



**March 1<sup>st</sup> 2024**

### **Welcome back**

I hope that you had a great half term and you managed to have some time outside in the local area or further afield. This second half term is a short one with lots crammed in to look forward to.

### **World Book Day**

One of our priorities each year is to improve children's reading as we believe it is one of the most crucial skills we teach. World Book Day reminds the wider community of the importance of reading and we would like to invite parents/carers into school on the afternoon of March 7<sup>th</sup> between 3.15-6pm to look at a gallery showcasing their work from this day. It will have an Antarctica theme and please remember if your child made anything over half term to display to send it in on March 6<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

### **Mother's Day**

Next Friday we will be celebrating Mother's Day and invite Mums, grandmas or any relative to attend school for refreshments and some activities with their child. Last year was incredibly busy and we have grown further since then, so have decided to split the event with Early Years and Key Stage 1 relatives coming between 9.30-11am and Key Stage 2 between 1.30-3pm. If you have a child in more than one key stage, please choose one and all of your children can join you.

### **Shakespeare Rocks**

We are looking forward to welcoming families of children in Years 3 and 4 to school for their performances of *Shakespeare Rocks*, which will take place on March 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Dr Blezard and Mrs Smith sent out information to parents/carers this week with ticketing information. Please could all children in these classes arrive at 5.30pm on both nights. Thank you.

### **Year 6 SATs Information Evening**

Thank you to Mrs Channell for sharing information with Year 6 parents/carers about the end of Key Stage 2 statutory assessments which run from May 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> inclusive.

This week we received a letter from Damian Hinds, Minister for Schools, about our KS2 SATs results last year which can be found [here](#). Well done Team Monty!

### **Year 5 Swimming**

We were very disappointed with the alternative swimming offered after our first visit to Wolsingham on Wednesday. Initially, we were offered Woodhouse Close small pool which I said was completely unsuitable. The Wolsingham alternative that we attended this week was poor in terms of pool time with other sessions before, overrunning. We pay a great deal of money for school swimming sessions plus these additional transport costs and I have expressed my disappointment to the aquatics team. It may be that we teach some extra sessions next year with this year group if this is the only option. I will update you once I have received a reply.

### **Friends of Montalbo School (FOMS)**

This week Miss Richardson and I met with FOMS to discuss fundraising ideas, fun events for families and items to spend the money raised by FOMS to enhance school life for children. We recognised that some newer families might not know too much about FOMS and so we will put a FOMS information board up in the school foyer in the near future. FOMS have a Facebook site which you may like to follow 'Friends of Montalbo Nursery and Primary School' which will detail some of the

ways they have supported school and upcoming events. If you would like to be involved in FOMS, please let Mrs Richardson or I know or contact members via their Facebook page. Mrs Teasdale shared some information via Weduc today regarding the School Lottery which FOMS run and this supports the school as well as giving you a chance to win money/prizes on weekly and monthly basis.

### Chartwells Bee Poster Winners

On the last day before the half term holidays, Mrs Slater, school cook, chose the winners for Chartwells Bee Poster competition. Congratulations to Mila (Y2) and Clara (Y1) who won some seeds to plant and overall winner Olivia (Rec) who won a bee back pack! Well done to everyone who entered, they were very creative.

### Attendance

Please find below this week's attendance.

Class	Attendance (%)
Reception	94.9
Year 1	98.9
Year 2	96.7
Year 3	95.3
Year 4	97.0
Year 5	97.7
Year 6	94.5
Whole School %	96.5

### Dates for the Diary

March 7 <sup>th</sup>	World Book Day Gallery (school hall 3.15-6pm)
March 8 <sup>th</sup>	Mother's Day event (EYFS and KS1 9.30-11am; KS2 1.30-3pm)
March 13 <sup>th</sup> and 14 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3 and 4 School Play 6pm start
March 15 <sup>th</sup>	Comic Relief
March 20 <sup>th</sup>	Year 5 Multiskills at Staindrop
March 21 <sup>st</sup>	2 teams from Y2 Football at Newton Aycliffe
March 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Selected Y5/6 Girls Football
March 27 <sup>th</sup>	Y3/4 Orienteering
April 1 <sup>st</sup> – April 12 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Holidays
May 6 <sup>th</sup>	May Day Bank Holiday
May 13 <sup>th</sup> – May 16 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 SATs
May 17 <sup>th</sup>	Teacher Training Day
May 20 <sup>th</sup>	Teacher Training Day
May 21 <sup>st</sup>	School reopens – Nursery, Reception, Y1 and 2 in new classrooms
May 27 <sup>th</sup> – May 31 <sup>st</sup>	Whit Half Term Holidays
June 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Children return to school
June 10 <sup>th</sup>	Phonics Screening Check fortnight begins for Y1
July	

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.

