



January 18th 2019 Issue 17

Clubs

The after school clubs have proved popular again and many of the clubs with restricted numbers are full and have a waiting list. We have made a decision that if a child has been given a place on one of these clubs and does not attend for two weeks then the place will be allocated to a child on the waiting list.

Extension update

The extension has had a lot of different trades working on it this week! Roofers, electricians, plumbers, painters, floor layers and decorators have all been in and the space is really starting to take shape. The offices are painted and the carpet is being laid this week. We are beginning the gradual process of moving furniture again so it is not too big a job all at once! Once a path has been laid to the new entrance, we can start using the new offices. Next week the scaffolding will come down and we will have a chance to see how the whole scheme has knitted together. We hope to be moved in and ready to start in all of the new rooms after February half term.

Year 5 Class Assembly

Our next Class Assembly will be presented by Mrs Leonard's class on Friday January 25th at 9am. Parents/carers of this class are welcome to attend and I look forward to seeing you then.

FOMS Meeting

Friends of Montalbo School are meeting on Tuesday 22nd January at 5pm in school. One of the things we will be discussing and arranging is the Valentine's Disco. If you would like to join us we would love a few more members!

Cleaner Wanted

Due to the extension works at the front of school, we require additional 10 cleaning hours (2 hours per day). If you would be interested in this post, details can be found on the school website homepage <http://www.montalbo.durham.sch.uk/> or by contacting the school office.

DigVenturers Miracles to Medicine Workshop

Year 1 and Year 4 had an interesting afternoon at St Mary's church with some archaeologists looking at old bones and trying to work out what illnesses they had.

Barnard Castle History

Last week I wrote about Year 2 studying the Bowes Museum and visiting there. This week the Year 6 visited the Market Cross which they are studying as part of their crime and punishment topic, it having served as a courthouse and jail. They were lucky enough to go inside and up the stairs into the room that was used for different purposes over the years which was great treat! Thank you to Mr Blissett for arranging this and showing us around.

Trees

You will have noticed that several of our trees have been cut down, particularly near to the front of school. This decision was taken in consultation with the local authority as many of the trees were becoming too big, dangerous, were causing damage to paths and the possibly the building in the future. There are still a couple of large trees that are lifting the path near nursery that belong to our neighbours and we hope to have those taken down, allowing us to re-lay the paths. It is a shame for an environmental point of view but I have to think about the health and safety of all of us and the future of the building. Many of the logs will be used to edge areas such as around the tyres so that the bark does not get washed away and others will be used as play features. When all of the work is finished, we will plant a number of trees that even in 25 years will be a manageable size with smaller roots.

Space Camp

It was nice that so many parents of Y3/4 children were able to attend the space camp meeting this week. It promises to be a fantastic couple of days. The resources that Dr Greenwell has accessed for us are tremendous and I thank her for her time in organising this.

Bowes Museum

On Monday next week Miss Blackburn's class will visit the museum again but this time with a focus on the grounds and features within.

Flu Catch Up Sessions

If you have a child in any of the classes from Reception to Year 5 inclusive and they missed the flu immunisation then there are a couple of catch up sessions fairly locally that you might like to attend. They are both on 19th January: one is at the Dolphin Centre in Darlington from 9am-12noon; the other is at Spennymoor Leisure Centre from 1.30pm-4pm. To book an appointment please call 03000 030013.

Free School Meals Entitlement

Our school receives funding from the Government to cover the costs of providing education. This can include all school running costs, such as employing teachers and support staff, books and equipment, computers, expenses on our school building and free school meals. The school receives additional funding (known as the pupil premium) for pupils whose families receive certain benefits.

It is in **all** our interests that we bring in as much money as we can to support our school and ensure all of our children get the best possible education. To help your child and your school, we can do a very quick eligibility check for this additional funding via Durham County Council. For the whole of the time your child is in our school this is the only information we will need to check (unless your surname changes).

If you believe you may qualify for certain benefits please call at the school office to complete the appropriate forms

OurSchoolsApp

Remember that updates are often given on OurSchoolsApp. This app can be downloaded to any smartphone or tablet. Once downloaded, search for our school and press OK. Notifications will then be sent to your device.

Attendance for w.b.

Class	Present
Reception	97.4%
Year 1	97.4%
Year 2	94.7%
Year 3	99.3%
Year 4	98.5%
Year 5	96.7%
Year 6	97.6%

School overall attendance 97.5%

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

45minutes of learning was lost to lateness this week.

Dates for the diary

January 25th	Year 5 Class Assembly
January 31st/1 st February	Space Camp
February 13th	Year 6 Netball festival
February 14th	Year 2 Multiskills Festival
February 15th	Band Workshop
February 18 th – 22 nd	Half term
February 25 th	2 nd Half Term Begins
February 28 th	All Star Cricket Y1-3 (every Thursday for 6 weeks)
March 15 th	Miss Scott's Class Assembly
March 26 th and 27 th	Parents' Evenings

Mr Minikin

Head Teacher