



September 20th 2019 Issue 3

FOMS

Friends of Montalbo School (FOMS) now has its own email which is friendsofmontalbo@gmail.com. If you would like to find out more about FOMS or could help at future events, this is a good way to contact them. They have done an amazing job over the years and as a result, we have bought a number of excellent resources to help our children.

Christmas Fair

One of my favourite events since I started at Montalbo was last year's Christmas Fair. FOMS and I are keen to run another and a date of Tuesday 3rd December has been confirmed. I know it's early to start mentioning Christmas but stall holders like to plan these events in and I know several parents are keen to have a stall! If you or anyone you know would like a stall please contact FOMS on the email above. Thank you.

Reception Places 2020!

It seems hard to imagine with some children just starting nursery, that it is time to think about applying for primary school in Reception Classes. If your child turns 5 between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021 then you need to apply, even if your child already attends our nursery. By visiting www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions you can access a useful guide, which will help with your application. Paper application forms are available for your request. The telephone number for school admissions is 03000265896. The application window is open from now until 15th January 2020.

Universal Free School Meals

Under current legislation, all pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to universal free School Meals. If you have any queries about this, please contact the School Office.

ParentPay

Unfortunately, there are still some problems with Parent Pay, which the company are aiming to resolve as soon as possible. Most of the data and payments should be up to date as of last week but if you have any queries please contact the school office.

MacMillan Coffee Afternoon

We will be supporting MacMillan again this year and invite you to come to school for refreshments on Friday 27th September from 1.30pm. Each class will be busy baking cakes and treats next week and there should be ample for everyone so we do not require any donations of cakes this year. We hope you will be able to join us and help us support this charity.

Harvest

Thank you to the families who have contributed to the Harvest appeal. We have contributed to St. Mary's 1000 cans initiative to provide support for the Local FoodBank at The Well in West Auckland as well as ensuring that the local CAB has funding for food parcels for those in need. We know from both of these organisations that food poverty is an issue for an increasing number of families. I will let you know if our efforts help reach the target in due course.

Meet Project

If you have any photographs of the Meet, recent or from further back in time, we would love to see them! Any digital photographs that you are happy to share could be sent to montalbo@durhamlearning.net with any details you recall. If you have printed copies that you would be happy for us to scan please bring them or send them in and we will return them promptly. We are planning to make a book capturing the Meet's history and add as many photographs from the community as possible. Thank you.

Year 3 visit to the Tees

I caught up with the Year 3 children on their return from the river. They were very keen to share their knowledge of what they had seen and done with help from Northumbrian Water. These experiences bring the curriculum to life and we are keen to maximise opportunities to do this, especially when we are so lucky to have wonderful natural and manmade resources in our locality. Dr Greenwell shared with me an experiment involving biodegrading and things that end up in the sewers– one bottle filled with water and toilet paper; one with water and wet wipes. The difference in a matter of minutes was staggering.

Nursery Visit to the Witham

Next week Nursery will be visiting The Witham to enjoy a musical experience. I am pleased that our youngest children are able to attend and will let you know how they got on next week.

Year 1 visit to Barnard Castle

Miss Scott's class have certainly been enjoying their Castle's Topic and will visit our castle on Thursday.

Meet the Teacher

Our start of term Meet the Teacher session was well-attended and I hope that you found it useful. We pride ourselves in our strong relationships with parents/carers and we will always listen and support you and your children as best we can.

I have been so impressed with how the children have settled. It is not easy starting school or moving to a new one and the children can be proud of themselves. I hope that this was reflected in your chat and you feel more informed!

Flu Vaccine Information

The flu vaccination team have sent some information regarding the programme that will be run over the autumn term. Please follow this link for more information. Please note the vaccination is for any child in Reception to Year 6 inclusive this year. www.hdft.nhs.uk/electronic-consent School Name: Montalbo Code No: 114115

Secondary School Applications

The application period for Secondary places has opened for children in Year 6 and will remain open until Thursday 31st October 2019. Online application forms can be found at www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions. Alternatively, paper copies can be requested by e-mailing schooladmissions@durham.gov.uk or telephoning 03000265896.

Attendance for w.b. 16.09.19

Class	Present
Reception	96.2%
Year 1	98.4%
Year 2	100%
Year 3	88.6%
Year 4	98.6%
Year 5	96.5%
Year 6	95.6%

School overall attendance is 96.3%

Dates for the diary

September 25 th	Nursery Visit to the Witham
September 26 th	Year 1 Visit to the castle
September 27 th	MacMillan Coffee Afternoon
September 30 th	Year 6 Bikeability
September 30 th	Y3 visit to the Bowes Museum
October 1 st	Year 6 Bikeability
October 4 th	Year 2 visit to the Bowes Museum
October 9 th	Individual and siblings photographs
October 11 th	Year 6 Class Assembly

Mr Minikin
Head Teacher

Please ensure that your child arrives at school no later than 8.55a.m. in order to make a prompt start for lessons.

37 minutes of learning was lost to lateness this week.