



**November 10th 2023**

### **Welcome Back**

I hope that our children and families enjoyed the half term break and that you were able to get out and about despite the inclement weather. I have caught up with lots of children this week and the children have returned refreshed and ready to learn.

We are delighted to welcome Miss Rudge to our Nursery team. To avoid confusing the children with our other Miss Rudge, she will be known as Miss Nicole! I hope that she soon feels part of TeamMonty!

### **Remembrance**

On Sunday I hope that some of you are able to join us for the Remembrance Parade in town. Emily C and I will be in church to say a couple of verses in the Remembrance Service at St Mary's along with Evie and Lucy (all Y6) who will lay the school wreath at the war memorial in the Bowes Museum grounds. If you would like to join the parade, please meet us outside St Mary's Church at 11.35am.

### **Children in Need**

Next Friday is Children in Need Day and children can come in non-uniform. We thought a bright and cheerful theme might be nice and any donations will go to this worthwhile charity.

### **Nursery Christmas Singalong**

Mrs Patterson has asked to rearrange the Nursery Christmas Singalong due to unforeseen circumstances so this will now take place on December 11th at 2pm instead.

### **Christmas Fayre**

Plans are accelerating for our annual Christmas Fayre which is on Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup> between 5-7pm. Stallholders should arrive between 4-5pm. There will be a huge range of stalls and activities to visit. Stalls include cakes, confectionary, jewellery, health and beauty products, knitted goods, artwork, resin casting, sewn goods, personalised water bottles and much more. There are refreshments on offer such as Tom's very popular wood-fired pizzas, Piggy Blinders, mince pies, mulled wine and more. The children in Key Stage 2 have also made some crafts to sell. We are hoping that a special visitor may join us too. FOMS are running some stalls alongside the huge Christmas raffle. Please let family and friends know too. It is a lovely occasion and it helps disorganised Christmas present buyers like me at least make a start!

### **Friends of Montalbo School Tea Towels/Tote Bags**

FOMS shared some information about the tea towel/tote bag Christmas gift idea. You should have received information in the children's bags regarding ordering. If you are interested in buying any of the products, please return the order form and either cheque/cash for the required amount by Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November. Thank you.

### **Eco Committee**

Thank you to everyone who applied for Eco Committee. There were so many applicants and this is really positive for our future, with children being passionate about environmental issues. However, for the committee to operate effectively we can only have so many children. I hope others will have the chance to join in the future. There will be a chance for class members to contribute ideas to the committee so everyone can still be involved. Outdoor and Sustainability Education Specialists

(OASES) will be in school next week working with all classes from Year 3-6, which is again, a chance to find out more about environmental issues and make suggestions we can take forward.

### Cross Country

Today Mrs McIntyre and Mrs Spence accompanied a group of selected Key Stage 2 cross country runners to a competition involving more than over 170 children in each race. The conditions were very testing after the prolonged wet spell we have had but the children did brilliantly. A special mention to Wallace (42<sup>nd</sup>) in Y3/4 boys, Ida (22<sup>nd</sup>) and Olivia (25<sup>th</sup>) in Y5/6 girls and William (29<sup>th</sup>) in Y 5/6 boys.

### Clubs

It has been nice to see how popular and enjoyable some of the new after school clubs have been for this half term. I have managed to pop along to Clay Club and Lego Club so far and the children were having a great time as well as learning new skills.

### Reception School Places

The window for applying for school places for Reception places in September 2024 is now open. To apply, please visit [here](#). Once on the site, you can apply online through the Parent Portal or if you prefer a paper application please contact Durham School Admissions on 03000265896.

### Attendance

Below is a summary of attendance for this week.

Class	Attendance (%)
Reception	97.6%
Year 1	95.8%
Year 2	96.4%
Year 3	96.4%
Year 4	96%
Year 5	98.5%
Year 6	93.9%
Whole School %	96.4%

### Dates for the Diary

November 15 <sup>th</sup>	15 Year 1 to Multiskills (venue tbc)
November 16 <sup>th</sup>	All Year 4 to Multiskills
December 5 <sup>th</sup>	Reception Nativity (1.45pm)
December 6 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas Play (1.45pm and 6pm)
<b>December 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Nursery Christmas Singalong(2pm)</b>
<b>December 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Christmas Dinner</b>
December 15 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Carol Service in St Marys (Y3, 4, 5 and 6)
December 15 <sup>th</sup>	Our Christmas Jumper Day
December 18 <sup>th</sup>	Nursery/Reception Party (am) Year 1/2 Party (pm)
December 19 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3/4 Party (am) and Year 5/6 Party (pm)
December 20 <sup>th</sup> – January 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Christmas Holidays
January 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Teacher Training Day
January 4 <sup>th</sup>	Children return to school

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.

