



September 5th 2025

Welcome Back

I hope that all of our families have had a great summer. It has been lovely to welcome the children back to school and start to get to know our new starters. There is always a great buzz in school and it has been wonderful to see our children and start to learn of their holiday exploits. The children all look very smart: new uniform, haircuts and more!

There is much to look forward to in the Autumn term and we have added some dates to the Dates for the diary section at the end of the newsletter. The dates for sporting festivals and competitive events are just arranged by the organisers and I will add these dates in later newsletters.

Welcome Miss Burns, Miss Gilmore and Miss MacLeod

It has been lovely to welcome Miss Burns (Y1 teacher), Miss Gilmore (Y3 teacher) and Miss MacLeod (TA Apprentice in Y2) to school. Miss Burns and Miss Gilmore spent a great deal of time getting to children, staff and systems before and during the summer break. New staff bring new ideas to the team and I hope that they already feel very much part of Team Monty!

Congratulations to Miss Richardson

I am pleased to announce that Miss Richardson has a wonderful new arrival to her family: baby Rae! Both Miss Richardson and Rae are doing well and we look forward to a visit from them soon.

Congratulations to Mrs Channell and Mrs Patterson

You may remember from last year that over the last 18 months, Mrs Channell and Mrs Patterson were studying professional qualifications alongside their work, which was a difficult task! I am delighted to inform you that Mrs Channell passed her National Professional Qualification in Senior Leadership and Mrs Patterson passed her National Professional Qualification in Early Years Leadership. These qualifications have brought new skills and learning to our team – well done to you both!

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](#).

If you would like to visit our school, we will be having an Open Afternoon on September 23rd with tours each hour from 1.30pm to 5.30pm inclusive. Please let the school office know if you are intending to visit. If this date is not convenient, please contact the school office to arrange a visit.

myHappyMind

'myHappyMind' is a new scheme which we will be using to help deliver our Personal Health Social Education (PHSE) and parts of our Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) curriculum. The programme is backed by excellent research and supported by the NHS. Mrs Leonard delivered training to staff on our Professional Development Day and much of the programme is about supporting children's Mental Health and Wellbeing. The first unit will begin on Monday and is entitled 'Meet the Brain.'

As we become familiar with the scheme, there will be resources available for parents/carers to support their children and themselves which I will share in due course.

Garden produce

The Railway Heritage Garden produced an abundance of fruit this year. Our new Reception class enjoyed picking apples, pears and plums and eating them in their snack time. This academic year I hope to get the garden back to its best and Mrs Smith will work with our School Council to get their ideas to improve it further.

Flu immunisation

Nasal and Intramuscular Flu Vaccination for Reception - Year 6 Wednesday 17th September 2025

The vaccine helps protect your child from flu. Flu can make people feel very unwell and can be serious. The vaccine also helps stop flu spreading to family and friends.

Most children will get the nasal spray. Some children may need the injection instead. This might be because of health, religion, or diet.

Please choose which one you want your child to have on the consent form.

Fill in the consent form using the link below by 10/09/2025:

<https://nhslmms.azurewebsites.net/session/3c26ee93>

If you do not want your child to have the flu vaccine, please let us know using the same link.

If you have any problems using the link, please telephone 0333 358 3397.

For more information about the flu vaccine please follow the link below:

[Children's flu vaccine - NHS](#)

PE Timetables

Please could children come to school in their P.E kits on the following days, apart from Nursery and Reception.

Reception get changed in school to help with their independence

Monday: Reception and Year 4

Tuesday: Nursery and Year 6

Wednesday: Year 1 and Year 3

Thursday: Year 5 – Swimming; Year 2 and Year 4PE

Friday: Year 1 Year 3 Coach

Swimming lessons will begin on Thursday 11th September for our Year 5 children. The children walk back and forth from Teesdale Sports Centre. Please send your child with an appropriate swimming kit and towel each Thursday.

Each half term on a Friday afternoon, different classes receive some coaching from a PE teacher from Staindrop Academy. This half term Year 3 will be working with the coach on tag rugby skills.

Attendance

This week's attendance figures are below.

Class	Attendance this week (%)
Reception	
Year 1	
Year 2	
Year 3	
Year 4	
Year 5	
Year 6	
Whole School	

Dates for the Diary

September 17 th	Flu Immunisation (Reception - Year 6)
September 23 rd	Open Afternoon from 1.30pm
October 9 th	Individual and Siblings Photographs
October 21 st - 22 nd	Parents' Evenings
October 22 nd - 24 th	Halloween Discos
October 27 th - 31 st	Half term holidays

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.

