



July 20th 2018 Issue 38

Good Luck Year 6

The Leaver's Assembly is always an emotional occasion and this year was no exception. The balance that this year's Year 6 has shown has really pleased me. The group can be focussed and work very hard when required, but also have fun and enjoy being children! They have many skills and talents which they have learnt and honed during their time at Montalbo and they are real credit to the school and their families. I have loved getting to know each one and seeing their confidence grow year on year. From all of us at Montalbo, we wish the children well and hope that they continue to work hard and enjoy their time at secondary school.

Porridge

The Year 4, 5 and 6s served up a real treat for us with their Summer Performances this week. Performing at an unfamiliar venue did not throw the children, and they sang, danced and acted with real skill and enthusiasm. Their comic timing and jokes were very funny but worse than some of mine and that is saying something!

Huge congratulations to all of the children who were magnificent. It is quite a task for our staff, especially in a different venue, to work out transitions between scenes and to pull the whole thing together and a big thank you to Miss Richardson, Dr Greenwell, Mrs Dupuy and Mr Foster for their work on this. Thank you also to Mrs Spence, Mrs Wood and Mrs Bowron for their help too. These events stay with the children and families for many years and are well worth the effort!

What a Year!

This year has been a little different, even for Montalbo! Trying to run a school in and around the extension has been a challenge and I would like to thank the staff at school, the construction team, parents and the children for their understanding and adaptability during the first phase. It will be amazing to have the new part of the school ready for action in September.

I have really enjoyed the fact that we have continued to operate as normally as possible and have found alternative ways of putting on events, branching out into the community to use their facilities: St Mary's for the Christmas Carol Service; The Hub for Music, environmental studies and rewards; Barnard Castle Cricket Club for sports and GSK Social Club for the Y4, 5, 6 performances. Wherever we have been, our children have been a real credit and the feedback we have received has been so positive. We have used the local area well with several visits to The Bowes Museum, the woods and town to enhance children's understanding.

Our results in statutory end of Key Stage assessments continue to be well above national comparisons in Early Years, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 and the work going on every day in classrooms is amazing. This is reflected in children's books, in which content and presentation are of a very high standard.

Outdoor learning is important to me as it promotes mental health and wellbeing and many other important skills such as team working and following instructions. It's easy to forget that the Goods Wagon and many other features weren't here last year! The garden continues to be used very well daily and I am keen to develop other areas of the school grounds next year to maximise our children's experiences.

Another memorable occasion was the Meet Procession and the mass Montalbo entry that looked fantastic and did so well. Parental involvement and engagement in every event we have been involvement has been superb and feel that we are very well supported by our families! Events like the exhibition for World Book Day were very well attended and show that we like to be innovative and creative! Our parental questionnaires are incredibly positive and I will share the feedback in September.

And finally ... The Pride of Teesdale, School of the Year Award was a terrific tonic for all of the staff and I feel richly deserved! I am incredibly proud of our school and look forward to planning and prioritising areas to improve next year and I am very excited to see what we can achieve.

SATs results for Key Stage 2

At Expected Standard

Subject	Montalbo 2018	National 2018	Difference
Reading	93%	75%	+18%
Writing	93%	78%	+15%
Grammar Punctuation Spelling	93%	78%	+15%
Maths	100%	76%	+24%
Reading, Writing, Maths combined	86%	64%	+22%

Higher Scaled Score

Subject	Montalbo 2018	National 2017 (no national data yet)	Difference
Reading	43%	25%	+18%
Writing	57%	18%	+32%
Grammar Punctuation Spelling	57%	31%	+32%
Maths	36%	23%	+13%
Reading, Writing, Maths combined	29%	9%	+20%

Fantastic results again everyone! Well done!

Holiday Reading

The holidays are a great chance to catch up on reading for everyone and it is important our children read each day to maintain their skills but more importantly for pleasure too. Please encourage your child to read each day so that they can make a flying start again in September.

Online safety and screen time

Finding the balance between having fun on PCs, tablets, phones and consoles and other more traditional activities like biking, crafts and playing outside seems to be a constant challenge. Ofcom in the UK estimates that the average 3-4-year-old spends three hours a day in front of a screen. This rises to four hours for ages 5-7 and 4.5 hours by ages 8-11. I honestly believe these figures are an underestimation! Schools across the country report more speech and language problems as there is less interaction between children and adults as a result so please be mindful of this. I am hoping the weather stays as it has which helps to encourage outside play! A reminder that it is good to be aware of the activities your child is doing online and to check that the games they are playing are suitable.

Attendance

Our school attendance figures have risen again this year! Well done everyone. Lots of certificates and treats were given out this week!

Attendance for whole school year

Class	Present
Mrs Bartoli's Reception	95.9%
Miss Lauder's Class	95.4%
Miss Blackburn's Class	96.2%
Dr Greenwell's Class	96.2%
Miss Richardson's Class	97.0%
School Total	96.2%

Have a Great Holiday!

From all of us at Montalbo, have a lovely holiday. We look forward to seeing you all on September 4th.

Dates for the diary

September 3rd Teacher Training Day
September 4th Start of the new academic year for children

Mr Minikin, Head Teacher