



International School Award  
2011-2014



## Autumn Term 2012 Newsletter no 1

Welcome to Montalbo for parents and pupils new to our school. We hope that your child has enjoyed their first few days with us. Everyone seems so happy in their classes. Remember we are here to help so if you have any worries or concerns no matter how small please share them with your child's teacher or speak to me.

Welcome back to everyone else too. There are a number of changes to school routines which are recapped below.

All pupils look so smart –so thank you for ensuring they always come in an appropriate uniform and wear sensible shoes. It is a good idea to have a pair of inside and outside shoes to keep floors clean or wellies so we can use the grass or go in the school garden when it becomes muddy.



**BLOSSOM & GROW AT MONTALBO**  
*Is our motto*

### **HOMEWORK**

**MAKE A FLOWER for a DISPLAY**

*Make it bright and bold about A4 size*

*It can be painted or collaged*

**MAKE IT SPECIAL**

I received some good examples of holiday homework from LOUIS & MIA, CLARICE, EBONY, CARA and AMELIA  
All have received prizes.

**PLEASE REMEMBER THAT DOGS ARE NOT TO BE BROUGHT INTO SCHOOL GROUNDS**

### School routine: (it is important to arrive at school before 9am.

Children are supervised from 8:50am so can be left if you so wish.

Breakfast care is available from 7:45am. Whistle blows at 9am

Immediately after registration we will have a 15 minute phonic activity where children will be grouped according to ability rather than age and taught in one of 7 groups.

- Literacy & Numeracy lessons occur during the 2 morning slots with a 15 minute supervised break.
- Guided reading & group time occurs in Key Stage 1, (Mrs Donaldson's class) 10:45 to 11:15am
- Lunch is 12pm to 1pm Some children will receive 10 minutes support on LEXIA or for additional reading over the lunch break.
- 1pm to 1:30pm guided reading, Lexia, handwriting and computer maths & teacher talk time ( tutor groups) in Key Stage 2 ( Mr Howell & Mrs Pannett's classes)
- 1:30pm to 3pm other subjects are taught
- 3pm School Assembly & Collective Worship
- 3:25pm Pupils Dismissed.
- 3:30 to 4:30 Activity Clubs take place
- 3:30 to 5:30 After school care is available

**ASK AT THE OFFICE TO BOOK CARE OR CLUBS**

For PE leave kits at school so that should your child need the kit on a different day to their timetabled slot they are prepared. Tracksuits /jogging bottoms and a fleece or sweatshirt could also be useful as the weather becomes colder.

Swimming starts on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> for Year 3 and 4. The children will leave school at lunchtime to take up their 1pm to 2pm slot.

Music starts on Tuesday –Recorders for Y4s –remember to bring your instrument.

Flute & woodwind tuition starts for Y5 & 6

Guitar tuition at lunch times-2 groups beginners & intermediate

School music for Nursery through to Y6 takes place every Friday afternoon.

- Homework is set for all classes by your child's teacher. Written instructions are included for younger children whilst in Y5/6 children are responsible for noting down homework and deadlines themselves.

Friends of Montalbo School

In September why not volunteer your services to help the FOMs mums. They have regular friendly & informal meetings and the more people who volunteer to help the less burdensome the workload is. Remember FOMs are not just about fundraising but want to help the children have an enjoyable time at school. The discos they organise are always well received. Their fundraising however provides the little extras which can make a big difference.

## DINNER MONEY

School meals are £1-50 per day (£7-50 per week)

(NB: They are subsidized so are cheaper than Nursery meals which are £1-95)

**Please send dinner money in EVERY Monday** ( or pay in advance for the half/full term) **in a named envelope.**

You can pay by cash or cheque. Please make cheques payable to DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL and write your name and address on the back.

**You may be entitled to FREE SCHOOL MEALS if you receive income support or child tax credits and your combined household income is below £16190.** If you are not sure call at the office and sign a permission form for Durham Authority to check. It is beneficial to you and also to school for pupils who are entitled to a free meal to claim it. School receives an amount of money known as pupil premium from the government for pupils who have been able to access free school meals in the last few years. We can use this extra money to help make sure that your child is making age appropriate progress. **SO IF YOU THINK YOU MAY BE ENTITLED CLAIM!!** There is nothing to lose & perhaps a lot to gain as the saying goes. Children are unaware of whether or not they are on Free School meals. At lunchtime all year groups are mixed so older pupils can help younger pupils. Reception children sit with 1 other class member for emotional support . However the pupils sit at tables of mixed age and gender. We have tried friendship groupings in the past but the resulting noise has led us to the current system.

**CHANGING FROM SCHOOL LUNCH TO PACKED LUNCH WE NEED 2 weeks notice.**

## PUPIL PREMIUM

Last year our pupil premium earned was used to employ Mrs Honess one day per week to work with pupils across school providing additional reading or maths support and to purchase new reading resources which will benefit everyone. It is our intention to do the same this year. We will target children who are making less than expected progress or who need additional input to reach targets set. Mrs Honess will then teach specifically to their needs.

We continue to use intervention programmes for groups identified as not making sufficient progress or struggling with a particular aspect of their work. These programmes are delivered by all classroom based staff.

## ASSESSMENT

Reading ages are tested at the start of the year in order that correct reading tasks are set. We measure progress across the year based on this test and offer additional opportunities to improve for children who are reading below their chronological age. More able readers are also challenged throughout the year receiving the opportunity to read content appropriate but more challenging reads to ensure they make good progress. Remember breadth of reading material is important and is much more than reading the next level. Making sure understanding is part of the reading process is also very important.

Maths assessments determine which group your child works with. The weekly keeping up basic skills tests determine which group they go to on a Friday for support and level specific teaching. The pupils work is carefully monitored so that we know the next steps for the child are set and achievable.

From Monday each class will work towards a Friday treat. This will be chosen by the class at the start of the week with all pupils working towards it through good behaviour, homework completion and attitude to work. Should a child misbehave on 3 occasions through the week or not complete work /homework tasks that person will miss the treat. We feel that we want all our children to behave well and should reward the vast majority who do this. This has been discussed with all the pupils who think it is a great idea. For pupils who are working on behaviour improvement they will enjoy the treat too but will see that there is a consequence to negative behaviour.

Bring in the coins you have collected FOR METRES of MONEY event in Autumn Term. Forgotten? It's not too late put small change into a jar and bring it in. Prizes for year group with most money. Collect your coins then in late September we will lie the coins edge to edge per class to see who has the longest line or lines of coins.