



December 4th 2020

Wellbeing

I have mentioned on previous newsletters the importance of wellbeing and how we are trying to support the school community to have good mental and physical health. As we are hoping to make further improvements in this area, Mrs Bartoli will be sending out an email to parents whose emails were registered on the Data Collection Sheets to gain your opinions and ideas. If you do not receive an email and would like to take part in the survey, please contact the School Office. Thank you.

Online Safety and Behaviour

As a school, we teach our children about acceptable online behaviours and each class from Y1-6 will have covered elements of online safety since September. In addition to this, encouraging online safety and positive behaviours online needs to continue at home. It is advisable that parents monitor the sites that their children access, the videos they are watching and the online conversations/messages that they send one another. There are often videos available to view which on the surface appear harmless, but their content can be far from it, so please ensure that you and your child discuss online safety regularly and what to do if they feel uncomfortable with videos, content or messages.

<https://www.internetmatters.org> and <https://net-aware.org.uk/> has useful advice.

As part of our wider work on wellbeing, I think teaching the children to explore other interests and switching devices off is vitally important and parents can help with this too.

Statutory Assessment Update

This week schools were notified that there will be no end of Key Stage 1 tests for children in Year 2. This was intended to be the last year in which these assessments were being taken. The only assessments in Key Stage 1, therefore, are the Phonics screening for both Year 1 and Year 2. Year 2 have to be assessed this term as the screening was cancelled for all schools in the Summer.

We were also informed that the Key Stage 2 Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar test for Year 6 is cancelled. Science is not to be assessed either for Key Stage 1 or 2. I will keep parents of Year 6 up to date with any further changes.

FOMS Christmas raffle

FOMS have organised a Christmas raffle which is online this year. Thank you to Joanna for setting this up. Please visit and support the school using the following link. <https://raffall.com/155139/enter-raffle-to-win-montalbo-school-christmas-hosted-by-joanna-buchanan>

During this week's meeting I was pleased to learn that FOMS have another couple of members which is great. The next FOMS meeting will be at 5.15pm on January 12th via Zoom and all are welcome. If you would like to be part of the group helping our children then please get in touch with Julia by emailing Friendsofmontalbo@gmail.com

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.

COVID-19 reminders

As the weather turns a little colder, it is important that your child arrives in a school jumper/cardigan or PE tracksuit top (on the relevant days). We are continuing to ensure that the school is well ventilated and the heating is on, but it can be a little cooler than usual. Furthermore, all children should have a coat. Thank you.

Teesdale Lions Christmas Tree Competition

Teesdale Lions have organised a Christmas Tree Trail to be judged on 15th December. They are hoping that families in the town will decorate a Christmas Tree and have it visible in their front gardens. They will be judged and the winning households will win a prize from Teesdale Lions. Anyone interested can contact President Sharon Walker - grahamwalker31@btinternet.com. - to give record their entry.

Winter Wheelers

Durham County Council (DCC) is supporting 'Winter Wheelers' - a little winter magic to help inspire you to get out in the fresh air in December. As you know, cycling can make you happier, healthier and wealthier and it makes our communities cleaner, greener and more liveable. With the right gear and guidance, riding in winter can be fun and rewarding, so DCC are inviting everyone to sign up for Winter Wheelers.

Winter Wheelers is a cycling advent calendar for grown-ups with daily giveaways of winter cycling gear from leading brands. It only takes 30 seconds to register at www.lovetoride.net/durham

You can win amazing prizes just for logging a ride, including:

all-weather gloves that promote positive communication between road users from Loffi

the best hi-viz cycling clothing on the market from Proviz Beryl bike lights to help people see and be seen early-bird £750 local bike shop voucher (register by Monday 30 November to go into the draw)

Christmas Day e-bike prize.

Christmas

The children and staff are enjoying some seasonal activities and it has been lovely to see the children preparing for the Christmas videos, which we will be able to share with parents/carers. I am not sure who is more excited, the children or the staff!

Please remember that next Friday is Christmas Jumper Day. We usually wear these for our service in church. On the last Friday of term, Friday 18th December, we will have Christmas parties for the children within their bubbles with the exception of Nursery who will have theirs on the morning of Thursday 17th December. Parents of children who do not usually attend Nursery on a Thursday can arrange to attend by contacting Mrs Patterson. We will provide refreshments. Children should come in 'suitable for school' party clothes e.g. no high heels.

Reverend Harding is holding a virtual Christingle service in school on Wednesday, as well as one online on Sunday for the wider community. Key stage 2 children will each make a Christingle as the service progresses whilst Reception and Key Stage 1 will make one for each class.

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. 30.11.20

Reception	99.3%	Class 3	97.1%
Class 1	99%	Class 4	94.4%
Class 2	99.4%	Class 5	95.9%
		Class 6	97.7%
School overall attendance is: 97.6%			

Dates for the Diary

December 11 th	Christmas Jumper Day
December 17 th	Nursery Christmas Party
December 18 th	Last Day of Term/Christmas Parties Rec-Y6
December 21 st -Jan 1 st	Christmas Holidays
January 4 th	Teacher Training Day

Mr C Minikin, Head Teacher