



January 9<sup>th</sup> 2026

### Welcome Back

Happy New Year to all of our Montalbo families. I hope that you had a lovely, restful and healthy Christmas and that you were able to spend some special time with family and friends.

The children and staff have returned in good spirits for what is an unusually long first half Spring Term. There is much to look forward to and the children have settled back into their routines really well.

One of my favourite assemblies of the year is where I talk to the children about their New Year's Resolutions. There were a real mix again this year from improving drumming, swimming, helping more around the home, dog walking and pet care, to learning new hobbies like darts! There were a few health-conscious resolutions like drinking more water and eating healthily which were great. Some children wanted to work harder at reading, Maths, art and other subjects, so there was really positive mix.

In assemblies and in class, we have also been thinking about our next myHappymind unit, 'Appreciation.' Here we think of some of the things we notice and are grateful for such as people, places and experiences. The children told me they are very grateful for the lovely things they do at home and school.

### Mrs McIntyre

Earlier this year, Mrs McIntyre told me of her intention to retire on January 31<sup>st</sup> 2026. Mrs McIntyre has been a loyal and highly skilled member of staff since the early 1980s and she has supported so many Montalbo children and families over the years. Mrs McIntyre said she does not want a 'big fuss' but I wanted to share the news so that you could wish her well before January 31<sup>st</sup>. I will write much more about Mrs Mc at the end of Jan!

### Miss Banks

Due to Mrs McIntyre's retirement, we are delighted to have had the chance to welcome back Miss Banks to the school from the start of February. Miss Banks has been working as a Teaching Assistant at another school since the end of her apprenticeship and made a great impression on us all during her time with us.

### Parent/Carer Advice on Digital Lives

Parenting today can feel tricky, especially when each generation of childhood looks different from the one before, certainly in terms of technology. There's no manual, and it can be hard to keep up with the fast-changing digital world your child moves through every day. The Children's Commissioner has produced a useful resource to help with conversations including a checklist summary within the flipbook. Please find the guide [here](#).

### Parent Governor Election

The ballot for our Parent Governor Election closed today. Thank you very much to both parents who applied for the position. Once the appointment is confirmed at the Spring governing body meeting, I will share our new parent governor information with you.

## Attendance-

This week and term's attendance figures are below. Well done Year 1

Class	Attendance this week (%)
Reception	99%
Year 1	100%
Year 2	98.9%
Year 3	95.7%
Year 4	99.3%
Year 5	98.7%
Year 6	99.3%
Whole School	98.7%

## Dates for the Diary

December 22 <sup>nd</sup> - Jan 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Christmas Holidays
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 17th	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.

