



January 16th 2026

Ghana Day

On Monday 19th January, Mrs Smith has asked that our children come dressed in bright colours to celebrate our links with Ghana by having a Ghana Day in school, as part of the project our school has committed to. No donations are asked for, just for fun!

During the day, the children will be learning more about Ghana and creating some pieces of work for Mrs Smith to take to share with the Ankoma schools. This should mean that Mrs Smith will take a little piece of something from every child in Montalbo!

Over the past few months, Mrs Smith and staff from other schools have been planning a classroom renovation and the teaching activities that she will be undertaking over there. She will be in Ghana for two weeks, beginning February 9th. I will cover the Year 4 class during this time.

Once again, thank you for all your donations without which this amazing project would not be possible. We are looking forward to finding out a lot more from Mrs Smith on her return.

Year 4 Parents/Carers Evening

As Mrs Smith will be away in Ghana when the Parents/Carers Evenings are scheduled, she will hold Year 4 Parents/Carers Evenings on the following days: Wednesday 28th January and Tuesday 3rd February. Slots will now be booked through the new Arbor system which Mrs Teasdale will be arranging next week. Mrs Teasdale will notify Year 4 parents/carers when these are available.

Changes to Payments and Booking System – Arbor replacing ParentPay

We are transferring over to a new system to book wraparound care, clubs and school meals. Over time, we will be messaging from Arbor rather Weduc and booking parents/carers evening through this too. Everything will be in one place for parents/carers and it looks much more user friendly.

Log in Details for the first time you use Arbor

1. Go to: <https://montalbo-nursery-and-primary-school.uk.arbor.education> (you must do this from a browser not the app)
2. Click on “[First Time Logging in?](#)”, and this will take you through the initial steps of logging in
- please ensure you use your email we have for you on our school system
3. Once complete, please then download the 'Arbor Parent App' from your play store and log in with your new password

Any problems, please contact the office. Please log in as soon as possible so we can help you quickly if you had any difficulties with the process.

Useful Information to book clubs (Breakfast & Afterschool Care)

To book clubs (Breakfast and Afterschool) from next week you will be required to top up your payment accounts in advance which can be done now by clicking on 'Accounts' - be mindful if you have debts on Parent Pay this will be transferred over by Mrs Teasdale on Friday afternoon and may use up your money!

To Book clubs from Monday this can be done by clicking on 'Clubs'. Select the date you require, again this will only go through if you have enough money in your account.

Tax Free Childcare (TFC) Payers

People who pay by TFC vouchers now will continue to do so but as of next term instead of me sending a booking form out to you, you will be required to book your own care using the Arbor app and will have an option to tick 'Pay by voucher' – Mrs Teasdale will then credit the voucher off your Arbor account when I receive this on our bank statement

Please see attached links to some useful guides from Arbor

Logging in for the first time

<https://support.arbor-education.com/hc/en-us/articles/360020147458-Log-into-the-Parent-Portal-and-the-Parent-App>

Quick guide for parents / carers

<https://support.arbor-education.com/hc/en-us/articles/212097029-A-quick-introduction-to-Arbor-for-guardians-and-parents>

Attendance-

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

Class	Attendance this week (%)
Reception	97.7
Year 1	97.3
Year 2	97.5
Year 3	100
Year 4	96
Year 5	95.7
Year 6	94.5
Whole School	96.9%

Dates for the Diary

January 19 th	Ghana Day
January 28 th	Year 4 Parents/Carers Evening
February 3 rd	Year 4 Parents/Carers Evening
February 6 th	Sportshall Athletics at Teesdale Leisure Centre
February 10 th	Safer Internet Day
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 17th	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.

