



December 1st 2017 Issue 12

Centre for Life Key Stage 2 Visit

The Centre for Life visit on Monday was a huge success. The children came back so full of excitement and I know after talking to them in assembly that there were many highlights from ice skating to 4D motion rides. The experiments that they took part in and watched were excellent and the interactive nature of the centre is perfect for Key Stage 2 children. It is quite a responsibility taking so many children and I thank all of the staff and volunteers (Mr Blackburn and Mrs Wood Senior!) for their help.

After School Clubs

Due to the stage being put up, it being dark and cold after school and other school events coming up, most of the clubs have finished as planned in the original club letter. The exception is the FISCH club which will continue until Wednesday 6th December for the children v parents Dodgeball which I have been roped in to!

After school care will still be available each night until 5.30pm.

Punctuality

The vast majority of our pupils are on time each, are ready to enter school and learn at 8.55am. It is very important that your child arrives on time to avoid missing important messages and teaching time. Letters have been issued to some parents/carers this week following school and county procedures, so that teaching and learning can start promptly for all children.

Christmas Art

It has been really nice to see so much high quality art activities in school this week. Each class has designed and completed 3 large canvases to be displayed in The Hub over the festive period. They look absolutely wonderful and show the different skills and stages of children's work from Early Years up to Year 6. I look forward to seeing them displayed at The Hub in the near future.

Another whole school art project that finished this week has been the creation of decorations for the Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary's church. The theme this year is musicals and we chose 'Cats'. The different range of Cats created are amazing and I look forward to seeing them during the festival which runs from December 6th -10th. The festival runs from 4pm -6pm Wednesday to Friday, Saturday 11am-5pm and Sunday 2pm-6pm. Our Christmas choir are performing between 2-3pm on Saturday 9th and I'm sure the church will look magical with around 50 different decorated trees there. Why not see if you can spot our tree?

Christingle at St Mary's

I know that the Christingle Service at St Mary's is one of the most popular events in church and this takes place at 4pm on Sunday, December 3rd. All are welcome.

Christmas Nativity for Nursery and Reception

Next week sees our first Christmas event when our Nursery and Reception children perform their Nativity. The performance starts at 2pm in the school hall – refreshments will be served from 1.30pm. I look forward to seeing many parents and relatives of our youngest children there.

FOMs

Friends of Montalbo School will be selling raffle tickets and will be providing refreshments at all of our Christmas performances this year. Any donations for the raffle would be much appreciated and can be brought to the School Office. Raffle tickets can be bought on the days of the performances or can be purchased from the Office/playground from next week.

Dinner money, club bills and outstanding forms

As we run up to the Christmas break, please can you ensure that bills are paid promptly so that they can be banked before the holidays. We have had most data forms and medical forms returned to school that were sent out in September. If you have not returned them, please could you do so as soon as possible. Thank you.

Final Swimming Session

This week was the final swimming session before Christmas. Swimming will start again on Thursday 11th January for the same groups of children.

Butterwick Hospice Flumpets!

The ever popular Flumpet Christmas toys will be on sale in the School Office. There are several different designs and cost £1.50 with all monies received going to the Butterwick Hospice.

Starting School

The application process for school places for children who will be 5 on or between 1st September 2018 and 31st August 2019 is open now. Applications can be made via www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions where you can access a guide containing essential information to help you with your application.

Attendance for w.b. 27.11.17

Class	Present
Mrs Bartoli's Reception	92.5%
Miss Lauder's Class	95.7%
Miss Blackburn's Class	94.7%
Dr Greenwell's Class	93.2%
Miss Richardson's Class	96.1%
School Total	94.7%

Punctuality

Please ensure that your child arrives at school no later than 8.55a.m. in order to make a prompt start for lessons. Remember Wake Up, Shake Up usually starts at 8.45a.m. 2 hours of learning was lost to lateness this week.

Dates for the diary

December 6 th – 10 th	Christmas Tree Festival at St Marys
December 7 th	Nursery and Reception Nativity 2pm in the School Hall
December 11 th	Miss Blackburn's Class Hockey Competition
December 12 th	Dr Greenwell's Multi-Skills Festival 9.30-11.30 at Staindrop
December 12 th	Christmas Lunch
December 13 th	Pantomime in school
December 13 th and 14 th	Christmas Plays @6pm Miss Lauder and Miss Blackburn's Class
December 14 th	Reception to sports festival at Staindrop
December 15 th	Christmas Jumper Day
December 15 th	Whole School Carol Service at St Marys 1.45-2.45pm (families welcome)
December 18 th	Rokeby Carol Service (Christmas Carol Choir only)
December 19 th	Recorders concert (Y4) and Clarinets at Teesdale School 5pm
December 20 th	Christmas Party Y1/2 and Y3/4
December 21 st	Christmas Party Y5/6 and EYFS
December 21 st	End of Autumn term
December 22 nd	Teacher Training Day
January 8 th	Spring Term begins

Mr Minikin

Head Teacher