



December 11th 2020

Christmas

On the last Friday of term, Friday 18th December, we will have Christmas parties for the children within their bubbles with the exception of Nursery who will have theirs on the morning of Thursday 17th December. Parents of children who do not usually attend Nursery on a Thursday can arrange to attend by contacting Mrs Patterson. We will provide refreshments. Children should come in 'suitable for school' party clothes e.g. no high heels.

This week we enjoyed a virtual Christingle service with Reverend Harding who was suitably dressed as an orange world! Thank you to him, Reverend Sarah and Mrs Butters for their help with this.

Mrs Slater and Mrs Dobinson in our school kitchen cooked and served 175 Christmas Dinners on Thursday which is quite an undertaking! Thank you to everyone who helped out too, as ferrying the food to bubbles was another hurdle to overcome!

This week saw the final 'takes' of the videos that the staff are putting together to share with you. I have had a sneak preview of some of them and they are great. Miss Richardson has been editing them this week and we will share with you ways of accessing the videos next week.

The children and staff embraced Christmas Jumper Day in true Monty-style! Pictures can be found [here](#).

FOMS Christmas raffle

FOMS have organised a Christmas raffle which is online this year. Thank you to Joanna for setting this up. Please visit and support the school clicking [here](#). Entries close on Wednesday at 10pm so there is still time to purchase tickets!

The next FOMS meeting will be at 5.15pm on January 12th via Zoom and all are welcome. If you would like to be part of the group helping our children then please get in touch with Julia by emailing Friendsofmontalbo@gmail.com FOMS also arrange a School Lottery which some parents have joined. You can win weekly prizes and more information can be found at www.YourSchoolLottery.co.uk Once on the site search for Montalbo.

Free School Meal E-Vouchers for the Christmas Holidays

Parents/carers of children entitled to Free School Meals (not infant universal free school meals) should have received e-vouchers this week. If not, please can you contact the School Office and confirm the email address you would like them sending to. Thank you.

DfE suggestion

Parents/carers may have heard on the news a proposal that was shared with schools on Tuesday evening regarding moving Teacher Training Days to allow schools to close a day earlier for Christmas. We are **NOT** planning to do this for several reasons: it is not enough notice for parents/carers; we have plans and external professionals arranged for our existing Teacher Training Days and we know that the children will really enjoy their last day.

Wellbeing Survey

Thank you to the parents who have completed the wellbeing survey sent by Mrs Bartoli last week. We appreciate that you may not know too much about the wellbeing work we do in school at the moment apart from me mentioning it on the newsletter/app but hopefully this will change over the coming weeks and months. I hope you are aware of the additional curriculum time devoted to PHSE and outdoor learning, which we know the children have been enjoying and learning a lot.

To give you an idea of some of the other work we are starting to introduce, we are talking to the children about wellbeing much more. Mrs Bartoli takes our virtual assembly on a Monday and has introduced ways to help the children feel positive about themselves, discussing ways to improve mental health and wellbeing. If you feel you would like some support, please contact Mrs Bartoli or me.

Exciting Curriculum

We continue to refine and improve our curriculum each year and we are reaching the culmination of this half term's work. The skills and standards of children's work in a range of subjects is clear to see and just this week I have seen the children tie dying, making peppermint creams, making popcorn on the firepit, acting, dancing, creating fantastic recycled art work and much more. During my monitoring this half term I have been delighted with the children's Maths work and that our approach is making children better mathematicians. Well done Team Monty!

COVID-19 reminders

If you or anyone in your family are displaying COVID-19 symptoms then the following link is useful in order for you to be able to book a test: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> . Alternatively, you can also call 119. Under these circumstances, please keep us informed. It is also important that if anyone in your household, child or adult, displays symptoms or has a test all within the household self isolates. This means that all siblings who live with a child or adult who is displaying symptoms should not attend school until the end of the self-isolation period or after the affected person has had a negative test. Please check by calling the school office if you are unsure. Thank you.

Reception Class Places 2021

Please remember that even if your child attends our nursery, you must still apply for a school place for their Reception year. Further information on how to apply for a Reception place is available on the D.C.C website or via the following link: www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Attendance for w.b. 7.12.20

Reception	99.3%	Class 3	97.9%
Class 1	***100%***	Class 4	***100%***
Class 2	97.8%	Class 5	97.6%
		Class 6	89.2%
School overall attendance is: 97.3%			

Dates for the Diary

December 17 th	Nursery Christmas Party
December 18 th	Last Day of Term/Christmas Parties Rec-Y6
December 21 st -Jan 1 st	Christmas Holidays
January 4 th	Teacher Training Day
January 5 th	Children return to school

Mr C Minikin, Head Teacher