



February 26th 2021

Welcome back

I hope that you and your families remain safe, well and managed some have some nice time together over half term. The weather has improved and long may it continue.

We are delighted that all children will return from March 8th. The Schools Coronavirus Operational Guidance issued this week is very similar to the Autumn term guidance for primary schools, so things in school will run pretty much the same as it did then. The overarching message within the guidance in terms of logistics is that children should remain in their class bubbles in consistent groups. Primary school children will not be tested for COVID 19 however staff will, as we have for several weeks.

Whilst the return of all children is to be welcomed, we must continue with the strict system of controls we had in the Autumn term to reduce risk as far as possible. I have outlined the reopening plan on a separate letter which can be found [here](#).

Acts of Kindness

I have been pleased to receive many Acts of Kindness over half term and have highlighted the new entries to our list on the final page of the newsletter. It is so nice to read of our children thinking of others, and I thank you for sharing them with me. We still have a way to go to reach the target of 100 so please keep sending in the emails to montalbo@durhamlearning.net Thank you.

New PCs

New computers were successfully installed over the half term and I have not seen the class teachers as happy for quite some time! They are much quicker, more powerful machines which increase the pace and options for classroom teaching, as well as remote learning should we need that in the future.

Weduc

When all children return, you will receive some information about a new app we will be using and would like you to use too. It is used by quite a few schools in Durham and looks to have many benefits in terms of communication between school and home and vice versa. It will cut down substantially on paperwork and allow you to check and update forms such as contact details much more easily. It contains a newsfeed, calendar, noticeboard, permission slips and much more. Within Weduc, the ParentPay app can be found so everything you need is in one place. More information will be given once the children return.

Lending Library

We are fortunate to have so many books in school! Each class has age and stage appropriate texts within the classroom and we have a huge selection in the library too. It has been a massive effort to level each fiction book within the level, add barcodes and the slips inside to enable children to use the space as a traditional library. We hope to be able to issue all children with a library card and use this facility in the near future. Thank you very much to all the staff and children who have helped with this, particularly Miss Richardson, Mrs Wood, Mr Hunt and Seren.

World Book Day 2021 Thursday 4th March

This year we will be organising World Book Day slightly differently. We felt that parents have done so much to support remote learning and thinking about the current situation, that having to make or buy costumes during this period was a step too far so we will not be dressing up. However, Miss Richardson has shared with staff some ideas to celebrate World Book Day that will take place on that day.

Reading at home

You can now read new and exciting books online by accessing the Oxford Owl e-books Library.

The link to the website is here: <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/>

You should log in using your child's class username below:

Username

Nursery, Reception and Year 1 - EYFSandYear1

Year 2 and Year 3 - Year2Year3

Year 4 - FantasticFours

Year 5 - LightningLearners

Year 6 - SuperSixes

The password for all pupils is: read@montalbo

Barnard Castle Library are also offering a Click and Collect Service. More information about this service can be found [here](#).

Year 3 Guided virtual online tour of the Palace of Westminster

This Wednesday Year 3 had an online talk with our presenter, Luke, who took us on a guided 360° virtual tour. We had a detailed look inside several rooms including the Commons Chamber, Lords Chamber and Central Lobby with its magnificent octagonal ceiling. Luke shared some of the fascinating history of the building, and talked about how each room is used today to support the work of UK Parliament. We also saw inside Westminster Hall, the oldest part of the building and scene to many historic occasions including the trials of Guy Fawkes and King Charles I. We were amazed at the grandeur of some of the rooms and were inspired to visit in person one day.

Co-op Local Community Fund

Many of you will have a membership/dividends card too that you can get for £1 from stores or online. If you register your card online, you can 'Choose a Local Cause'. School then receives a percentage of the money you spend (at no extra cost to you). You can see how much we have raised so far by visiting <https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/50538> or sign in to support our cause here. We have currently raised over £600 which will put towards a special project to benefit all of our children.

Reach for the Stars!

