



October 16<sup>th</sup> 2020

### **Welcome Back Mrs Bartoli**

You may have seen Mrs Bartoli in school each Wednesday following her maternity leave. I am very pleased that she will be returning 4 days a week from Monday as she is an important part of the team here at Montalbo. I know that the children will be excited to see her around school too.

### **Wellbeing**

I have asked Mrs Bartoli to lead on an important new initiative, the Wellbeing in School Award. This is about much more than trying to become accredited, as we want to build on the increased focus on PHSE and outdoor learning that enables children and adults to become more aware of their own wellbeing. The aim is to support the whole of the school community – children, parents, staff and governors. To achieve the maximum benefits, we all need to contribute and we will ask for your thoughts and ideas as part of the process. Mrs Bartoli will update you over the coming weeks.

### **Nut Free School**

Please can parents ensure that children's packed lunches do not contain items like Nutella, as we do have children with severe allergies. A reminder too, that we encourage healthy snacks for break time. Thank you.

### **Castle Visit**

On Monday Mrs Leonard's class had a very enjoyable and informative educational visit to the castle. It became apparent from the questions the children asked, that they had learnt a great deal and it is always good to see things first hand to embed learning. The children behaved brilliantly and we were very proud of them all. We are very grateful to Mr Usry for sharing the history of the castle with us and guiding us round the most relevant parts. Well done Year 1!

### **Captain Cook Museum**

This week Miss Bean arranged for Year 5 to have a virtual visit with experts from the Captain Cook Museum as part of their History and Geography work this half term. They were able to see artefacts and replicas of the equipment and resources used on *The Endeavour*. Miss Bean was very impressed with the range of excellent questions the children asked the expert. Good work Year 5!

### **Poetry Competition**

McNab's Books, located on 11-13 Market Place Barnard Castle, have been in touch about our upcoming poetry competition open to all Primary School pupils in the local area. They would like pupils to write a poem on the subject of 'My Community' (Barnard Castle and the surrounding area)

The overall winner will receive 'Miss Trunchbull's Chocolate Cake (a full decadent chocolate cake from their café) and a £10 book token!

One winner from each school will win a £5 book token, and their poem will be displayed in the bookshop.

### **Halloween**

Thank you to all the children who returned their skeleton pictures to be displayed at the Hub. We will pass them on to The Hub on Monday so if you have not returned your picture please do so on Monday.

With the disruption caused this year, I thought that it might be nice for the children to come to school on the last day of half term, Friday 23rd, in their Halloween costumes. We usually have some amazing costumes but please bare in mind that the children will still be doing some work, particularly in the morning, so will need to be able to sit down, see and not overheat! In the afternoon, they can have some Halloween activities and maybe even some treats!

### New Parent Pay Booking System

From Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November you are able to book a place for your child in Breakfast Care and After School Care online via the Parent Pay App. A guide has also been added to Our Schools App for your information. Follow these instructions after logging on to your child's account:

- Select ☰ on the left-hand side of the screen
- Scroll down to bookings
- Select "Make or View" bookings
- Follow the on-screen instructions to book single or multiple sessions
- Continue onto the payment instructions as the booking will not be confirmed until payment has been made.

Please note this is the only way school will accept bookings for Breakfast and After School Care with effect from November 2<sup>nd</sup> except in an emergency.

### StoreHouse

StoreHouse is a foodbank project to help the people of Barnard Castle and the surrounding area. They are based at Influence Church on Galgate and their contact details are 01748823161 or [storehouse@influencechurch.co.uk](mailto:storehouse@influencechurch.co.uk)

### Reception Class Places 2021

Postcards were handed out earlier this term to nursery children regarding the application procedure for Reception Class in September 2021. The card has instructions on how to access the Parent's Guide (Primary & Secondary School Admissions Guide in County Durham 2021/22) and is available on the D.C.C website or via the following link: [www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

### Teesdale School Virtual Open Day

Teesdale School have asked to pass on information regarding a virtual open evening. More information can be found at [www.teesdaleschool.co.uk/open](http://www.teesdaleschool.co.uk/open)

### Attendance for w.b. 12.10.20

Reception	***100%***	Class 3	98.3%
Class 1	99.3%	Class 4	96.7%
Class 2	98.9%	Class 5	***100%***
		Class 6	97.3%

**School overall attendance is: 98.8%**

### Dates for the Diary

October 26<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>      Half Term  
November 2<sup>nd</sup>            Teacher Training Day  
November 3<sup>rd</sup>            Children return to school  
November 11<sup>th</sup>         Photographer in school (Individual photographs)

Mr C Minikin  
Headteacher