



November 7th 2025

Welcome Back

I hope that all of you enjoyed the half term break. It has been great to welcome the children back for what is a very exciting half term. As well as new class texts and new learning, we have the Dance Off, Christmas Fayre, Nativities, a pantomime and Christmas parties! We will also be taking part in the Christmas Tree festival with EYFS and Key Stage 1 making the decorations; Key Stage 2 will be making crafts for the Christmas Fayre.

Children in Need

To support Children in Need on Friday 14th November, we are asking children to come to school and nursery wearing as many colours/patterns as possible, you can also add Pudsey or Blush accessories as well if you would like! If you can, please bring in a £1 donation on the day to go towards Children in Need.

Community Choir

Thank you to Dr Blezard for her work to get the Community Choir up and running last night, something she has been working on for a long time. I hope those who attended enjoyed it. We wanted to make it as accessible for people as possible and are very grateful to Mrs Abi Smith for her work securing a grant to make this free for our community.

The Community Choir is open to anyone of any age and runs from 5.30pm-6.30pm each Thursday. Please come along if you are interested. Children should be accompanied by an adult.

Remembrance

On Sunday, we will be attending the Remembrance Service at St Mary's Church and accompanying two of our Year 6 children to lay our school wreath. Please see the Weduc post from Wednesday should you wish to attend.

Christmas Fayre

Plans for the Christmas Fayre are progressing well which takes place from 5-7pm on November 27th. Mrs Bowron, Mrs Patterson and FOMS are working hard in the background on this. It promises to be a great evening. For those new to the Fayre, there will be stalls by local businesses but a lot of crafts made by our children, also games, raffle and a bottle tombola from FOMS, visit from Santa as well as lots of refreshments choices too! Please bring cash for our stalls and activities – I am sure the business stalls will have card readers.

Donations to FOMS

FOMS would be really grateful for donations of the following items for the Christmas Fayre:

- Bottles for the bottle tombola stall.
- Bottle gift bags.
- Raffle prizes.

If you have any please bring them to the school office. Thank you.

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

I hope that parents/carers of our Nursery and Reception children enjoyed the Stay and Play session this afternoon. It is lovely that parents/carers of our school are so involved and interested in their children's learning.

Year 6 Visit

We are very grateful to Mrs Gibson, the Biology Lead from Barnard Castle School, who contacted me about making some science links with their school. As a result, our Year 6 children attended a very engaging session at Barnard Castle School where they learnt more about the eye as part of their new topic on light. The children then had chance to learn more about the structure of eyes before dissecting a sheep's eye to identify the different parts! It was great for the children to get this practical experience in a lab— thank you Mrs Gibson and the sixth formers who supported our Year 6s.

Rotary Young Musician Competition

The local heat of the Rotary Young Musician Competition will be held at [The Witham](#), Barnard Castle, on Sunday, 23rd November. Please note that the deadline for entries is Sunday, 9th November. Charles Knights, an esteemed violinist and respected violin coach with considerable experience will serve as adjudicator for performances by young instrumentalists and vocalists from the region. This competition offers a platform for young musical talent to be recognised, providing participants with the opportunity to perform publicly, receive constructive feedback from an experienced adjudicator, and foster potential collaborative relationships with fellow musicians. All entrants will receive certificates, while winning competitors will be awarded cash prizes and trophies. To obtain an application form, or for further information, please contact Colin or Liz at TeesdaleRotaryEcoClub@gmail.com.

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 4!

Class	Attendance this week (%)
Reception	94
Year 1	96.7
Year 2	96.1
Year 3	96.4
Year 4	99.3
Year 5	92.3
Year 6	95.2
Whole School	95.7%

Dates for the Diary

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 1.30pm at St Marys
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.

