



September 4th 2020

A Great Start

It has been such a pleasure to welcome all of our children back to school and it has been lovely to meet our new starters and their families. I hope that your children have been returning from school happy and have been able to describe some of their learning and experiences. The children have acclimatised very well to the new ways of working well and on the whole the plan that we have set is working, thanks to the children and staff sticking closely to timings! Thank you to parents/carers who are bringing and collecting their child/children at the correct times and leaving promptly. Please remember to stick to the one-way system and to leave the site promptly in a socially distanced way to allow more than 400 people to come and go as safely as possible. Thank you.

Please see below a reminder of key times.

Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 start at **8.30am** and leave at **3pm**

Years 1 and 2 start at **8.45am** and leave at **3.15pm**

Nursery and Reception start at **9am** and leave at **3.30pm**

Where there is more than one child attending our school, you can bring all of your children at the earliest time and collect them at the latest if it makes it easier for you or you could stick to the times above if you would prefer. Breakfast Club and After School Care is available from 7.45am-4.30pm and you should have received a booking form this week.

Please contact the School Office on 01833637718 or montalbo@durhamlearning.net if you are unclear about any of the arrangements. Thank you.

The School Environment

As I mentioned on my message on OurSchoolsApp, the school has never looked better. Huge credit must go to our staff for the way they have worked within the guidance to create stimulating and purposeful classrooms and outdoor environments. It would not be Montalbo without a classroom move or two, and during the holidays we moved the library and sensory room, Year 1 and Year 2 as well as putting the school back to normal after the partial reopening in June! Well done Team Monty!

OurSchoolsApp

OurSchoolsApp is a useful tool in which we can send messages to parents with useful information, messages and reminders. It can be used on any tablet or phone and by searching for OursSchoolsApp on the relevant marketplace for your device you can download it for free. You can then search for our school by name or postcode (DL128TN) and then confirm by pressing OK, this will enable you to receive newsletters etc electronically and be alerted of any new information.

Year 4 Swimming

Unfortunately, for the Autumn term, the Local Authority has stated that no school swimming sessions will take place. There are various requirements that they will need to adequately plan for and they are hoping to be able to restart the swimming programme in the Spring Term.

PE Days

Please find below information on when each class will take part in PE. We are advising children to come to school in their PE kits on these days until further notice unless stated.

Year 1 - Tuesday

Year 2 - Monday and Tuesday

Year 3 - Thursday and Friday

Year 4 – Monday and Thursday

Year 5 – Wednesday and Thursday

Year 6 – Tuesday and Friday

Nursery do not need a PE kit as they will be utilising their outside space and Reception will need to leave theirs in school to help promote independence in getting changed.

Forms to return

Thank you to the many parents who returned the forms sent out this week so promptly. We would be grateful if all forms could be returned by the end of next week.

Reception Starters 2021

Parents of Nursery children should have received information sent home this week from the Local Authority regarding the application process for school places. If you have not received this or would like to find out more information please contact the school office or Durham School Admissions on 0300 026 5896.

Secondary School Places

Parents of children in Year 6 should receive information next week about the application process for Secondary Schools.

Assemblies

As part of our changes, assemblies are streamed into classrooms. Friday's Celebration Assembly is a lovely occasion and we are able to reward children for reading at home, showing great manners or friendship through 'You've been spotted' or for examples of Collaboration, Endeavour or Inspiration. The more your child reads at home or listens to stories, the greater the chances are that they will progress well and we try to reward this in school with a reading raffle each week. Each time you sign your child's reading record to confirm you have listened or read with them, the better their chances are of winning the raffle!

Attendance

I am usually very pleased with our high attendance each year and will share this again next week. I am sure that you will all recognise the benefits of having a good attendance record, especially after the recent period which we have been through.

Mr C Minikin
Headteacher