



September 26th 2025

Naming clothing

Please can parents/carers ensure their child's clothing is named. During playtime and other parts of the school day, we get coats and jumpers left on benches, the field and around school and they are very hard to return to the right children if they are unnamed. Thank you.

Harvest Festival

We have been asked this year to support the Storehouse Harvest Festival Appeal which supports local families with food donations. They would be grateful for any donations of the following:

- Tinned meat or fish
- Tinned vegetables and fruit
- Tinned meals (eg. chilli, stew)
- Tinned Soup
- Tinned beans
- Tinned pasta
- Packet pasta and sauce
- Packet noodles
- Jars of pasta sauce
- Jars of sandwich fillings
- Jars of jam or spreads
- Rice pudding
- Cereal
- Porridge
- UHT milk
- Rice
- Squash
- Biscuits
- Custard

If you would like to donate, please send in donations by October 10th. Thank you.

Parking around school

We recognise the volume of traffic at drop off and pick up street on the neighbouring streets which is why we have the soft start from 8.30-8.45am and continue to promote walking, biking or scootering to school. If you do need to drive, please park considerately (not blocking paths, not parking on the corners or junctions, not blocking driveways etc) which will help keep all of our school community and residents safe. Our PCSO will be visiting the surrounding streets in the coming days and weeks.

Children playing online at home

It is important that parents/carers keep a close eye on your child's chats on games/messaging regularly. We do spend a lot of our computing curriculum time educating children on this but out of school we obviously rely on parents/carers checking this sort of thing. Thank you.

Wraparound Care

Thank to everyone who has changed their booking habits as a result of the message last week! It will make things much better in the long run and is already improving our School Office processes. A reminder of the system is below.

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

It was nice to show some of our existing Nursery parents/carers around school and meet some new families too. It is an important time for parents/carers to make the right decision for their child and I always like to keep school running as normal as possible to help get a picture of what it is like in our school. If you could not make the Open Afternoon and would like to visit please let the School Office know.

Sporting Competitions

Today 6 children from each year in Key Stage 2 entered a Cross Country Competition at Staindrop Academy. All of the 24 runners did a great job, running on courses over 1000m long. Congratulations to Tommy in Y5 who won the Y5/6 Boys' Race and to Roman in Y4 who was 2nd in the Y3/4 race. The boys are invited to compete in the County Finals in October. A special mention to Joseph (Y4) in 19th in the Y3/4 Race, Ruby 10th, Astrid 22nd and Caoimhe 23rd in the Y5/6 Girls' Race and Lenon (Y6) 16th in Y5/6 Boys. In each race there were more than 120 children.

This afternoon 10 children from Year 5 attended a Basketball Competition and I will let you know how they got on next week.

On Monday all of Year 6 will take part in a Handball Festival which is a new sport for us this year!

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 17th. Please see ParentPay for details on costings and Mrs Channell's letter for further information. Thank you.

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 15th 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!

Class	Attendance this week (%)
Reception	99.7
Year 1	96.7
Year 2	98.9
Year 3	97.6
Year 4	99
Year 5	94.7
Year 6	96.3
Whole School	97.5

Dates for the Diary

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

