



November 3rd 2017 Issue 8

Exciting Plans!

Today plans have been submitted to Durham County Council for an extension to the school. The leadership team and school governors have been working closely with the Local Authority to seek ways to enable us to provide the 30 hour free childcare for eligible 3 and 4 year olds, for which there is considerable demand. To date, we have only been able to offer 16 hours of childcare for eligible parents/carers. Part of the plans, therefore, will include a new building linking the Base to the main school building to meet this demand.

Additionally, extra classrooms and an extended school hall will offer us more space and flexibility as the extra children feed through school. This will allow us to have more whole school events in the hall, which I know are popular with children, staff, governors and parents/carers alike. Furthermore, accessibility around the school building and grounds will be greatly improved for children and adults with a disability such as accessible toilets being fitted, lowered kerbs and a discrete changing area provided for children.

The changes planned are really impressive and will create some outstanding facilities for our children. If the plans are agreed, I will update you in future newsletters with more details including the phasing of the work.

Halloween Disco

There were some very creative and VERY scary costumes at this week's Halloween Discos! It was lovely to see so many of our children having a great time. Thank you so much to the Friends of Montalbo School for organising this and running the event and the staff who were able to stay back and assist.

Police and Fire Service Assembly

As mentioned last half term, Miss Lauder will be taking an e-safety assembly each half term to stress the importance of e-safety and give advice to children on how to keep themselves safe online and when using mobile technology. In assemblies, we also cover other safety issues and this week a PCSO and Fire Officer visited school to talk to children about keeping safe in the run up to Bonfire Night. Each year the Y5/6 attend the Safety Carousel where they learn other important life skills and this is taking place on November 14th.

Poppies for sale

We are supporting the British Legion with their annual Poppy Appeal. Children or parents can call in to the School Office to buy one or some of the other items such as poppy wristbands. Thank you.

Remembrance Service

Last year we took part in the Remembrance Parade in town which started at St Mary's Church and culminated with the laying of a wreath by The Bowes Museum War Memorial. We have been invited to participate in this again. Any children who would like to attend need to be accompanied by an adult. The service is quite long and busy so we will not go in church but will meet in the church car park at 11.20am where the parade starts. It would be lovely to see some of you join us.

Parents' Evenings November 13th and 14th

Appointments can be made for Parents' Evening by contacting the School Office. This is a good opportunity to see how your child is progressing and to look at their work. We hope to see as many of you there as possible.

Christmas Plans

This year Nursery and Reception will perform their Nativity to their parents/carers on Thursday 7th December at 2pm in the school hall.

Miss Lauder's and Miss Blackburn's classes will perform a Christmas themed play to their parents on 13th December and 14th at 6pm. Miss Richardson's class will set up their Christmas market stalls after these two plays.

We have arranged with Reverend Harding to have our whole school Carol Service in St Mary's Church on December 15th at 1.45pm (in Christmas jumpers!) and all parents/carers and relatives are invited to this.

Dr Greenwell's and Miss Richardson's classes will lead on the Summer performance. Next year, if plans are agreed, we will be able to have more whole school plays in the hall utilising the extra space. FOMs have kindly paid for and organised a Christmas pantomime (Aladdin) to visit the school on Wednesday 13th December. Christmas parties will take place in the last week of term and details of these will follow.

FISCH club

FISCH club is still on next week. Mr Foster has been working with Lenny for the past few weeks and will run the club in her absence. Sorry for the mixed messages about this!

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. 30.10.17

Class	Present
Mrs Bartoli's Reception	97.5%
Miss Lauder's Class	92%
Miss Blackburn's Class	96.7%
Dr Greenwell's Class	97.6%
Miss Richardson's Class	99.4%
School Total	96.5%

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. 35 minutes of learning was lost to lateness this week.

Dates for the diary

November 10 th	World Science Day
November 13 th /14 th	Parents' Evenings
November 13 th – 17 th	Book Fair after school each evening
November 14 th	Y5/6 to Safety Carousel
November 15 th	Y3-Y6 to Teesdale Leisure Centre (PE kits needed)
November 17 th	Children in Need events
November 22 nd	Y1-Y2 to Teesdale Leisure Centre (PE kits needed)
November 27 th	Y3-Y6 Centre for Life trip 8.30am departure
December 6 th – 10 th	Christmas Tree Festival at St Marys
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 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
December 19 th	Recorders concert (Y4) and Clarinets at Teesdale School 5pm
December 21 st	End of Autumn term
December 22 nd	Teacher Training Day

Mr Minikin

Head Teacher