



March 6th 2020 Issue 22

World Book Day and The Button Book by Sally Nicholls

Yesterday we celebrated World Book Day and I was amazed by the breadth and imagination of the costumes that the children came in. We started the day with Mrs Leonard reading *The Button Book* by Sally Nicholls which was very interactive and great fun. The children were engrossed and sharing this love of reading is something we encourage and celebrate every day. Thank you to Mrs Leonard for organising the day. I hope that those of you who were able to attend the stay and read session enjoyed your time. Well done everyone!

Reading at home

We try and reward and encourage reading at home in a number of different ways, including our weekly reading raffle. The link between children who read wide and often and academic success is well researched but we also want our children to LOVE books! I have noticed that our Year 2 and 3 children, in particular, are avid readers who fill their reading raffle container. Each child who has their reading record signed by someone at home is entitled to a ticket with the chance of winning a small prize. Please could everyone try to listen to their child read each week or share a book with our younger children. Thank you.

Year 5 and 6

Next week we will revert back to our usual teachers teaching in Year 5 and 6. I would like to thank Mrs Leonard for her work with Year 6 and Mrs Todd for her work in Year 5. Mrs Todd will be working in school in different classes for the next two weeks, allowing teachers to go on courses and to monitor the subjects they lead.

Hand Hygiene

This week we were visited by our School Nurse who shared best practice in handwashing. Whilst we did not mention current news events, we felt that this was important to reinforce good habits.

Multiplications Tables Check

Today we sent home a leaflet for parents/carers in Year 4 to explain a new test that takes place in June for children in Year 4. Please do not worry about this test or worry if your child does not know certain times tables. Over the coming weeks, your child will have a chance to practice – it is a computerised, timed challenge. Learning times tables quickly and fluently helps in many aspects of Maths and if you could support your child with learning them at home this would make a big difference, but again, do not worry if your child cannot remember certain ones. If you have any questions about the test, please ask Miss Bean or me.

Family Night

Did you know that there is a Family night at GSK Sports and Social Club on Friday 6th March 2020? The night starts at 7pm and finishes at 10pm. There is food available, bingo and raffle too. All are welcome and membership of GSK Club is not required. The event occurs the first Friday of every month.

Chess

Next week our chess players are competing against some other local schools here at Montalbo. Thank you to Dr Greenwell for organising this and good luck to our team!

NSPCC Workshops

Next week we continue our recent work with the NSPCC. On Wednesday the children in Year 5 and 6 will have workshops around keeping themselves safe.

Mother's Day

On the 20th March we will be celebrating Mother's Day in school. Anyone special to your child can attend – Mum, Gran, Dad etc. Mrs Bowron is organising this event and I thank her for that. I'm sure there will be some great activities for you to share with your child. The event will start at 2.00pm.

High Force SCITT Visit

As part of our work with High Force Teacher Training, next week we will be visited by 11 trainee teachers from Bradford. They are looking in particular at how children are challenged. Mrs Newton and I look forward to showcasing the excellent work that goes on in school.

Cross Country

On Friday Miss Scott took a large squad of cross-country runners to Staindrop where they ran against other local schools. Miss Scott was delighted with the effort of all of the children and was particularly impressed with our school's behaviour – our children encouraged and cheered all competitors and were a real credit. Out of a field of around 150 children per year, we had a number of children in the top 30 which was a great effort. Well done team!

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.

Contacting parents

Please can all parents/carers ensure that we have the most up to date contact details and that their telephones accept calls from us. This week it has been quite tricky for the School Office to contact parents and we must be able to do this. Thank you.

Swimming Cancelled for Year 4 on World Book Day

We have cancelled swimming on Thursday 5th March as children have been 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.

Attendance for w.b. 02.03.20

Class	Present %
Reception	92.8%
Year 1	84.2%
Year 2	93.8%
Year 3	98.9%
Year 4	94.1%
Year 5	95.6%
Year 6	98.5%

School overall attendance is: 94.2%

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

41 mins of learning was lost to lateness this week.

Dates for the diary

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 2.00pm
March 26 th	Space Camp
March 27 th	Year 2 Assembly
March 30 th	Orienteering some KS1 pupils @ Staindrop School
March 31 st	Year 3 Play 1:30 – 2:30pm
April 1 st	Year 3 Play 6:30 – 7:30pm
April 3 rd	World Art Day
April 6 th – 17 th	End of Term
April 20 th	Children back to school

Mr C Minikin
Headteacher