



September 19th 2025

### **Wraparound Care**

Our wraparound care is proving extremely popular since returning from the summer break. We need to ensure we have the correct ratios of staff and the space required to meet the need. It is important that we have this information before the care begins. We have some families not booking in which gives us more children than we are expecting. This also creates a situation where parents/carers accrue debts which is not a good system.

From Monday, all parents/carers must book ahead via parent pay. Places can still be booked on the day should something crop up but again, rather than phoning for us to book, it is just as quick to book it on the app. If you are having any trouble with the booking process, please contact the school office on Monday.

The only exception to the above is for parents/carers who pay via the Tax Free Childcare system. If you use this system for wraparound, you need to complete the booking form which is emailed to parents/carers who have told us they use this system. The Montalbo Extra Care Booking Form for this term can be found [here](#).

Thank you for your cooperation.

### **Open Afternoon**

Parents/carers of children who are due to start Reception in September 2026 are invited to attend our Open Afternoon on Tuesday September 23<sup>rd</sup>, with tours each hour from 1.30pm to 5.30pm inclusive. Please contact the School Office if you would like to attend one of the tours.

### **Times Tables Rockstars**

Miss Gilmore has given out login details and information for Year 3 parents/carers for Times Tables Rockstars which children use in Key Stage 2. The children in the other classes should have their details from last year. Improving children's instant recall of key facts throughout school is part of our School Improvement Plan and later in the term I will set some competitions up between the classes on Times Tables Rockstars. Login details are also in the children's reading records.

### **Ghana Assembly**

Asha, from the Ankoma Outreach programme, delivered a really engaging assembly to our Key Stage 2 children on Tuesday. She explained some of the differences of the lives of children in this part of Ghana compared to their own lives in Teesdale. Our children asked some really thoughtful questions and definitely began to understand more about the place, people and lives of Ankoma. Thank you to Asha for her time and to Mrs Smith for arranging this.

### **Curriculum – Learning Zone**

Each term our teachers update their class page on the school website, on the Learning Zone page. The link can be found [here](#). Once there, find your child's class on the right hand-side and click the Autumn 2025 link to find out information about the learning in their class.

### **Online Safety**

Online safety is an important part of our computing and PSHE curriculum. Many children have devices and it is important we work with parents/carers to support our children's use of devices, ensuring that they are safe and understand the risks as well as the fun that these can bring. Every

couple of weeks I will share some advice for parents/carers – the first can be found [here](#) about Youtube.

### **Roar Competition**

We are delighted to be once again working with Bob and Paul from the Teesdale Lions organisation on the Roar project. This is a national competition and it is great experience for our Year 6 children. Each week they learn more about entrepreneurs and business, with the ultimate task of working in groups to generate a business idea, make a prototype, advertisement and pitch to a panel. The winning group will go through to a regional event.

### **Rotary Young Musician Competition**

Please see information [here](#) about the Young Musician Competition the Rotary are organising.

### **Y6 Visit**

As part of the Year 6 World War II History topic, Mrs Channell has arranged for the children to visit an exhibition at the Discovery Museum in Newcastle on Friday October 17<sup>th</sup>. Please see ParentPay for details on costings and Mrs Channell's letter for further information. Thank you.

### **Sporting Festivals and Competitions**

Please see the Dates for the Diary section for forthcoming sporting festivals and competitions for this half term. Festivals are for whole classes whereas competitions we can only take so many pupils due to stipulations made by the organisers.

### **FOMS**

FOMS met with Mrs Patterson last night to discuss some of our events leading up to Christmas. Our huge Christmas Fayre will take place on November 27<sup>th</sup>. Please let the School Office know if you would like a stall! Further information will follow.

### **Follow Up Flu Immunisations**

Each year the flu immunisation team run a number of catch-up clinics for children who missed it in school. As soon as we are notified, I will let you know where and when the catch-up clinics are.

### **Reception Places for September 2026**

The window for applications for Reception school places for children due to start school in September 2026 will close on January 15<sup>th</sup> 2026. School Admissions at the Local Authority organise this. Please see further information [here](#).

### **Attendance**

This week's attendance figures are below. Well done Reception!

<b>Class</b>	<b>Attendance this week (%)</b>
Reception	98.3
Year 1	98
Year 2	97.4
Year 3	96.9
Year 4	96.3
Year 5	94.7
Year 6	94.7
Whole School	96.6%

## Dates for the Diary

September 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Open Afternoon from 1.30pm
September 26 <sup>th</sup>	Cross Country Competition (6 children each year from Y3-6) a.m. at Staindrop
September 26 <sup>th</sup>	Basketball Competition (10 children from Y5) at Teesdale Sports Centre
September 29 <sup>th</sup>	Handball (Y6 full class) at Green Lane
October 9 <sup>th</sup>	Individual and Siblings Photographs
October 15 <sup>th</sup>	Turn Barney Pink Day and Run
October 17 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 visit to the Discovery Museum
October 20 <sup>th</sup>	Multi Skills (Y5 full class) at Staindrop
October 21 <sup>st</sup>	Kurling and Boccia (Y2 full class) at Bishop Auckland College
October 21 <sup>st</sup> - 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Parents' Evenings
October 22 <sup>nd</sup> - 24 <sup>th</sup>	Halloween Discos
October 24 <sup>th</sup>	Tag Rugby (12 Y3 children)
October 27 <sup>th</sup> - 31 <sup>st</sup>	Half term holidays
November 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Children return to school
November 21 <sup>st</sup>	Dance Off
November 27 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Fayre
December 5 <sup>th</sup>	Reception Nativity (pm)
December 10 <sup>th</sup>	Nursery Christmas Singalong (pm)
December 12 <sup>th</sup>	Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 Christmas Carol Concert and Christmas Jumper Day
<b>December 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Reception-Y6 to the pantomime at The Witham</b>
December 16 <sup>th</sup>	Years 1 and 2 Christmas Pay (pm and evening)
December 17 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Parties
December 22 <sup>nd</sup> -Jan 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Christmas Holidays
January 5 <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.

