



January 21<sup>st</sup> 2022

### **Roundhouse**

Some of the changes to the school building and grounds over recent years have been remarkable and have enhanced teaching and learning greatly. The construction of the roundhouse adds to our stimulating environment and I am really looking forward to seeing how the children and staff utilise it. Projects like this require a good deal of planning and preparation – I began thinking of this in the Spring of 2020. I thank everyone who has helped me with this. Friends of Montalbo School have raised a lot of money and we were fortunate to be able to access grants to add to the FOMS money to meet the costs, Mrs Abi Smith helped greatly once again with this. I thank Governors for supporting the idea and Mrs Hauxwell for ensuring paperwork and payments were completed in a timely manner.

The Roundhouse should be finished today and you are very welcome to use it from next week.

### **Sooper Books**

On the link [here](#) you can access some free stories from Sooper Books. They are audio books which are another way that may help your child enjoy books and stories. There are other free books available if you click on the link within the webpage too.

### **Pets and our Wellbeing**

Some of our key stage 2 children had a special assembly this week which was delivered by the pet charity Blue Cross. Continuing our work on wellbeing, the children were challenged to think about how caring well for a pet can help our own wellbeing, and the common needs we share with pets. The presenter commented afterwards about the wonderful listening and participation she had noticed and commented that the children were 'a credit to the school'.

### **'Take Notice' Daily Challenges**

As part of this half term's wellbeing theme 'take notice', next week a daily wellbeing challenge will be posted onto the Weduc newsfeed. These daily tips could be completed as a family as a quick and easy way to practice mindfulness and boost positivity.

### **Around school**

It is safe to say that life in school is always varied which is part of what makes working in one so enjoyable. As I mentioned last week, I have been teaching in classes much more recently and this week was no different. I enjoyed Dinosaur dancing and footprint making in Nursery on Monday and Tuesday, observed some very tricky division in Year 5 with Miss Copeland and have been teaching performance poetry techniques with Year 4 in the latter part of the week. Year 6 told me all about their History of Medicine topics and were particularly keen to share knowledge about unlicensed surgeons such as barbers who may chop off injured legs! Year 3 have been making some super outdoor artwork creations which I am looking forward to seeing more of. Thanks once again to all of the staff who have had to work flexibly to ensure school runs largely as normal.

On Tuesday next week Year 2 will be going on a short walk around the local area as part of their Geography mapwork.

## **Music**

Mrs Unwin informed me today of the new recorder group, 4 flautists and 4 existing musicians in Year 4. They join 3 clarinet players and 3 saxophonists in Year 5 and 2 expert flautists in Year 6 who are onto the 2<sup>nd</sup> Music book. We also have a number of children learning to play the piano – well done everyone.

## **Musical Instrument Amnesty**

Dr Greenwell was wondering if anyone had any musical instruments they no longer require! If - particularly but not exclusively brass or string instruments. If you do, we would welcome them at school. Thank you.

## **Poppy Appeal**

The Royal British Legion informed us this week that we raised £103.01 for the Poppy Appeal. Thank you for supporting this charity.

## **COVID updates**

From Monday 17 January, people who are self-isolating with COVID-19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do **not** have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to their education or childcare setting immediately on day 6.

The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be [reported to NHS Test and Trace](#).

If the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest. Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.

The temporary measures in place for Year 1 and Year 2 will no longer be in place from Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January. Care will be available until 5:15 in the ICT suite and Football club will be available to Year 1 pupils.

## **Car Park**

In the interests of health and safety, please can parents not bring cars onto site without prior consent, particularly around drop off and pick up times. I have noted some parents performing 3 point turns in the narrow road before the school gates whilst families are walking past – please think carefully about where you are parking and how you will leave. Thank you.

## **Are your details up to date?**

It is very important that we have the correct contact details for you, including two phone numbers that can receive calls in case we need to contact you. There is a 'Change of Details' document in the Forms section on Weduc.

Please can you check that you have returned all forms to school including the data collection forms that were sent out before Christmas. Thank you.

## **Free School Meals Applications**

Have you had a change in circumstances? If you would like to know if you qualify for free school meals please complete the application form available on both the school website and Weduc or contact the school office for the application forms.

## **Dates for the Diary**

February 7 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup>	Children's Mental Health Week
February 9 <sup>th</sup>	Safer Internet Day
February 21 <sup>st</sup> - 25 <sup>th</sup>	Spring half term
February 28 <sup>th</sup>	Children return to school

Mr. C Minikin Head Teacher