TCR Hub are delighted to be working in partnership with Gary Fildes, Lead Astronomer from Grassholme Observatory to offer families in Teesdale the chance to enjoy two Astronomy workshops from the comfort of your own homes. Tickets for the first session can be booked [here](#) and for the second [here](#).

Dates for the diary

March 1st – March 5th School closed to all but children of critical workers and vulnerable children

March 8th School open for all children

Mr C Minikin, Head Teacher

Don't forget to scroll down to see 100 Acts of Kindness from Montalbo



100 Acts of Kindness from Montalbo A tribute to Captain Sir Tom Moore



1. Amelia and Isla in Year 3 and Year 4 cleared snow for elderly neighbours.
2. Georgie in Year 4 baked cakes for his classmates and teachers.
3. Ethan in Nursery donated Easter Eggs to a foodbank for other children to enjoy.
4. Phoebe in Year 5 made her Mum and Dad scrambled eggs on toast and tidied her bedroom.
5. Katie-Marie in Year 5 cleared a snowy path for her neighbours.
6. Jack in Year 3 has been keeping the house tidy and tidying up his little brother's toys away.
7. Archie in Year 1 has written 11 letters to relatives to let them know how is getting on during lockdown.
8. Stella in Year 4 cleared the snow to create a clear path for her elderly neighbours.
9. Amelia in Year 3 used her pocket money to buy some little Easter treats for her cousins and made little baskets to put them in. She has cleared snow at several locations! Finally, she washed up the breakfast pots for mummy and dried them and put them away with Isla in Year 4.
10. Ruby in Year 1 has been helping to fold laundry and match socks!
11. Phoebe in Year 4 let her sister borrow a special hairband that she got for Christmas for Chinese New Year celebrations.
12. Grace in Year 4 has been a big help to Mum carrying shopping and helping to put it away. She is always helping her Grandma too.
- 13 Year 5 children who have created lovely cards to send to teachers, friends and family
- 14 Ethan in Nursery dropped off some fish and chips to his Great Grandma's house (her favourite treat!)
15. Chloe in Year 5 used her hard-earned pocket money and gave it to the person at the counter at Costa Coffee. She asked her to use it to buy a coffee for the next customer who came in!
16. Justin in Year 6 made his Mum's breakfast, helped with tea and helped take dumpy bags of hay through the snow to feed the horses.
17. Liam in Year 6 dropped a bag of shopping off at a Food Bank collection point.
18. Adam in Year 5 and Byron in Year 3 brought in buckets of coal for the fire to help their parents.
19. Byron in Year 3 helped to look after a friend's pony
20. Phoebe in Year 4 has written a letter and posted it to one of her elderly neighbours.
21. Ruby in Year 1 helped to move a load of old blocks into the front loader bucket of Grandad's tractor!
22. William in Year 3 made his Mum a cup of coffee when he knew she was going outside in the cold with their puppy.
23. Lucy in Nursery has been picking up litter from her neighbourhood, taking it home and putting it in the bin.
24. Isla in Year 1 has been super helpful: she has helped groom her dog, Max, regularly especially after the snow and wet weather. Isla made peanut flapjack to share with her Grandma and Granda. Isla has also helped her new classmate Rose, settle in to the area on a socially distanced walk.

25. Grace in Year 4 wrote a lovely letter to a Care Home who cared for her Great Grandmother, thanking them for looking after her.

26. Matthew in Year 4 won a competition and donated his £20 prize to The Hub's Care Package Scheme.

27. Maxwell in Year 3 and Rosalie in Year 1 have been looking after their Mum who had a recent injury.

28. In between lessons Thomas in Year 3 has been going outside feeding his goats, going to the fields on his bike and caking the tups. This week he has been very busy checking the lambing sheds for sheep lambing and feeding milk to the new lambs!

29. Joseph in Year 1 has been helping Mum look after his little sister. He has also been pairing socks up. He also gets the sticks and coal for the fire. Joseph has also been checking the sheds for sheep lambing with Thomas.