



September 8th 2023

Welcome Back

I hope that you enjoyed a restful break despite the washout that was July and much of August! The warm weather on our return to school has enabled our children to enjoy playing on the field, which I know they really enjoy. The children have settled back in to school life seamlessly and we are delighted with how well new Nursery, Reception and other new starters around school have started. We hope our new families soon feel part of Team Monty!

I have talked to many of our children about their holidays and it has been lovely to hear about what they have enjoyed. Thank you to those children who sent me postcards whilst on their travels.

Over the holidays, we have had some doors widened from the older part of the school to ensure we are as accessible as possible. The teaching staff have been busy making changes to their classrooms and school looks great.

I always try to visit each classroom each day as well as the playground and have been very impressed with our children's attitude and application as always. Well done everyone!

Staff

It has been pleasing to welcome some new staff to our expanding team. Mrs Lomas joins us as our Year 2 teacher; Mrs Thomas has returned to Nursery; Miss Lee is supporting in Reception and Miss Crampton will be working in both Year 1 and 2. Mrs Whelan, who has worked as supply for us over the past few years, will work in Nursery and Reception each week when Mrs Patterson and Miss Lauder have their planning time. Next week we hope that Miss Banks will join us as a Teaching Assistant Apprentice in Year 2. We also will look forward to working with Durham University to support some trainee teachers over the coming year.

Parent Governor Vacancy

We have a vacancy for a Parent Governor. Governors play an important part in the life of the school. They are responsible for overseeing the strategy, policy, budgeting and staffing. They enable their school to run as effectively as possible, working alongside me and supporting teachers to provide an excellent education for our children. We have a skilled and experienced governing body who would support a new Governor very well. The term of a School Governor lasts 4 years. If you would like to know more about the role please email our Chair of Governors, Mrs Sarah O'Doherty at s.odoherty400@montalbo.durham.sch.uk. Please let Sarah or I know as soon as possible if you are interested. Thank you.

Secondary school admission process

The application process for the Secondary School Admissions 2024 Intake is open. Parents/carers can make their application for Secondary School online by visiting www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions. The closing date for Secondary School Applications is the 31st October 2023.

If parents do not wish to apply online they can complete a paper application form, and these are available on request from the School Admissions Team.

These application forms can be requested by e-mail to schooladmissions@durham.gov.uk or by telephone from the School Admissions and Transport Team on 03000 265896.

Open Afternoon for Parents/Carers of children due to start Reception in September 2024

Parents/carers of children who are due to start Reception in September 2024 are invited to attend our Open Afternoon on September 27th. Tours will run from 1.30pm, 2.30pm or 4.30pm. If you would like to attend, please contact the School Office. If the day/times are inconvenient please let us know and we can arrange an alternative. Applications will close on January 15th 2024 and offers of school places will be made by the Local Authority on April 17th 2024.

After School Activity Clubs

It will be good to see the activity clubs up and running next week and we like to try and offer different types where we can, with this half term Zumba being offered for the first time.

It takes a little while for the computer systems to sync when children join school but you should be able to book children into Activity Clubs via Weduc now. If there are problems with this, please contact the School Office. Activity clubs for Reception will begin after Christmas.

Data Forms

Thank you to families who have returned data forms – it is best practice to have these done each year. Once these are returned from our families new to school, Weduc and ParentPay accounts can be generated and you can keep up to date with what is going on in school.

Friends of Montalbo School (FOMS)

FOMS are meeting in school on Monday 11th September at 5.15pm. If you would like to meet other families and help our school please come along!

FOMS Bingo Night

FOMS are currently arranging a Bingo Night for 12th October at 7pm at Glaxo Sports and Social Club. Further details will follow with monies raised going to FOMS to provide extras for our children and Teesdale Cancer Research Group.

PE Days

Please see below for details of next term's PE sessions. Children can come to school in their Montalbo PE kits (plus tracksuit/jumper) on these days, apart from Reception whose kits are in school to help them practise getting changed.

Monday - Reception

Tuesday - Year 6

Wednesday – Year 2

Thursday – Year 3 and 4.

Swimming for Year 5 is also on Thursday.

Friday Year 1 and Year 3 (Year 3 have an additional sports coach for the first half term)

Outdoor Learning Days

Children in Years 1 -6 will need to bring wellies/boots or suitable change of footwear for Outdoor Learning sessions on the following days. Children in Nursery and Reception have what they need in school and are outdoors every day!

Monday – Year 3

Tuesday – Year 5 and Year 1

Thursday – Year 4

Friday – Year 2 and Year 6

Parental Mental Health

Mental health problems are common with 1 in 4 people experiencing poor mental health during their lifetime. If you know anyone that might need a little extra support there is lots of advice and support available. Please see below:

- Adult Mental Health information is available at <https://www.durham.gov.uk/adultmentalhealthsupport>
- Support is available by contacting your local GP surgery.
- The Mental Health Alliance is a range of support services able to support a wide range of mental health concerns.

The service is open for self-referral or referrals made by organisations. Please click [Referral – Durham Mental Wellbeing Alliance](#) for more information or contact Tel. 0300 3044 5527

- Family Hubs can support families with all areas of family life from pregnancy right up until your child turns 19, or 25 if they have special educational needs and disabilities. Information can be found on the [Help for families - your virtual Family Hub](#) pages.

Attendance

Below is a summary of attendance for this week.

Class	Attendance (%)
Reception	100
Year 1	100
Year 2	99.4
Year 3	100
Year 4	97.8
Year 5	100
Year 6	98.6
Whole School %	99.4%

Dates for the Diary

September 11 th	FOMS meeting in school 5.15pm
September 22 nd	Selected 5/6 children Netball (Bishop Barrington)
September 26 th	Year 1 to the Bowes Museum
September 27 th	Open Afternoon for Reception children of Sept 2024
September 29 th	Flu Vaccination team in school
October 4 th	Race for Life – details to follow
October 9 th	Teacher Training Day
October 10 th	Year 1 to St Mary's Church
October 18 th	18 Year 3 children Tag Rugby Festival (Staindrop)
October 19 th	All Year 6 to Multiskills (Staindrop)
October 23 rd and 24 th	Parents' Evenings
October 25 th	Nursery/Reception Halloween Disco
October 26 th	Year 1/2 and Year 3/4 Halloween Disco
October 27 th	Y5/6 Halloween Disco
October 30 th – November 3 rd	Half term
November 8 th	All Reception to Multiskills (Staindrop)
November 10 th	Selected Key Stage 2 Children Cross Country
November 15 th	15 Year 1 to Multiskills (venue tbc)
November 16 th	All Year 4 to Multiskills

Mr. C Minikin
Head Teacher

Please see the QR code for the School Lottery. The more players we have, the more we raise for the school and the bigger the prize fund.

