



September 4th 2026

Welcome Back

I hope that all of our children, families, staff and Governors enjoyed a great summer. I look forward to catching up with all of our children to find out about what they enjoyed most over the holidays. It is so nice to welcome everyone back to school and meet our new starters too. Everyone has settled in well and there has been a lovely start of term buzz around school.

We have been busy in school over the break and the environment looks amazing, and I thank our team for making the classrooms so inviting and well set up for our children.

We have undertaken some jobs outside when the heat allowed and thank Nicola and Jonny Maude for sourcing and delivering another bike shelter for our growing number of cyclists and scooter riders to use!

New Website

You may have noticed we have updated our website. It looks and feels more modern and a lot of work has been done over recent months to make it more user friendly on every type of device. Have a look at montalbo.durham.sch.uk There is some information to update and we will work on this over the coming weeks.

In time, we are hoping to write class blogs to keep you up to date with class news and send you a link to updates via Arbor, replacing Weduc, in the hope that all communications over time come via Arbor. However, at present this process is clunky and difficult for us and needs refining by the website host. Therefore, we will continue to share information by Weduc and Arbor as we make progress. New login for Weduc details have been shared for new starters. If you have any issues with the apps, please contact the school office.

Amazing Eco Award

Sustainability has been a big part of our curriculum and work around the school site. Over the summer holidays we were awarded the highest possible accreditation of Eco Schools Green Flag Distinction. We are delighted with this and have further plans to improve on this, such as adjusting flow rates in taps after a water survey we arranged for over the summer highlighted environmental and cost benefits. Thank you to Dr Blezard for completing our application and work on this.

Super Sports Award

Great news! Montalbo Nursery and Primary School have been awarded the School Games Gold Award for 2026. This award acknowledges our commitment to PE and Sports, including competitive sports right across school. Well done Team Monty!

Individual School Photos

Our photographer Claire will be in school next Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th September. Pupils with younger siblings who don't attend nursery / school are welcome to come for 8.30am on the Tuesday only, please come to the school office. Class 2 will be required to bring in their PE kits to change into.

Open Afternoon

Parents/carers of children who are due to start Reception in September 2027 are invited to attend our Open Afternoon on Friday September 18th, with tours each hour from 1.30pm to 5.30pm inclusive. Please contact the School Office if you would like to attend one of the tours.

We would also like to invite any prospective parents/carers of Nursery aged children to attend too, so please contact the School Office if you would like to join us.

One Life

This year we will run a programme right across school called One Life, which meets the objectives of the PHSE and RSE curriculum. On one of our training days, staff had chance to understand the research behind the programme and the benefits to our children with the main aims being personal development, building character and wellbeing. It has 3 pillars: mental health, social health and physical health. I will send a half termly parental newsletter to update you on the topic which each class across the school will cover.

PE/Outdoor Learning

	PE	Outdoor Learning
Monday	Reception and Year 4	Year 1
Tuesday	Nursery and Year 2	Year 3 and Year 5
Wednesday	Years 1, 3 and 4	
Thursday	Year 6	Year 4
Friday	Year 1 and Year 3	Year 6 and Year 2

For Years 1-6, please send your child in PE kit on PE days. Reception get changed for PE at school to help their independence and nursery take off their shoes and socks for PE so do not need kits. For Outdoor learning please bring suitable clothing for working outside. Thank you.

Attendance

Last year we had our best attendance since before the pandemic and every year we are considerably above National Averages. Thank you for supporting us with ensuring children are present and punctual. The links between academic success and attendance are well documented, as are further benefits such as social bonds between friends, children enjoying enrichment activities and having fun are all strengthened by good attendance.

I am aware Teesdale School is having an additional week's holiday in the autumn term, on which they did not consult our school. This could negatively affect our attendance and I hope that our parents/continue to value positive attendance.

Dates for the Diary

Sept 8 th - 9 th	Individual Photos
Sept 18 th	Open Afternoon (new Reception starters 2027) from 1.30pm
Oct 12 th – 13 th	Parents Evening
Oct 22 nd	Halloween Parties (EYFS am/KS1pm)
Oct 23 rd	Halloween Parties (Y3/4 am/Y5/6pm)
Oct 26 th – 30 th	Half Term Holidays
Nov 2 nd	Teacher Training Day
Nov 3 rd	Children back to school
Nov 20 th	Children In Need
Nov 26 th	Christmas Fayre

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.

