



November 30th 2018 Issue 12

Christmas arrangements

As we approach December and the busy festive period, rehearsals and preparation for forthcoming events are gathering momentum! We are continuing with similar ideas for school performances, with Nursery and Reception performing a Nativity on December 17th at 2.00pm.

Our Year 1/2 children are performing a Christmas Play on December 12th at 6pm.

The whole school apart from Nursery will go to St Mary's for the Carol Service. Key Stage 2 are involved in our Christmas Market but their main large performance will be in the Summer.

This year as there is quite a lot going on we are having one Nursery/Reception Nativity and one Year 1/2 performance. Each child will receive 4 tickets for their performance and these will be sent home in school bags. If you do not require 4 tickets please send any spares back. If you would like more tickets please let the School Office know and we will check if it is possible to fulfil the request.

Tickets are not required for the Carol Service at St Mary's and we that hope many of you can join us there in your Christmas jumpers!

Christmas Parties

Children's Christmas party dates are listed in the dates for the diary section at the end of this newsletter. School will provide party food and the children should come to school in their school uniform with their party clothes in a named carrier bag so that they can change into them. Nursery children who do not usually attend on that day are very welcome to come along too at 1.45pm. Please let Nursery staff know if you intend to do this. Thank you.

Friends of Montalbo School

We have a number of stalls booked for the Christmas Market and I thank FOMS for their help with this. At the market on December 11th, there will be many Christmas stalls selling a variety of things that may be good stocking fillers, so please come along between 5pm-7pm! If the weather is too bad we will be able to use the school hall. Father Christmas will be there and it promises to be a lovely event.

If you would like a stall at the Christmas Market or know of anyone who may, please contact us at montalbo@durhamlearning.net The event will be open to the wider community so if you know anyone who may like to come please pass the date and time on. Both the main gate and back gates will be open.

Recorder and Clarinet Concert

Mrs Unwin would like to showcase the work the Year 4 children have been doing this term on their recorders and also the Year 5/6 clarinetists through their tuition. She has arranged for an assembly on December 10th at 2.30pm for the parents of Miss Scott's Class plus the parents of the clarinetists. I hope that you are able to join us for this.

After School Clubs

Throughout December we will only have after school care (Chill Out) available rather than the usual range of clubs. The hall is being decorated for the Christmas festivities and staff are working towards the Christmas Market and other events during this period. We aim to offer a range of new clubs in January.

Extension Update

The work towards the front of school is progressing well and now the Nursery and new extension is joined. Work to make the new and old parts watertight has not been helped by the awful weather this

week! The floor inside the new reception, school offices and foyer has been screed and the windows are being installed next week.

Work around the school field has seen a new fence installed to separate the car park from the field and help secure the area for playtimes when the builders have gone and the weather improves!

Christmas Lights Switch on

Festivities commence with seasonal stalls and an Aladdin's 'cave', whilst Santa's sleigh will be in-situ amidst a winter wonderland of white trees.

From 5pm Barnard Castle Band will entertain crowds with Christmas music and at 6.15pm, a short Aladdin pantomime will entertain the crowds on the performance area outside Woodleigh, prior to the switching-on of the tree lights at 6.30pm. Many of our children requested Aladdin lamps to colour in so make sure you take them with you!

Santa will be resident in his grotto from 6.45pm in the Methodist Church, with face-painting and a chance to make a magic carpet bookmark. Refreshments are available in the Church Hall for a small charge.

Starting School

Parents/Carers with a child due to start school in September 2019 need to apply for a school place online at www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions where you can access a guide to help you with your application. If you cannot access the Council's website please contact the School Admissions Team on 03000 265 896 and you will be sent a copy of the guide for parents and an application form. The deadline for applications is midnight on 15th January 2019.

Attendance for w.b. 26.11.18

Class	Present
Reception	93.2%
Year 1	98.9%
Year 2	95.8%
Year 3	96.1%
Year 4	99%
Year 5	94.1%
Year 6	96.5%

School overall attendance 96.1%

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

67 minutes of learning was lost to lateness this week.

Dates for the diary

December 10 th	Recorder and Clarinet Concert
December 11th	Reception Sports Festival at Staindrop
December 11th	Christmas Market in the Garden; 5:00 – 7:00pm
December 12th	Year 2 Multiskills at Alun Armstrong Centre, Shildon
December 12th	Christmas Play Year 1 and Year 2; 6:00pm
December 13th	Year 3 Multiskills at Staindrop
December 13th	Nursery & Reception Nativity & Christmas Raffle Draw; 2:00pm
December 14th	Christmas Jumper Day/Christmas Carol Service at St Marys; 1.45 - 3:00pm
December 17th	Nursery and Reception Christmas Party 1.30pm
December 18th	Christmas Lunch
December 19th	Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas Party 1.30pm
December 20th	Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Party 1.30pm
December 21st	Year 5 and Year 6 Christmas Party 1.30pm

Mr Minikin

Head Teacher