



Welcome Mrs Daniels

This week sees a new Teaching Assistant, Mrs Daniels, start in school. She will be working between Foundation Stage and Year 1, supporting children in their learning. Mrs Daniels has a lot of Special Needs experience and will join our growing band of talented Teaching Assistants who help support Teaching and Learning throughout the school.

Sainsbury's School Games Level 2 Swimming Gala

On Wednesday I had the pleasure of accompanying eighteen Key Stage 2 children to Teesdale Sports Centre to compete against eight other local schools in a swimming gala. There were seventeen different races which were a mixture of individual events and relays. Due to the number of schools competing, there were 3 heats in each race so 51 races in all! The children were as usual a real credit to the school and clapped and cheered in every race.

I am delighted to say we did very well recording 6 wins out of the 17 heats with many other tight 2nd place finishes. The events were timed and when the results were combined we finished a very creditable 3rd place out of the 9 teams! This is an excellent achievement and we outperformed many larger schools. It was a real team effort with each child contributing to the final results, and they came out smiling whatever their result. The children and staff were thrilled and the event itself is a reminder to us all of the benefits of exercise, determination and teamwork. You all deserve a special mention:

From Class 4: Leah, Roan, Emily, Jack, Adele, Harry, Yasmin, Kate, Kelci, Connie and Finley

From Class 3: Tilly, Lewis, Katy, Brandyn, Rebecca, and Megan

From Class 2: Archie

Well done to you all!

Model Railway Visit

Just when I thought the week couldn't get any more exciting after the gala success, Dr Greenwell arranged for a local train enthusiast from the South Durham Model Engineers to visit the school, complete with a small, working model steam train! They set up a small track on the playground and the children got to see it in motion. He talked to the whole school in assembly about trains and created a great deal of excitement! This was a great link to their topic on the Railways, and I know that Dr Greenwell has more fun things planned for the rest of the half term.

Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers

If you or any friends or family shop at Sainsbury's, please could you ask them to collect the Active Kids Vouchers. This will enable school to exchange them for PE equipment. Until our collection box arrives, please send hand them in to the school office. Thank you.

Junior Education and Diversion Programme

On Monday, Class 4 worked with Mr Temby who works alongside the police to investigate wildlife crimes. This Monday the children will be visited by PCSO Darren Miles who will talk to the children about anti-social behaviour.

E-Safety Advice from Durham County Council

'The council has become aware of a significant number of issues with children sharing content using the app musical.ly. Schools may wish to make parents aware of the risks of the app which has a minimum age of 13. Our advice to parents is to carefully manage their child's use of social media.'

Full Details are here <https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/expert-opinion/musical-ly-app-parents-need-know/>



Safer Internet Day 2017

Safer Internet Day will be celebrated globally on Tuesday 7th February with the slogan 'Be the change: Unite for a better internet.' One of Miss Richardson's responsibilities is as E-Safety Co-ordinator. She is working with our local authority adviser in the run up to Safer Internet Day and we will be sending out the most up to date forms and contracts to for you and your child sign shortly, to help safeguard them online whilst at school.

On Friday 10th February we would like to invite parents to school at 2.45pm and your child can take you around each class, where the children can explain a different element of e-safety to you.

FOMS Meeting

The next FOMS meeting is at 5pm at school. The Friends will discuss a calendar of events and be given an update on the plans to improve the garden. New members are more than welcome.

Hardworking Staff

Since I joined the school, there have been so many changes and I am so pleased with how the staff have responded. The staff work very long hours to help children develop and improve the school. I believe the school has benefited from the changes and that we have the right mix of people to improve the school further. Professional development is very important and we have many future school leaders here. I really enjoy learning new things and the collaboration in school and working with other schools can only help develop our ideas and practices further.

Contact Details

Please keep the School Office informed of any change of contact details. Thank you.

Guitar or Ukulele Tuition

Mr Rudkin, who has worked with many local schools in the past and is a registered guitar tutor, called into school this week. He passed on his contact details and wondered if any children would be interested in some private tuition. His details are: - tel: 01833316128 or email fredrudkin1835@sky.com

Lockerbie Residential Visit

Payment of at least half of the fee for this exciting trip - £117.50 needs to be made by **March 1st** with the remainder by **6th June**. Payment by instalments or as a lump sum is equally acceptable, cash or cheque payable to 'Montalbo School Fund'.

Attendance for w.b. 16.1.17

	Present
Reception	91.8%
Class 1	98.6%
Class 2	98.7%
Class 3	99.4%
Class 4	93.4%

Overall attendance this week was 94.4%

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.

1 hour and 9 minutes learning time lost this week

Dates for your Diary

- January 24th FOMS meeting at school 5pm
- February 8th Reception at Teesdale Leisure Centre for Multi-Skills Festival
- February 10th February Parents invited into school 2.45pm for e-safety tour with their child.
- February 16th Class 3's Assembly 9.00am
- February 20th-24th Half Term
- March 20th-22nd – Parents' Evenings

Mr Minikin

Head Teacher

