



December 8th 2017 Issue 13

Christmas Nativity for Nursery and Reception

It was lovely to see our youngest children perform their Nativity on Thursday afternoon. The children make such progress in all aspects in the Base and it was great to see their growing confidence and their characters emerge. It is not easy being on stage aged 3, 4 and 5 but they did so well and looked fantastic in their costumes. Super singing and dancing brought a smile to us all. Well done to all the children – you are superstars! Thank you to Mrs Bartoli, Mrs Patterson, Mrs Bowron, Mrs Spence, Mrs Kicks and Mrs Miller for their work on this. I hope parents and families of the children enjoyed it too.

Miss Lauder's and Miss Blackburn's Christmas Play

This year we have had to focus our Christmas Plays on Miss Lauder's and Miss Blackburn's Class. I am very much looking forward to being able to host whole school performances next year, in our extended school hall. Hopefully, families of Miss Lauder's and Miss Blackburn's classes have been able to secure tickets for the performances on December 13th and 14th. If there are any spare tickets they will be issued on Monday. Please ensure that you bring your child to school for 5.45pm. The performance will finish at 7.30pm.

Afterwards, children from Miss Richardson's class will be running their Business Venture from her classroom where they sell crafts, sweets and much more! **Children in this class should come to Miss Richardson's side door at 7.15pm.** The Business Venture usually lasts about 45 minutes and children should be collected afterwards at approximately **8pm.**

Carols in Church

Due to our increased number on roll and the popularity of the event last year, we are having our Christmas Carol Concert in St Mary's Church on Friday 15th December. We aim to start at 1.45pm and the concert will last about an hour. Children and staff will be walking to church. It coincides with Christmas Jumper Day so why not put yours on if you are joining us? All family/friends are welcome.

After the event, you will be able to take your children home but they must stay with a member of school staff until we see you and hand your child over. If you are not attending, children will be brought back to school as usual. We are encouraging the children only to bring a coat to school and no school bag – apart from those children who have packed lunch bags. This will be much easier and then hopefully nothing gets lost at church.

Staindrop Sports

Most of our sporting competitions this year are at or organised Staindrop Academy and there is a very good mixture of festivals for fun and competition throughout the year. Next week sees events for Miss Blackburn's Class, Dr Greenwell's Class and Reception. Please make sure that your child has their appropriate PE kits on those days (see Dates for the Diary). Other classes will have their festivals and competitions at various points through the year.

Extension Plans

The plans for our extension are now on Durham County Council's Planning website and have been mentioned in the local press. We are very excited by the project – the existing building will be improved as well as giving us the extra spaces such as a larger hall.

FOMs

Friends of Montalbo School will be selling raffle tickets and will be providing refreshments at all of our Christmas performances this year. Any donations for the raffle would be much appreciated and can be brought to the School Office. Raffle tickets can be bought on the days of the performances or can be purchased from the Office/playground from next week.

Next week sees a pantomime company in school to perform Aladdin. Thank you very much to Mr Briggs and Ms Barleycorn for paying for this event. We are very grateful.

FISCH

The 10 week FISCH course for Y3-6 has finished and has been very good. The children have been given good advice around healthy lifestyles and Lenny is a fantastic, positive role model who we have enjoyed having in school. I am pleased to report the adults whooped the children 10-1 in the Ultimate Dodgeball and a good time was had by all!

Saturday 9th December 10.00am - 3.00pm

Celebrate Christmas at The Hub

'Santa's Grotto - £5.00 per child includes meeting Santa and receiving a letter and gift to take home. We also have a range of local stall holders selling their produce, festive treats from our Hub Kitchen and a carol performance by The Halcyon Singers. The bouncy castle and a face painter will be on hand to provide entertainment for the little ones. Entry to the wider event is FREE for all. To book a Grotto place please call Laura on 01833 690150 or call in on the day.'

Sunday 10th December 12.00pm - 4.00pm

Green Christmas at The Hub

'We will be showcasing alternative ways to celebrate Christmas - Green Santa will be on hand to meet and greet people from his handcrafted tipi as well as a range of stall holders with hand-crafted Christmas presents for sale. Entry is FREE. Workshops in recycled wreaths (£10.00) and alternative Christmas treats (£5.00) will be available - please book beforehand on 01833 690150'

Butterwick Hospice Flumpets!

The ever popular Flumpet Christmas Toys are on sale in the School Office. There are several different designs and cost £1.50 with all monies received going to the Butterwick Hospice.

Starting School

The application process for school places for children who will be 5 on or between 1st September 2018 and 31st August 2019 is open now. Applications can be made via www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions where you can access a guide containing essential information to help you with your application.

Attendance for w.b. 4.12.17

Class	Present
Mrs Bartoli's Reception	93.1%
Miss Lauder's Class	90.7%
Miss Blackburn's Class	93%
Dr Greenwell's Class	98.4%
Miss Richardson's Class	92.9%
School Total	93.5%

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. 1 hour 30 minutes of learning was lost to lateness this week.

Dates for the diary

December 11 th	Miss Blackburn's Class Hockey Competition
December 12 th	Dr Greenwell's Multi-Skills Festival 9.30-11.30 at Staindrop
December 12 th	Christmas Lunch
December 13 th	Pantomime in school
December 13 th and 14 th	Christmas Plays @6pm Miss Lauder and Miss Blackburn's Class
December 14 th	Reception to sports festival at Staindrop
December 15 th	Christmas Jumper Day
December 15 th	Whole School Carol Service at St Marys 1.45-2.45pm (families welcome)
December 18 th	Rokeby Carol Service (Christmas Carol Choir only)
December 19 th	Recorders concert (Y4) and Clarinets at Teesdale School 5pm
December 20 th	Christmas Party Y1/2 and Y3/4
December 21 st	Christmas Party Y5/6 and EYFS
December 21 st	End of Autumn term
December 22 nd	Teacher Training Day
January 8 th	Spring Term begins

Mr Minikin