



February 28th 2020 Issue 21

It's Good to be Back!

I am very pleased to be back at school this week and I thank you for your support, cards and presents in my absence. I have begun catching up with all of the children and when I visited classrooms yesterday was impressed with how the children have settled in after their half term break. Nothing much changes as I was shovelling snow on Monday in the hope that school would open but it became clear that the cook and most of the staff were unable to get to school, meaning that we were forced to close.

I have learnt a lot in my absence and hope to pass on some sensible advice to staff and children about being kinder to yourself. I will no longer be answering the school telephone before 6.30am or after 6.30pm but will remain as committed as ever to improving our school! I look forward to seeing you all over the coming weeks. I would like to thank all of our staff for their superb work in my absence, especially Miss Richardson and Mrs Newton who have shown that they have tremendous leadership skills and very bright futures.

World Book Day

On Thursday 5th March, we will be celebrating World Book Day. Children can dress up as their favourite book character or someone who inspires them to learn. Each class will be holding a 'Stay and Read' session where parents can come into school and enjoy reading stories and books with their child. The sessions will run from 2:00pm to 3:20pm and parents and carers are welcome to 'drop in' when they wish. We ask that adults enter the school via the main office doors as you will be greeted by a Y6 helper and shown to the correct classroom.

Bring in a button! The Button Book by Sally Nicholls

As part of World Book Day celebrations, the whole school will be taking part in activities and writing tasks based on The Button Book by Sally Nicholls. It is an entertaining and fun children's picture book which we hope will inspire some amazing writing and drawing. We are asking all children to bring in their own button which can be as simple as an old button from a t-shirt or as glamorous as a pearl from a dress... the choice is yours. But where will your adventure story take you when you press your magic button?

NSPCC Assemblies and Pantosaurus

The whole school took part in NSPCC 'Speak Out Stay Safe' assemblies this week. The programme aims to equip a generation of children with the knowledge and understanding they need to stay safe from abuse and neglect. Children are taught how to speak out if they are worried, either to a trusted adult or Childline. Children even got to meet the 'Speak Out Stay Safe' mascot called Buddy! Later in the afternoon, Reception class got to sing along with 'Pantosaurus' as they learned about keeping their bodies safe. A parent guide was sent home in the book bags of all children in Reception class. If you would like to watch the Pantosaurus video you can view it at: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe>. Later in the term, the NSPCC team will be returning to school to run educational workshops with Year 5 and Year 6 children. This will help to prepare them for secondary school and learn more about keeping themselves safe.

PE Kits in School

Please help your child to be prepared with the correct PE kit in school. To stay clean and healthy, it is vital that children have a PE kit which consists of a PE t-shirt, shorts, leggings or tracksuit bottoms, socks and sports trainers or plimsols. Wearing the same t-shirt or the same trainers as those which children wear all day, is not a good option as kit can become wet or unclean. Children should have a red Montalbo shirt and dark coloured shorts or tracksuit bottoms. As the weather is cold, children should bring a warm hoodie, fleece or jumper so that they can stay warm if their PE sessions are outdoors. Children should bring their PE kit to school on a Monday and leave it in school all week in case they need it for additional sports sessions. This will mean that every child can get the full positive benefit of their PE lessons.

Parent's Evening

On Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th March 2020, we will be holding our Parent's Evenings. Parents and carers are welcome to make appointments by contacting the school office. Appointments will last for 10 minutes and children's books will be available for parents and carers to view. Miss Richardson will be meeting with Year 6 parents and Mrs Leonard will be meeting with Year 5 parents. All other class teachers will be meeting with the parents and carers of the pupils in their class as normal.

Cross Country Running

Well done to all of the children who took part in the cross country running at Bishop Auckland College today. It was a long way to run and the ground conditions were very wet and muddy! Cross country is a demanding sport that requires great determination, so a huge congratulations to everyone who attended.

Swimming Cancelled for Year 4 on World Book Day

We have cancelled swimming on Thursday 5th March as children will be busy celebrating World Book Day. Children will still receive their 10 sessions per term as we will add on an additional session to the end of the term.

Inter School Netball and Football with Barnard Castle Prep School

Due to the snowy weather, our sports afternoon at Barnard Castle Prep School was cancelled. We will re-schedule the football and netball events to take place as soon as the weather brightens up!

Recycling for Charity

Thank you to all those parents, carers and helpers who donated their old textiles and clothing to support the Fire Fighters Charity in Partnership with Beaumonts Recycling. Thank you again to FOMS who arranged for the collection to take place.

Your School Lottery

FOMs have raised £1961.20 since they launched 'Your School Lottery' at Montalbo School. This is with 48 people buying tickets which are £1 per week. Players have the opportunity to win a weekly prize and the opportunity to win £25,000. More information can be found at <https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/montalbo-nursery-primary-school>.

FOMS Support

If you are able to help Friends of Montalbo School by volunteering at fundraising events in school for example Valentines Disco please email friendsofmontalboschool@gmail.com or leave your details at the School Office for the attention of FOMs.

Attendance for w.b. 24.02.20

Class	Present %
Reception	97.4%
Year 1	84.9%
Year 2	96.4%
Year 3	100%
Year 4	97.8%
Year 5	89.5%
Year 6	94.9%

School overall attendance is: 94.7%

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

50 mins of learning was lost to lateness this week.

Dates for the diary

March 2 nd	Internet Safety Talk for Year 6
March 5 th	World Book Day
March 10 th	Chess Competition 1 for selected players
March 11 th	NSPCC Workshops for Year 5 and Year 6
March 16 th	Chess Competition 2 for selected players
March 17 th and 18 th	Parents Evening
March 20 th	Mother's Day Afternoon
March 9 th	Space Camp Week

Mr C Minikin
Headteacher