



**December 19th 2025**

### **Year 1 and 2 Christmas Performances**

On Tuesday we had two fabulous performances of *Hey Ewe* by our Year 1 and 2 children. Our children looked amazing and performed with real confidence, remembering their lines, actions, songs and dances. It is so nice to see how children progress and build confidence year on year. To see some of our children who were perhaps nervous last year, smiling, speaking clearly and enjoying their time on stage is really heartwarming. Well done to all of our Year 1 and 2 children!

Thank you very much to our Key Stage 1 teaching team: Dr Blezard, Miss Burns, Mrs Leonard, Mrs McIntyre, Miss Smith, Mrs Dupuy and Miss MacLeod for their work bringing the performances together. Thank you once again to FOMS for providing refreshments and supporting all of our festive events in school.

### **Snow White Pantomime**

Thank you very much to FOMS for paying for the classes from Reception to Year 6 to visit the pantomime at The Witham Hall. I know from chatting to the children they thoroughly enjoyed it. Thank you once again to Maudes Coaches who picked up our youngest children as the weather was once again atrocious!

### **Christmas Parties**

It has been nice to see the children enjoying their Christmas parties this week. They looked great and enjoyed dancing and playing games with their friends. Early Years and Key Stage 1 even had a special visit from Father Christmas.

### **FOMS Christmas Raffle**

Thank you to everyone who has bought raffle tickets and donated prizes and to FOMS who organised this. The raffle was drawn on Wednesday and I hope that you were lucky!

FOMS have raised an incredible amount of money over the festive period and thank all involved for this. I will let you know some of the ways this will be spent in the New Year.

### **End of Year!**

2025 has been another successful year for Montalbo where we have continued to perform very well academically in each Key Stage, as well as offering opportunities across the curriculum for our children to shine in. We have so many talented artists, musicians, coders, dancers, historians and geographers, to name a few.

I have been pleased with the progress we have made this term on our priorities for this academic year. A highlight in terms of pastoral care include the introduction of myHappyMind, which the children are enjoying (see later paragraph about the Parent App). Some academic work we have been looking to improve are within mental Maths, handwriting and other processes to aid independent writing, and we are starting to see a positive impact.

There have been so many great events in school, in the community, in church and at The Witham. We have had many visits and visitors, sporting and charity events, discos and more. We have enjoyed sharing these with you and making lovely memories. Working in schools is both enjoyable and at times, exhausting, and I hope that all of Team Monty relax and refresh over Christmas, ready to go again in January!

### **Parent Governor Election**

Our Governing Body are an important part of our school leadership and are made of parents/carers, Co-opted Governors and a Local Authority Representative. Recently I asked if any parent/carer would like to fill a vacant role and we had two people confirm their interest, so that means we need to hold a ballot. Mrs Teasdale has set up a Google Form with information about both candidates and a short statement from them both. Please see the post on Weduc with details over how to vote. It is a vote just for current parents/carers. Thank you.

### **myHappymind Parent App**

myHappymind has developed a Parent App. These resources can be accessed online on your computer, or through an app on your phone. The Parent App will support you as a parent/carer in understanding what your child is learning, activities for you to do together at home and also a 'Kids Zone' featuring myHappymind games plus much more! Please see instructions [here](#), if you are interested in how to access this.

### **Eco Council Letters from MP**

This week each child in Eco Council received a letter from our MP, Sam Rushford, thanking them for telling him about our Eco work in school and taking him on a school tour.

### **Goodbye Miss MacLeod**

Today we say goodbye to our Teaching Assistant Apprentice, Miss MacLeod. She is our youngest ever apprentice and has learnt many skills that she can take with her into her future. We wish her well.

### **Good luck Miss Palmer**

Our latest trainee teacher from Durham University, Miss Palmer, finishes her placement today. We thank her for her work with our Year 6s and wish her luck for the remainder of the course.

### **Smartphones**

Please see attached information [here](#) from Durham University around children's first Smartphone. It has good advice for parents/carers generally about their children's Smartphone use.

From our observations in school and information shared with schools, it is clear that children are getting devices earlier, spending longer on them and while most children use them sensibly, some children fall out with friends on devices at home so monitoring their usage, turning them off well before bedtime, checking how they are chatting/writing to each other etc. is advisable.

### **Christmas Holidays**

I hope that all of our Montalbo families have a wonderful, relaxing and enjoyable break and enjoy spending time together. We look forward to seeing the children on Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **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 15<sup>th</sup> 2026. School Admissions at the Local Authority organise this. Please see further information [here](#).

### **Attendance-**

This week and term's attendance figures are below. Well done Year 3!

<b>Class</b>	<b>Attendance this week (%)</b>	<b>Attendance for whole term (%)</b>
Reception	98%	97.7%
Year 1	99.3%	97.4%
Year 2	99.6%	97%
Year 3	100%	97.6%
Year 4	97%	96.9%
Year 5	99%	95.4%

Year 6	97.2%	95.9%
Whole School	98.6%	96.8%

### Dates for the Diary

December 22<sup>nd</sup> - Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> Christmas Holidays

January 5 <sup>th</sup>	Children return to school
February 6 <sup>th</sup>	Sportshall Athletics at Teesdale Leisure Centre
February 11 <sup>th</sup>	EYFS/Years 1 and 2 Valentine's Disco
February 12 <sup>th</sup>	Years 3 and 4 Valentine's Disco
February 13 <sup>th</sup>	Years 5 and 6 Valentine's Disco
February 17 <sup>th</sup>	Dance Event – selected children R-Y6; venue tbc
February 17 <sup>th</sup> and 18 <sup>th</sup>	Parents/Carers Evenings
February 19 <sup>th</sup>	Multi-skills (all Y1) at Staindrop Academy
February 23 <sup>rd</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup>	Half Term
March 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Children return to school
March 20 <sup>th</sup>	Badminton Y5/6 (2 teams)
March 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Multi-skills (all Y6) Staindrop Academy
March 25 <sup>th</sup>	Football Y2 at Staindrop Academy
March 27 <sup>th</sup>	Girls Football Y4-6 at St Johns
March 30 <sup>th</sup>	Orienteering (all Y4) at Staindrop
March 31 <sup>st</sup>	Tennis (all Y3) at Parkside
March 31 <sup>st</sup>	Years 3 and 4 School Play 6pm
April 1 <sup>st</sup>	Years 3 and 4 School Play 6pm
April 1 <sup>st</sup>	Multi-skills (all Reception)
April 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Holiday
April 20 <sup>th</sup>	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.

