



July 2nd 2021

COVID-19

Please remember that if you or a household member has symptoms of COVID-19 and that you have booked a test, that children should not be coming to school until the test result comes back negative.

The recent rise in case numbers nationally and locally is naturally concerning to all of us and it is important to maintain the systems of controls that we have had to date. I am aware of class bubbles closing locally and it is crucial that we remain aware of the symptoms of COVID-19 and the procedures should anyone have symptoms.

Local Authority reminder

Have coronavirus symptoms and need a test?

'If anyone in your household has symptoms you need to book a PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) test as soon as possible. For more information and to book a PCR test visit www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or call NHS test and trace free on 119.

As coronavirus symptoms in children can vary it is advised that children who are unwell should not attend school until they are well again. Durham County Council offers support to people seeking further advice about coronavirus through the County Durham Together Community Hub, details of which can be found at www.durham.gov.uk/covid19help or by phoning 03000 260 260.'

School Lunches

Prices for school lunches have increased to £2.15 per lunch from September. It is also important to note that for children moving from Year 2 to Year 3, that they are no longer entitled to universal free school meals and as such will be charged. If your circumstances have changed and you think you may be entitled to free school meals, please contact the School Office.

Friends of Montalbo School

Ticket sales are going well for the Summer Raffle organised by FOMS. Thank you to the families who have bought tickets and return the stubs and money in a sealed envelope. The draw will be made on July 14th so please return tickets/money before then so that they can be included in the draw. If you would like more tickets, please contact school. I met with FOMS this week and they have decided against selling tickets at the Farmer's Market. However, if you would like any additional tickets please contact the School Office.

They also organise a school lottery where there are weekly prizes and larger monthly prizes. More information can be found [here](#)

Acts of Kindness

Ethan in Year 4 has been a good friend, making a card and creating a mug with a picture of his friend's dog on it. Well done Ethan for being so thoughtful!

Children with Cancer 5K

Well done to Stella in Year 4 for completing the Children with Cancer 5k run at South Park, Darlington in a personal best time. She did this in memory of a close friend – we are very proud of you.

Emblematic Website

We have been informed by Emblematic, one of the school uniform providers, that July 18th is last day for orders to be delivered at home.

Nursery uniform can be ordered [here](#).

School uniform can be ordered [here](#).

ParentPay

As we move towards the end of the school year, please can parents ensure that their ParentPay accounts are settled and there are no arrears. Thank you.

Year 6 trip to the Hub

Please could parents complete the consent forms on Weduc for the Y6's trip to the Hub on July 16th and make any payments via ParentPay. Please return the separate paper copy of consent that the Hub require. Thank you.

Y6 Leavers

This year it has been especially challenging to organise our Leavers' Assembly as we have not had a full class of Year 6s for some time! We presented most of the Year 6s with their Leavers' hoodies today and started to record a couple of sections of the Leavers' Assembly. I am sure with Miss Richardson's technical wizardry that it will turn out well!

School Grounds

I have been delighted with the improvements to the school grounds and would like to thank Castle Gardens Ltd for their work on this. It is already more aesthetically pleasing and will be much easier to maintain in the long run.

Climate Change

In the Autumn Term 2021, we (along with other schools) will represent our country at the ECO₂ Smart Schools Climate Conference. During the event the pupils will be challenged to think about the issue of climate change and explore each other's experiences of it. There will also be an opportunity to vote on the actions that are needed to tackle climate change. The ECO₂ Smart Schools Climate Conference serves to learn about how schools from around the world are experiencing and adapting to climate change.

As we are taking part in the ECO₂ Smart Schools Climate Conference we have been paired up with an overseas school in Northern France, a school from America and another Durham school. Children's voices are so important in environmental issues as after all, they will be dealing with the consequences of climate change.

Attendance for w.b.28.06.21

Reception	99.7%	Class 3	96.1%
Class 1	94.5%	Class 4	91.8%
Class 2	99%	Class 5	92.9%
		Class 6	96.6%

School overall attendance this week is: 95.8%

Dates for the diary

July 5 th and 12 th	Swimming for Year 5
July 15 th	Leavers Assembly (recorded on TEAMS channel)
July 16 th	Year 6 Activity day at the TCR Hub
July 16 th	Moving Up Day
July 20 th	Last day of term
September 1 st	Teacher Training Day
September 2 nd	Children return to school

Mr C Minikin, Head Teacher