



July 3rd 2026

Good luck Mrs Leonard

Over the past couple of years, Mrs Leonard and I have had a number of emotional chats about her very exciting plans for the future. She has made the decision to leave Montalbo at the end of the school year as her and her husband will be moving to America! This is a tremendous opportunity for them both but it goes without saying that we will miss Mrs Leonard enormously. She joined the school in 2018 and has brought great knowledge, skills and a large dose of fun to our school! I know that children and our families will miss her but also join me in wishing her and her husband the best of luck in America! I have thoroughly enjoyed working with Mrs Leonard and I know that she has loved being part of Team Monty! Her last day in school will be Tuesday July 14th. Good luck Mrs Leonard!

Congratulations Mrs Daniels

Mrs Daniels has been working extremely hard this year and has just been awarded her Qualified Teacher Status. This is a great achievement and the assessors were impressed with her knowledge, skills and teaching ability. Providing really good professional development and opportunities has been one of my aims since I joined the school and I am delighted for Mrs Daniels and the school. Well done!

National Qualifications

Congratulations also to Dr Blezard for achieving her National Professional Qualification in Senior Leadership. Several staff in school have this award and other national qualifications which are not easy to achieve whilst working full time. Well done Dr Blezard!

Year 2 Class Assembly

Our last Class Assembly of the year was from Year 2 and it was a marvellous celebration of their learning over the year. The children presented, sang and danced so clearly and with such clarity and confidence. They remembered so many lines and transitions between the different subjects which was wonderful to see. It is hard to believe how much is crammed into a school year. Amazing work Year 2!

Thank you to Dr Blezard and Miss Banks for organising this and to our families for supporting their children.

Visit Last Week

We work closely with the Local Authority and last week had a visit from an adviser. They continue to be incredibly impressed by our school and praised our academic results in all Early Years, Key Stage 1 and 2 which have been continually well above national averages for many years now. They loved our children's behaviour, attendance, all of the enriching experiences we provide and every element of school life. I know how amazing Team Monty is but it is nice to get it endorsed from others. Well done Team Monty!

Sports Days

I thought both Sports Days this week were fantastic- a great mix of fun and competition. Our children certainly are a talented bunch who competed so well in a range of sports.

Our Nursery children excelled as it is not easy for 3–4-year-olds to race in front of a big audience. They did so well and were amazing pirates! I thought our Year 6 helpers were super helpers too.

Thanks to Mrs Patterson, Mrs Lomax, Miss Nicole and Miss Rudge for organising this and to all our families for attending, including those who competed in the parents' race.

Our children from Reception to Year 6 performed very well and they certainly motor in those final races with lots of very close finishes! It is good to see their competitive spirit in action. Thank you to Mrs Smith, Mrs Lomax and Miss Richardson who organised this and to all of the staff for their help too. Thanks to everyone who came to support their children and the family members who also flew down the track at great speed!

Music Mark of Recognition

We received some wonderful news this week. We have been awarded '[The Music Mark of Recognition](#)' which demonstrates that our school values the importance of music education. The schools in this directory have been recognised by their local music service for their commitment to music education. Well done Team Monty and especially Dr Blezard who keeps driving our music curriculum forward.

County Athletics Final

Huge congratulations to Astrid (Y5) for finishing 5th in the Girls 60m hurdles final. Many congratulations to Tommy (Y5) for finishing 2nd in the 800m final.

I think as a whole team (from the trials a couple of weeks earlier) we had our best ever finish which I am waiting to have confirmed. Well done!

Gymnastics National Finals

Caoimhe (Y5) and Erin (Y6) had amazing performances at the NGA UK finals in Liverpool and have both had a fantastic gymnastics competition season. Out of 250 gymnasts in Gold category they were both in the top 35 gymnasts for NGA in the country. Caoimhe placed 13th
Erin had a fab competition and placed 2nd overall, 1st on bars and 3rd on floor! I cannot wait to see how they continue to progress – well done girls!

Kirkby Stephen Visit

On Tuesday Year 2 had a great visit to Kirkby Stephen East where the children built on learning from an earlier history topic. They learnt more about steam and diesel engines, railway bridges and the jobs people used to have on the railways.

Wraparound Care on Tuesday July 7th and Wednesday July 8th

Due to all staff being involved in our Monty Does Mash Ups performances wraparound care will be close at 4.30pm on July 7th and 8th. Please be prompt so that staff can get to The Witham to help set up. Thank you.

Jack Drum Arts Assembly and Workshops

On Wednesday we had a very energetic musical assembly in which the band Jack Drum Arts performed to the whole school. The children loved their drumming and I could hear the drums and the cheering from my office!

After that, they worked with our Year 6 children in workshops which I know the children enjoyed.

FOMS Summer Raffle

Raffle tickets were handed out for FOMS Summer Raffle. Thank you for supporting this by donating prizes and buying tickets.

Free School Meals Checks

As you may already be aware the Government have recently announced changes to the FSM eligibility from 1st September 2026. There will be 2 categories of benefits-based free school meals: Targeted FSM - which continues to be based on the existing threshold, covering pupils who are in households in receipt of Universal Credit with annual household earnings of £7,400 or less

Expanded FSM - a new category covering pupils who do not qualify for targeted FSM, but who are in households receiving Universal Credit

In addition to this, Transitional protections for free school meals will end. Transitional Protections have been in effect since 1 April 2018. This has meant that pupils becoming eligible for free meals under the benefits-based criteria have retained their entitlement, even if their household circumstances have changed. Households must meet the new FSM eligibility criteria from the start of the 2026 to 2027 academic year to continue receiving provision, therefore it is vital all pupils complete a new FSM form and return to school as soon as possible to ensure a new check can be made before the Summer Holidays ready for September 2026.

Forms have been handed out to all children earlier this week. Please complete the form even if you are unsure as to whether you qualify, we can run the check regardless. Please do not assume you still qualify and not return the form - all pupils require a new check.

Universal Free School Meals for children in Reception-Year 2 inclusive will still be in place but it is still important that parents/carers for children in these years complete the forms.

26 for 26!

Thank you to the children and families who have returned the sponsorship forms and money for the 26 for 26 FOMS challenge. Please try to return any forms and funds before the end of term. Thank you.

Attendance-

This week's attendance figures are below. Well done Year 4!

Class	Attendance this week (%)
Reception	99.3%
Year 1	98.9%
Year 2	98.2%
Year 3	99.3%
Year 4	100%
Year 5	97%
Year 6	96.3%
Whole School	98.4%

Dates for the Diary

July 6 th	Monty Does Rehearsal Day at The Witham
July 7 th	Year 4 Frisbee Festival
July 7 th	End of Year Reports sent out
July 7 th	Monty Does Evening Performance at The Witham
July 8 th	Monty Does Evening Performance at The Witham
July 9 th and 10 th	Staindrop Transition Day
July 10 th	Teesdale Transition Day
July 17 th	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly 9am
July 17 th	End of term
July 20-21 st	Teacher Training Days
Sept 1 st - 2 nd	Teacher Training Days
Sept 3 rd	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.

