



November 20th 2020

Children in Need

The donations children brought in for Children in Need raised a whopping £386.40 and this has been sent off to the charity. Thank you.

Co-op Local Community Fund

This week I had a virtual meeting with FOMS and found out more about how parents, grandparents, friends and anyone you know can help us massively! I imagine at some time most of us will shop in one of our two Co-Op stores for either goods or fuel or perhaps in villages such as Middleton in Teesdale. Many of you will have a membership/dividends card too that you can get for £1 from stores or online. If you register your card online, you can 'Choose a Local Cause'. School then receives a percentage of the money you spend (at no extra cost to you). You can see how much we have raised so far by visiting <https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/50538> or sign in to support our cause here.

The more people who choose our school, the more money we can earn. The overall aim of the fund is to go towards an amazing structure that we are planning, which will enhance greatly our outdoor learning and wellbeing work, and will be used by all children. Please share this message with anyone you know! Thank you.

Outdoor Learning

On Friday afternoons, Year 6 will be taking part in Outdoor Learning sessions which have been organised by Jonny and Kirsty from the TCR Hub. In the first session, children participated in team building activities such as Harry Potter Quidditch, Aaragog's Web, The Weasley Swamp Crossing and Human Bar Charts! We are really looking forward to these sessions and are very grateful for this opportunity.

Please make sure that your child has suitable footwear (wellies if possible) a waterproof coat and carrier bag for these items on your child's outdoor learning days.

COVID-19 reminders

Each week I share information on COVID-19 as a reminder and to try and keep us all safe. Please do not send your child to school if they have any of the following symptoms and arrange for a test. You and anyone you live with should stay at home and not have visitors until you get the test result – only leave your home to have a test. Taken from <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

In this period, it is better for all concerned if we err on the side of caution and ensure that your child is fit and well when attending school. Thank you.

Christmas

I hope today you received information regarding the plan to share some of the Christmas activities with you. Please return the consent form, whether you consent or do not, as soon as possible. Thank you.

Some of the children have been asking their teachers about bringing Christmas cards in. It is fine to bring in Christmas cards to be handed out to children in **their bubble**. Cards will be placed in a box within the class at the start of the week and given out on Friday.

Christmas Lunch Thursday 10th December

We will be having our Christmas Lunch on 10th December and letters have been sent out today to those children who normally bring a packed lunch offering the opportunity to take part in this Christmas Event. Replies must be received by **Friday 27th November** and the meal paid for by **4th December** unless your child is entitled to either Universal Free School Meals (Class R, 1 & 2) or Free School Meals.

FOMS

Friends of Montalbo School is a group of parents who do an amazing job raising money for the school. In usual times, they help to organise and run discos and school fairs. This has allowed the school to purchase iPads, waterproofs, selection boxes and much more as well as helping to develop our lovely Railway Heritage Garden. It would be wonderful if we could have a few more members though! It is not much of a time commitment and meetings at present are virtual. If you are interested in being involved, please could you email Friendsofmontalbo@gmail.com Thank you.

FOMS also arrange a School Lottery which some parents have joined. You can win weekly prizes and more information can be found at www.YourSchoolLottery.co.uk Once on the site search for Montalbo.

Walk to School Awards

It is great that so many children walk, scooter or bike to school. Where it is impossible to walk due to distance, some parents park a little way away from school so that their child can still 'walk' to school. Each day the children complete a tracker on the computer and in the past children have been awarded badges. These are single use plastics and eco council thought that we should stop this. Instead, Mrs Newton will reward the best class in Celebration Assembly at the end of the week. This decision has made me rethink the prizes we hand out so once this batch have been given out, I will look at environmental prize options!

Reception Class Places 2021

Please remember that even if your child attends our nursery, you must still apply for a school place for their Reception year. Further information on how to apply for a Reception place is available on the D.C.C website or via the following link: www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Attendance for w.b. 16.11.20

Reception	***100%***	Class 3	95.4%
Class 1	95.1%	Class 4	99.4%
Class 2	***100%***	Class 5	98.3%
		Class 6	91.4%
School overall attendance is: 96.9%			

Dates for the Diary

December 11 th	Christmas Jumper Day
December 18 th	Last Day of Term
December 21 st -Jan 1 st	Christmas Holidays
January 4 th	Teacher Training Day

Mr C Minikin, Head Teacher