



November 27th 2020

Light Up Teesdale

Please see a message below from Sarah Gent of TCR Hub –

‘Staff at TCR Hub invite you to make your jam jar lantern in a virtual Homemade Christmas workshop with our Family Activities Coordinator Sarah Gent at 6.30pm on 26th November. By making together, we aim to share a happy hour of crafting whilst learning a new skill using recycled materials. We can also send you jam jars, candles, glue and tissue paper, as well as share craft tips (whether you are attending the workshop or not). Contact our Family Activities Coordinator Sarah at sarah.tcrhub@gmail.com or call 07876 238857 if you would be interested in a workshop at an alternative time or would like a pack of materials.’

As I am sure you know, TCR Hub have been supporting many local families during the past few months with care packages. They are organising a raffle to help raise funds to support this work over the coming weeks and more information can be found [here](#)

From next week, we will place a collection box on the way around the one-way system (near to the School Office) for anyone who would like to contribute a donation such as a tin, box of cereal etc that we can pass on to the Hub. Thank you.

County Durham School Benevolent Fund

The County Durham School Benevolent Fund is an independent registered charity which offers a grant towards shoes and coats for school pupils. A grant of up to £35.00 can be awarded towards a winter coat and up to £35.00 for a pair of shoes for eligible families.

A full list detailing who is eligible can be found within the application form on the home page of the Durham County Council website or follow this link: www.durham.gov.uk/schoolbenevolentfund

Co-op Local Community Fund

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.

COVID-19 reminders

The following is a reminder of the start of the school day for the different year groups. It is important that your child arrives at the correct time as morning activities such as phonics or Maths start promptly.

Years 3,4,5 and 6 – 8.30am

Years 1 and 2 - 8.45am

Nursery and Reception 9.00am

The vast majority of parents are wearing a mask/face covering during pick up and drop off times. Thank you.

Christmas

Thank you to all of the parents/carers who have returned their Vimeo Consent forms. If you did not receive a form, please contact the School Office.

School has just started to get a little bit Christmassy and it has been nice to hear the class bubbles begin to sing carols spread out in our well-ventilated hall or outside!

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.

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. 23.11.20

Reception	99.3%	Class 3	92.9%
Class 1	99%	Class 4	98.3%
Class 2	***100%***	Class 5	94.7%
		Class 6	91.5%
School overall attendance is: 96.4%			

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	Staff Training Day

Mr C Minikin,

Head Teacher