



September 28th 2018 Issue 4

MacMillan Coffee Afternoon

This afternoon was the culmination of a fantastic week! The Class Bake Off idea has been embraced by the whole school and there were some delicious smells and busy, happy children preparing and baking cakes all week. There have been many other educational benefits with different classes researching ideas, writing recipes, making leaflets to advertise the event and decorating their wares to entice the customer!

Having a goal to work towards helps give learning a purpose and I am keen to see more of these types of activities this year. I was able to take School Council to Moments Cafe to bake in a business which again may spark an interest that the children could pursue. Thank you to Mrs Payne for agreeing to this and baking with the children.

Thank you also for the donations of cakes and raffle prizes and to Friends of Montalbo School who helped on the day. I will let you know how much we managed to raise next week.

Official Garden Opening

Even though we have been using the garden for learning and play for a while, I thought it would be nice to thank the volunteers, project funders, Friends of Montalbo School, contractors and sponsors for their efforts to make the transformation possible. Therefore, on Thursday 18th October we will have an Official Opening and you are welcome to attend as many of you too have donated prizes, bought raffle tickets or helped in other ways to raise funds.

After a short speech, we will have some activities set out for children to play, similar to the ones at Mother's Day and Father's Day. Hopefully the weather will be kind to us and that it will be a lovely occasion.

Hall Hill Farm Visit

On Thursday the Year 1s visited Hall Hill Farm as part of their topic and had a fantastic time. They learnt about how farming has advanced over recent years and were able to test their knowledge on different animal groups and naming the animals young. They were also lucky enough to enjoy a tractor ride around the farm. They nursed and petted the small animals and were a credit to the school! Thank you to our helpers who were able to accompany the children.

Dr Greenwell's STEM Club request

The Science club on a Wednesday has been very busy so far. Testing which blades are the best for a helicopter, making different variations of kites, and designing sturdy boats. An upcoming challenge involves 'pool noodles' and Dr Greenwell is looking for donations of pool noodles no longer used. If you have an old noodle at home, it would be gratefully received.

Extension Update

This week the focus has shifted largely to the hall extension with the electrics being wired up. Outside the path towards the main entrance has been dug and further drainage work carried out. When the whole project is finished, there will be a path that will lead around the back of the hall onto the playground which will be used by the majority of visitors.

During Storm Ali we lost a branch off one of our trees and I have been in contact with the local authority to see which trees need attention to keep us all safe. We have agreed to have some work carried on some and some other, less healthy trees removed completely. This will take place in November.

New School Nurse

This week I met our new school nurse, Lindsey Atkinson. She is very keen to meet you and attended the Open Afternoon. She would like to arrange monthly drop in sessions to speak to any parent needing advice. The first session is Wednesday 31st October between 3-4pm but if you would like to speak to her before this her telephone number is 03000261577.

Winter Menus

New menus have been send home with children. They will come into force after the October half term. Please circle your choices for each day for main meals and return them to school by October 12th. The current menu will be in place until after half term.

Letterjoin

As a school, we follow a handwriting scheme called Letterjoin. Children can access this at home to use if they would like and it is available on tablet or PC. You can print out sheets as extra practice too.

To log on using a PC –

Username lj0107 Password home

To log on using a tablet User name: lj0107

Swipe code: A capital 'L' shape starting at top left.

Flu Immunisation

The parents and carers of children in Foundation Stage and Years 1 to 5 should have received either an email or a letter regarding this year's flu vaccination. Please remember that you need to give consent by visiting: www.hdft.nhs.uk/nasalfu-consent . Our school code is 46697. If you do not have internet access please contact the Immunisation team on 0300 0030 013

Data Forms

Please could parents/carers who have not returned data collection forms do so. It is important that we have the latest information. Thank you.

Attendance for w.b. 24.9.18

Class	Present
Reception	92.8%
Year 1	96.1%
Year 2	100%
Year 3	98.6%
Year 4	100%
Year 5	100%
Year 6	100%

School overall attendance 98.3%

Please ensure that your child arrives at school no later than 8.55a.m. in order to make a prompt start for lessons.

Fantastically no pupil was late this week. Brilliant - keep up the good work everyone.

Dates for the diary

October 2 nd	Teesdale School Open Evening 6-8.30pm
October 10 th	Photographer in school (individuals and siblings)
October 17 th	Tag Rugby Competition Y4 (selected children)
October 18 th	Multi Skills Festival Y6 (whole class) am
October 18 th	Official Garden opening 2pm
October 31 st	Flu Immunisation for Y1-5
October 31 st	School Nurse Drop In 3-4pm
November 1 st	Halloween Disco
November 6 th	Diwali workshop Year 6 in school
November 19 th	Book Fair in school all week
November 20 th + 21 st	Parents' Evenings

Mr Minikin, Head Teacher