



December 12th 2025

Nursery Christmas Singalong

On Wednesday afternoon we were entertained by our superb Nursery children for their Nursery Christmas Singalong. They sang and danced so well and it was a tremendous experience for them to perform in front of 100 people+! They looked great in their costumes and certainly got us smiling with a mixture of nursery rhymes and Christmas songs. Well done Nursery!

Thank you so much to Mrs Patterson, Mrs Lomax, Mrs Whelan, Miss Nicole and Miss Rudge for their organisation and for encouraging our youngest children so well. Thanks also to FOMS who provided refreshments.

Christmas Carol Service

For me, nothing quite establishes the lovely, Christmas feeling like our Montalbo Christmas Carol Service and hope that everyone who came today felt the same. To see Key Stage 2 on stage, singing so beautifully, brought a lot of joy and filled me with pride and admiration. Silent Night, sang in English and German, marking the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II, was particularly poignant and there were two others: Love Shone Down and Winter Carol, where I had tears in my eyes during rehearsals - well done to you all!

I thought our narrators from Years 5 and 6 spoke confidently and clearly as they told parts of the Christmas Story and linked the service together – well done. Thank you so much to Mrs Channell and our Key Stage 2 team for their wonderful work bringing this together. Thank you also to Mrs Butters for her musical accompaniment, Reverend Harding and Reverend Anna for their time this year.

Year 1 and 2 Christmas Performances

Our Year 1 and 2 Christmas Performances are next week as they perform their play, *Hey Ewe*, twice. These are our final performances of the busy festive period and I look forward to seeing families of our Year 1 and 2 classes on Tuesday, December 16th. The afternoon performance begins at 1.30pm and the evening performance begins at 6pm.

Performances

By Tuesday Evening, 238 children will have had the chance to perform on stage at school or church! On top of these Christmas performances, Years 3 and 4 have their play at Easter time, Year 5 and 6 have speaking parts for the next *Monty Does* in the Summer and Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will have class assemblies in the Summer. Year 6 also have their Leavers' Assembly. So for children in Reception to Year 6, that is at least two performances per year, every year they are at our school. Each term we have an oracy week where children speak in front of their class and in every one of these activities children take part in, they become more and more confident and develop many important skills.

Christmas Parties

Please see the Dates for the Diary section for Christmas party days which take place next week. Children can come to school in their partywear. Please ensure that their partywear and footwear are suitable for school. Thank you.

Christmas Lunch

Thank you to our cook, Mrs Hardy, and her team from Chartwells, for our Christmas lunch this week. Over two hundred lunches were served and the children I talked to enjoyed it a great deal.

Gymnastics Festival

Children who participate in Key Stage 2 Gymnastics Club with Bradley were invited to a Gymnastics Festival at Barnard Castle School on Tuesday with Mrs Spence and Mrs Daniels. They thoroughly enjoyed practising skills, taking part in group balancing activities and showing their group routine to the other school. It was a wonderful celebration of their talents and the children were a pleasure to take. Well done gymnasts! Thank you very much to Maudes Coaches who arranged free transport for us in the stormy weather!

Snow White Pantomime

Children from Reception to Year 6 will be attending the morning showing the Snow White Pantomime at the Witham Hall on Monday, December 15th. We will walk there and back and be back to school in time for lunch. Thank you very much to FOMS for paying for this treat for over 200 children!

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 2

Class	Attendance this week (%)
Reception	97.3
Year 1	99
Year 2	100
Year 3	98.6
Year 4	97.3
Year 5	94.7
Year 6	98.6
Whole School	97.9%

Dates for the Diary

December 15 th	Reception-Y6 to the pantomime at The Witham
December 16 th	Years 1 and 2 Christmas Play (1.30pm and 6pm starts)
December 17 th	Christmas Parties – EYFS Wednesday 17 th (am); Year 1 and 2 (pm)
December 18 th	Christmas Party Year 3 and 4 (pm)
December 19 th	Christmas Party Year 5 and 6 (pm)
December 22 nd - Jan 2 nd	Christmas Holidays
January 5 th	Children return to school
February 6 th	Sportshall Athletics at Teesdale Leisure Centre
February 11 th	EYFS/Years 1 and 2 Valentine's Disco
February 12 th	Years 3 and 4 Valentine's Disco
February 13 th	Years 5 and 6 Valentine's Disco
February 17 th	Dance Event – selected children R-Y6; venue tbc
February 17 th and 18 th	Parents/Carers Evenings
February 19 th	Multi-skills (all Y1) at Staindrop Academy
February 23 rd – 27 th	Half Term
March 2 nd	Children return to school
March 20 th	Badminton Y5/6 (2 teams)
March 23 rd	Multi-skills (all Y6) Staindrop Academy
March 25 th	Football Y2 at Staindrop Academy
March 27 th	Girls Football Y4-6 at St Johns

March 30 th	Orienteering (all Y4) at Staindrop
March 31 st	Tennis (all Y3) at Parkside
March 31 st	Years 3 and 4 School Play 6pm
April 1 st	Years 3 and 4 School Play 6pm
April 1 st	Multi-skills (all Reception)
April 3 rd – 17 th	Easter Holiday
April 20 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.

