



January 23rd 2026

Ghana Day

On Monday we had a super day in school with each class learning more about Ghana and completing a piece of work for Mrs Smith to take with her in February. Mrs Smith is hoping to receive some work back from the Ghanaian children she will teach, which our children can look at on her return.

Mrs Mc Special Day

On Friday 30th we will have a special assembly for Mrs Mc which will have an 1980s theme, as Mrs McIntyre started at Montalbo in 1981! We hope that children can again come in colourful clothes – please do not buy anything special. If you can think of 1980s twist, even better.

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. Many parents/carers have successfully booked slots using Arbor. Please contact the school office if you are having difficulties.

Around School

Quite easily the best part of my job is when I get the chance to teach! Recently I have been teaching a great deal around the school and it has been pleasing to note the standards of work and learning behaviours in each class. One of the reasons we are successful, is the number of whole school approaches. This helps teaching and learning as children become familiar with ways of working. It takes time and great understanding from all staff to do this across different age ranges and we are fortunate to have such a great team of teachers and teaching assistants. I have been delighted with the progress we have made this academic year designing a new approach to mental maths and this is now following the same whole school approach as other areas. Over time, I am confident that this will improve our already high standards.

National Year of Reading

This year is the National Year of Reading! We really value reading and have so many different reading activities each day. I love observing our phonics sessions with the younger sessions as well as reading hour activities further up the school. It has been lovely to see many of our Year 6 children hooked on a series of books, one of which they read in their Guided Reading sessions. It is also pleasing to see the high number of children who read regularly at home as this makes such a difference to their fluency and comprehension.

Safer Internet Day

On February 10th we will be marking Safer Internet Day by working on some information to share with you toward the end of the school day. Classes 1 to 6 would like to invite you to school at 2.55pm to give you some important online safety messages. Early Years will share their information via Weduc.

Contacting school

Please come and see us if you have any concerns or issues that you are struggling with and we would love to help. We support a range of families and can often signpost you to services or find out further information to help.

More generally, if you would like further information about an issue in class please speak to the class teacher in the first instance. If you feel it has not been resolved, please arrange to see me, Mrs Channell or Mrs Patterson.

Arbor

Thank you to the parents/carers who have logged into Arbor. It is very important that everyone does this as eventually all our messages, bookings and payments will come through this. Please see below if you have not yet logged on.

Changes to Payments and Booking System – Arbor replacing ParentPay

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 2

Class	Attendance this week (%)
Reception	95%
Year 1	98%
Year 2	98.9%
Year 3	91.7%
Year 4	94%

Year 5	90%
Year 6	94.1%
Whole School	94.5%

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 (parent/carer invited from 2.55pm)
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.

