



October 24th 2025

Half Term

I have really enjoyed this half term and have been very impressed with all of our children over what is one of the longer half terms of the school calendar. They have settled into their new classes brilliantly and it has been great to see the standard of work the children are producing, learning behaviours and the enthusiasm within each class. I try to spend a little time in each class each day or more formally, such as the last few weeks when we look at our provision in more detail. This year we are having an increased focus on handwriting and writing in general as well as mental Maths and these are showing promising signs of improving outcomes for children. I have taken in samples of reading records and the vast majority of children read regularly at home and this is making a huge difference to their language development, imagination and love of books, which in turn helps with assessments throughout their time in education.

Away from the core subjects, it has been a rich curriculum in terms of History and Geography, where there have been many educational visits to add to children's knowledge and understanding. We have enjoyed some fun and success in sports and learnt some amazing facts about different faiths in RE. In Computing we have covered important online safety topics which continues to be so important in modern life.

Next half term sees us switch from Humanities to Arts, which I know our children enjoy very much. There is so much to look forward to with the Dance Off and all of the wonderful Christmas activities.

Our new staff have already become valued members of Team Monty and I thank our whole team for their superb work this half term. Have a great holiday and we look forward to seeing our children on Monday November 3rd.

Parents/Carers' Evening

It was great to see so many parents/carers over the last couple of days. I hope that you enjoyed looking at your child's work and found the discussion with your child's class teacher useful. If you could not make either day, please contact the school office or class teacher to make an appointment.

Stay and Play for Parents/Carers of Nursery and Reception children

Mrs Patterson, Mrs Lomax and Miss Lauder would like to invite parents/carers of Nursery and Reception children to a Stay and Play session on November 7th from 2pm. I hope you can join us.

Year 3 Visit to Raby and High Force

On Wednesday Year 3 enjoyed a great visit to Raby Castle and High Force as part of their Geography topic. The children had the chance to see an oak table carved into a relief map of Teesdale, which highlights the journey of the River Tees. The class showed a keen interest in the map and answered a lot of questions, showing their good learning throughout the topic. They enjoyed looking at deer in the grounds and then went to High Force to sketch the waterfall. The children were a real credit with their excellent behaviour and knowledge. Thank you to our helpers for accompanying the class.

Year 2 Visit to the Bowes Museum

Our Year 2 children had a good time at The Bowes Museum and added to their understanding about John and Josephine Bowes. They also got chance to see the magnificent Silver Swan. What a great way to end the topic! Well done Year 2.

Boo Box

Thank you to FOMS for organising the Boo Box and selling tickets and to everyone who bought a ticket for the raffle. Congratulations to Isla from Year 3 who won!

Poppy Appeal

Please help support The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, poppies and other items are now available from the school office.

Halloween Discos

It was amazing to see the children in an array of different costumes for the Halloween Discos this week. I hope everyone had an enjoyable time!

‘The One Colour Challenge’

This term the focus for our Mini Art at Home Project is all about colour, however, the challenge is to create a piece of art using only ONE COLOUR, known as monochromatic art!

You can use a range of different media for your creation; you could draw, print, sculpt, paint, collage, etc. It is entirely up to you, but you can only use one main colour, you can experiment with tints, shades and tone, but only one main colour is to be used.

Let your creative minds be free and have fun experimenting and creating. The great outdoors is also a wonderful place to gather resources to create with.

You can then share a photograph of your ‘One Colour Challenge’ creation with Mrs Patterson via email and I will add them to our Art page on the school website so that everyone can appreciate your artwork. We will also create a display in school. This is not a compulsory homework; it is just a way to promote art across the school and inspire Monty’s budding artists.

Please email a photograph of your art to Mrs Patterson’s class email address:

nursery@montalboschool.org.uk

Parent Governor Vacancy

We have a vacancy for a Parent Governor on our Governing Body. If you are interested in being involved and would like more information about the role, please contact me or our Chair, Mrs Sarah O’Doherty. Sarah can be contacted after 5pm on s.odoherty400@montalboschool.org.uk or 07970422813.

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! Year 2

Half Termly Attendance 97.3%

Class	Attendance this week (%)
Reception	98.3
Year 1	98
Year 2	98.6
Year 3	97.6
Year 4	97.3
Year 5	95.7
Year 6	96
Whole School	97.3%

Dates for the Diary

October 27 th - 31 st	Half term holidays
November 3 rd	Children return to school
November 7 th	Stay and Play Nursery and Reception 2pm
November 21 st	Dance Off
November 27 th	Christmas Fayre
December 5 th	Reception Nativity (pm)
December 10 th	Nursery Christmas Singalong (pm)
December 10 th	Christmas Lunch
December 12 th	Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 Christmas Carol Concert and Christmas Jumper Day
December 15 th	Reception-Y6 to the pantomime at The Witham
December 16 th	Years 1 and 2 Christmas Play (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.

