montalbo, and I discussed a Montalbo entry. The organisers are keen to have mainly walking groups this year. If you are interested in being involved, please complete the slip at the bottom of the page and return by next Thursday so I can share information on the theme in more detail with interested parties.

## Tesco Bags of Help Scheme from May 7<sup>th</sup> 2017

Remember 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. Please spread the word to family and friends! Thank you.



**More Planting**

Class 1 and 2 used the polytunnel this week, helping to sow seeds, plant and water the crops. The gardening club have been busy planting tomatoes and have set up an experiment to check the growth of tomatoes in grow bags compared to those growing in soil. My favourite quote of the week was from a boy in Class 2 who said ‘Gardening is better than grammar.’ – I couldn’t possibly comment!

**Reception Taster Days**

Miss Smith would like to start the transition process for new Reception children who will start with us in September 2017. We would like to invite the children into school to help familiarise themselves with the room, staff and the other children. The first event will take place on the morning of Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June and then each Tuesday until 11<sup>th</sup> July. Parents of the children who have accepted a place will be provided with more information nearer the time.

**Parent Governor**

A vacancy has arisen for a parent governor on our governing body. The governing body is asking you to nominate someone with parental responsibility for a child at the school. If it receives more than one nomination, then a ballot will be held. If you would like to apply or find out more about this role, please contact Mrs Cole, Chair of Governors on 07944863824 or leave your contact details at the school office. Thank you.

**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.

**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	91.9%
<b>Class 1</b>	<b>100%</b>
Class 2	91.7%
Class 3	96.9%
Class 4	94%

Overall attendance this week was 94.9%

**Dates for your Diary**

- 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 26<sup>th</sup> – **Class 1 Assembly**
- 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

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

**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,

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

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_