



February 1st 2019 Issue 19

Space Activities and Space Camp

This week saw the culmination of a lot of planning and preparation with the whole school taking place in many space related activities. Nursery and Reception did much space themed work in their classes, and the other classes carouselled around the school working with all of our teachers. Mrs Bartoli and Miss Scott taught Art, Miss Richardson taught PE, Miss Lauder Computing, Miss Blackburn Maths, Dr Greenwell and Miss Bean Science and all of the subjects had a space theme. There is always an amazing atmosphere in school but the buzz in the classrooms over the last two days has been on another level! Thank you to all the staff for making these activities so memorable – the quotes from the children make all the effort worthwhile.

On Thursday evening, the Year 3 and 4 children had an extra treat as they camped in pop up tents in the school hall. They were visited by the Durham Astronomical Society who showed them how to use our new telescope effectively, as well as pointing out many stars in the night sky. We were lucky enough to see a satellite and the International Space Station pass by. After that, they did some more space themed activities and snuggled down in their tents for the night.

On Friday morning, the whole school carried on with more space themed work and presented some of their learning to the parents of Year 3 and 4 children. The children were so well behaved and despite about a twenty trips from each one to the toilet they did so well! They were a real credit to the school and their families and I know for some children it was their first experience of staying away from families.

Thank you very much to Dr Greenwell for organising this –it took a lot of time and effort and for also stopping over with the children. Thank you also to Miss Scott, Mrs Daniels, Mrs Dupuy and Miss Smith (trainee teacher) who also stayed with me and the children and also to Mrs Bartoli, Mrs Bowron and Mrs Miller who helped out before bedtime.

Snow!

Space campers woke up to a covering of snow this morning. I asked Mr Hunt, our caretaker, to come in after school so that the children could sleep a little longer and not get woken up by him – wishful thinking! So Mrs Daniels and I shovelled and gritted the paths and were joined later by Mrs Bartoli, Miss Lauder, Miss Blackburn and Mrs Miller. Thank you to them for helping out.

Change of assembly date

Due to the Year 3 and 4 Spring Performance it would be unfair to ask Miss Scott and the Year 4 children to learn an assembly too so Miss Blackburn's Class will lead the assembly on March 15th. Miss Scott's class will perform their class assembly in the Summer term.

Year 6 Residential

Miss Richardson has been busy searching for suitable venues for a residential visit for our Year 6s after SATs. We like to try different options each year and this year she has chosen Ford Castle in Northumberland. To give you more information, we would like to invite Year 6 parents and children to an information session at 5.30pm on Tuesday February 5th. We hope that you are able to join us.

Valentine's Disco

Friends of School are making arrangements for a Valentine's Disco again this year. Tickets will be available from Monday 4th February and the format will be similar to previous years. Nursery/Reception and Key Stage 1 (Year 1 and 2) disco will be 5.30pm-6.30pm and Key Stage 2 (Year 3 upwards) will be from 6.45pm to 7.45pm on February 12th.

Extension update

Work has progressed further on phase 2 of the extension. The painters have finished this week and the electricians have installed security lighting. Lighting to the carpark will be completed shortly. The construction team are now working on the new path that will form the main way in to school and the school office. We will keep you informed about when this path is going to be used and all being well we hope to be in the new offices before half term.

The new Early Years furniture is arriving next week and I know that Mrs Bartoli is very excited about this. Within the next couple of weeks, a canopy will be installed from the new reception classroom to enable the children to have a covered outdoor learning workspace.

FOMS Treat!

After our Friends of Montalbo School meeting this week, it was agreed that Friends would fund a visit from a Chinese Dance Group to celebrate Chinese New Year on February 5th. This will be a spectacular event that will incorporate the dragon and other traditional Chinese customs. We plan to do a range of activities in school to educate the children on these and it promises to be a memorable day. Thank you to Mrs Leonard for arranging this.

Cleaner Wanted

Due to the extension works at the front of school, we require additional 10 cleaning hours (2 hours per day). If you would be interested in this post, details can be found on the school website homepage <http://www.montalbo.durham.sch.uk/> or by contacting the school office.

OurSchoolsApp

Remember that updates are often given on OurSchoolsApp.. This app can be downloaded to any smartphone or tablet. Once downloaded, search for our school and press OK. Notifications will then be sent to your device.

Attendance for w.b. 28.1.19

Class	Present
Reception	93.7%
Year 1	98.9%
Year 2	97.6%
Year 3	97%
Year 4	89.5%
Year 5	90.4%
Year 6	96.5%

School overall attendance 94.6%

Please ensure that your child arrives at school no later than 8.55a.m. in order to make a prompt start for lessons. 42 minutes of learning was lost to lateness this week.

Dates for the diary

February 12 th	Valentine's Disco Nursery/Reception Y 1 and Y2 5.30-6.30pm Y3,4,5 and 6 6.45-7.45pm
February 13 th	Year 6 Netball festival
February 14 th	Year 2 Multiskills Festival
February 15 th	Dr Greenwell's Class Assembly
February 15 th	Band Workshop
February 18 th – 22 nd	Half term
February 25 th	2 nd Half Term Begins
February 28 th	All Star Cricket Y1-3 (every Thursday for 6 weeks)
March 15 th	Miss Blackburn's Class Assembly
March 26 th and 27 th	Parents' Evenings

Mr Minikin

Head Teacher