



July 18th 2025

A Great Year

As we come to the end of the academic year, it is always good to look back on successes and areas to improve and to plan for the following year. It has been another great year for Montalbo and the whole team deserves enormous credit for maintaining high standards in all we do.

One of the most striking things about this year that I have noticed is the growing confidence of our children. The many oracy tasks and performances have certainly helped and it has been lovely to see children from Reception up to Year 6 speak so well with the microphones to large audiences in assemblies and school performances. It has been so nice to see some children, who would have found this tricky, in the past really shine. They are confident and very polite to the many visitors we have.

We have also had some amazing enriching activities, from visits and visitors, sports to music and opportunities across the curriculum. The growing number of musicians who performed in the recent end of year concert is testament to that. From the science visits to the Life Centre at the start of the year for our Year 5/6 children, to the recent visits to the lighthouse with a DT focus in Year 4, to Year 2s history visit to Locomotion, there is always something a little bit different going on.

The project which we have begun on Ghana promises to bring much learning to the school. We look forward to learning more from Mrs Smith throughout next year and will adjust one of our Geography units in Year 6 to study Ghana.

I really enjoyed the action groups on sustainability which we trialled for a period this year in Key Stage 2. It made me reflect on the importance of cross age opportunities, developing young leaders and how important it is for children to feel they are making a difference. I am keen for this type of work to develop further next year.

I mentioned last week our incredible results at each stage of children's education. It is so important that we help children make excellent progress from their own starting points, feel confident and become successful learners, ready for their next stages of education. The pride and content of the children's books make them a pleasure to read and their knowledge and skills, when our children leave Year 6, are very impressive. For this to happen, whilst having so much fun, is magical.

We are really grateful for all of your support over the year. You attend assemblies, performances, parents/carers evenings, Stay and Plays, MacMillan, Mothers' and Fathers' Day events, the Christmas Fayre and Carol Service, The Meet Parade and much more and hope that you feel very much part of Team Monty! We were grateful for your kind words on the report feedback forms, cards and for all you do for your children.

Good luck Mrs Newton

We wish Mrs Newton well as she begins her secondment to Bowes Hutchinson CE School in September. Mrs Newton and I have worked together for ten years and she has been an important part of our leadership team over the last few years. The school has been on an incredible journey over this time. I know she will take that learning with her and will be a huge success.

Good Luck Miss Richardson

After the summer break, I hope to bring you news of a new arrival! We wish Miss Richardson and her fiancé well and cannot wait to meet their new baby.

Good Luck Year 6s

Today in our Leavers' Assembly we reflected on our Year 6's time at Montalbo. This year group was the final year where our intake was 15 so as well as the children who joined after being in our Nursery, many children joined the class in the following years. We looked back at some of the highlights of their time at school and the great memories they have made, gave them hoodies, trophies and thesauruses from the Rotary Club. FOMS gave each child an autograph book for which we are grateful. We will miss our year 6s but know that they are ready for their next steps in education at four different schools: Barnard Castle School, Staindrop Academy, Teesdale School and The Oaks. Good luck Year 6!

Exciting Times

Last week I met with our Senior Leadership Team to make plans for the next academic year. Mrs Channell, Mrs Patterson, Miss Lauder and Mrs Smith discussed many aspects of school life. Our data remains strong so we often look at enrichments or other areas to improve. One of our areas to focus will be on fitness: both mental and physical health, and I look forward to sharing more on this next year. We will also continue to look at current research to strengthen our practices in all areas.

Sponsored Water Walk

Thank you to everyone who sponsored their child for the Sponsored Water Walk. The children gained a good insight into how hard it must be for children in Ghana to collect water from streams or wells, often a long way from home and sometimes making several journeys a day.

Summer Holidays

I hope that all of our families enjoy the summer holidays and that children remain as active as possible! As well as enjoying the fresh air and activities, please encourage your child to keep reading or read to them, as it makes a huge difference – please access the following link [here](#) for a nice reading activity. We look forward to seeing the children on **Wednesday, September 3rd**.

Attendance

I have been pleased with our strong attendance data this year which has helped our children reach their full potential. We can have the best teaching possible but if a child does not attend regularly their chances lessen considerably. A report released this month entitled [Key Stage 2 Attainment and Life time Earnings](#) showed the difference financially over a lifetime a positive start to education can bring. The knowledge, skills, learning behaviours and habits gained in primary schools make a huge difference to children's futures and is often underestimated. A handful of children have cumulative years of attendance of less than 90%, a day absent each fortnight. I really hope that this improves so all children can reach their full potential.

This week's attendance figures are below. **Well done Year 4!**

Class	Attendance this week (%)
Reception	95.7
Year 1	93.7
Year 2	99.3
Year 3	92.7
Year 4	96.3
Year 5	93.2
Year 6	97.3
Whole School	95.5
Annual Whole School Attendance	95.8

Dates for the Diary

July 21st – September 1st
September 2nd
September 3rd

Summer Holiday
Teacher training Day
Children start/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.

