



November 17th 2023

Individual and Sibling Photographs

Proofs of individual and sibling photographs were sent home with the children yesterday. Ordering information is included on the proofs if you would like a photograph.

Children in Need

The children and staff looked great in their bright and cheerful clothing as we marked Children in Need. Yesterday, Mrs Newton talked in assembly about the good causes this charity supports and I will let you know next week how much you raised to support Children in Need.

Outdoor and Sustainability Education Specialists (OASES)

Today the classes in Key Stage 2 were visited by Josh Radner from OASES. We have worked closely with Josh over the years and he is impressed by our work on sustainability, our school grounds and curriculum. Today's focus was on solar power and he brought some smaller solar cells for children to work with and understand the benefits that using renewable energy can bring.

Year 6 Visit

Year 6 had a rather wet visit to Flatts Woods as part of their Geography curriculum, identifying trees and woodland species. I hope their field sketches have dried out!

Christmas Fayre

Plans are accelerating for our annual Christmas Fayre which is on Thursday, November 30th 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. Thank you to families who have dropped off prizes for the 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!

Year 5 Christmas Lantern Parade

Our Year 5 children worked with TCR Hub to create some lanterns in preparation for a Light Up Barnard Castle event on Friday 1st December. The Year 5 children have been invited to form part of the parade from The Witham to the Castle starting at 5pm. We have been asked to provide numbers who will attend to help the organisers and Miss Richardson has sent a slip home to return to confirm your child's attendance. Parents are invited to watch the parade and meet the children afterwards. We may need a couple of helpers on the night to walk with us so if you are able to help please let Miss Richardson know.

Art Exhibition

Year 4 have contributed to some work in St Mary's Church about people who inspire them. It is linked to the Windows for the King and raising money for a new stained glass window linked to Richard III. All of the community are invited to see local artwork. There will be an art for sale, a raffle, a tombola and refreshments. A demonstration of stain glass painting will take place 2pm on Saturday. The exhibition opening times are listed below:

- Friday 17th Nov: preview 6.30pm – 8.00pm

- Saturday 18th Nov: 10.00am-4.00pm
- Sunday 19th Nov: 1.00pm-4.00pm

Lego Wedo

This week Year 4 children had a great experience with Alan Brennon who teaches Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) activities to children. Mr Brennon is running the after school club and we are hoping this will continue after Christmas, when other children will get the chance to attend.

Parking around school

PCSO Singh patrolled some of the access roads around school this week and informed me that he will be issuing some warning notices for parking issues. Please park carefully and considerately to help pedestrians and road users keep safe on the access roads around school.

Friends of Montalbo School Tea Towels/Tote Bags

Orders have now closed for FOMS tea towels and tote bags. We will let you know when they arrive in school.

Christmas Lunch

Information was shared with parents of children who have packed lunch this week, to see if they would like to have a Christmas Lunch on December 14th. Please return the reply slip if you would like your child to have this.

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	82.6%
Year 1	94.8%
Year 2	93.3%
Year 3	99.3%
Year 4	97.7%
Year 5	99.2%
Year 6	96.7%
Whole School %	94.8%

Dates for the Diary

December 5 th	Reception Nativity (1.45pm)
December 6 th	Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas Play (1.45pm and 6pm)
December 11 th	Nursery Christmas Singalong(2pm)
December 14 th	Christmas Dinner
December 15 th	Christmas Carol Service in St Marys (Y3, 4, 5 and 6)
December 15 th	Our Christmas Jumper Day
December 18 th	Nursery/Reception Party (am) Year 1/2 Party (pm)
December 19 th	Year 3/4 Party (am) and Year 5/6 Party (pm)
December 20 th – January 2 nd	Christmas Holidays
January 3 rd	Teacher Training Day
January 4 th	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.

