



September 6th 2019 Issue 1

Welcome Back!

I hope that you have all had a very enjoyable break! It is lovely to see the children again and in assembly I discussed many of the feelings we have as we start something new. The children's responses were confident and articulate and they have continued with the high standards of respect towards each other and our staff. Our children reminded me once again of our 3 key values which help us learn, develop and become well-rounded. If we all as a school community (children, staff, governors and families) collaborate, endeavour and feel inspired then we will continue to progress as a school.

The new Reception class have settled superbly into school life as have our new starters transferring from other schools.

We are pleased to welcome two new members of staff to our team. Miss Moody and Miss Rudge are Teaching Assistant Apprentices who will be supporting teaching and learning in Nursery and Year 1.

Improvements

Over the holiday, we had some further work done in school that you may have noticed. Firstly, Nursery has had some new windows and doors installed, matching the rest of the newer part of the school but also aiding security and energy efficiency. Mrs Patterson is over the moon!

We did have quite a substantial flood in the first week of the holidays and I thank Mrs Minikin and Mrs Minikin Snr. for helping me clear that! As a result, part of the hall floor has been relaid and some further work has been done on the roof to stop this reoccurring.

The ICT suite has had new data points and electrical work done to allow us run 30 machines from there and this will be a well-used space. The PCs and laptops in there will complement the iPads that Friends of Montalbo School bought us.

School Games Gold Award

I received the excellent news over the holidays that we have achieved the School Games Gold Award. This is a superb award which recognises our commitment to sport and fitness. I am sure parents/carers recognise how many festivals and competitions we attend and the good range of sporting provision offered after school. Like all awards, evidencing them are time consuming and I thank Miss Richardson for all she does to lead sports so effectively.

We will look to build on this further this year and now the field is in good order will start daily Monty Miles again.

Parent Governor Vacancy

We have a vacancy on our Governing Body for a Parent Governor. If you are interested in becoming a governor, please contact me in person or via montalbo@durhamlearning.net. If you would like to know more about the role of a governor please email our Chair of Governors, Mrs O'Doherty at s.odoherty400@durhamlearning.net for more information. Please could you let us know if you are interested by 13th September. Thank you.

Plastic Free School

Dr Greenwell and Eco Club will be driving this initiative as we try to reduce single use plastics. There will be more updates on this throughout the year,

Paperwork

This week we sent home lots of forms for you to sign! Please could these be returned to school as soon as possible so that we can update our records? These include the photographic consent and it is important that we get Nursery and Reception permissions back for next week please. Parent Pay activation letters will be sent home next week for new pupils.

Nursery and Reception Photographs

On Thursday 12th September, the Teesdale Mercury would like to photograph our new Nursery and Reception classes for their annual pull-out which will appear in the newspaper in the near future.

Music tuition

Mrs Unwin will be taking the children who have been learning the flute/clarinet again from 13th September so please can those children ensure that they have their instruments in school. The Year 4 children will be learning the recorder with her each week. We have a class set of recorders so they need not bring one in.

Swimming

On Thursday 12th September, swimming lessons will begin for children in Year 4. Children who have been requested to have additional sessions in Year 5/6 may need to attend to build their confidence and skills and Miss Richardson will let those children know.

Clubs

The after school clubs begin on Monday and again there are a good range of sporting and non-sporting clubs. We always try to add a couple of new ones and this time have Spanish and 'This and That' (this is a mixture of traditional outdoor games and various problem solving/team building activities).

Meet the Teacher

On 17th September from 3.30pm-5.30pm, there is the opportunity for parents/carers to meet and chat to their child's new teacher. No appointment is needed with our first Parents' Evening being later this term.

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

Attendance for w.b. 4.9.19

Class	Present
Reception	96.6%
Year 1	98.2%
Year 2	95.2%
Year 3	95.2%
Year 4	100%
Year 5	100%
Year 6	98.8%

School overall attendance is 97.8%

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

15 minutes of learning was lost to lateness this week.

Dates for the diary

September 12th	Teesdale Mercury Nursery and Reception Photographs
September 17th	Meet the teacher (informal meeting with new class teacher)
September 27 th	MacMillan Coffee Afternoon
September 30 th	Year 6 Bikeability
October 1 st	Year 6 Bikeability
October 9 th	Individual and siblings photographs
October 11 th	Year 6 Class Assembly

Mr Minikin
Head Teacher