



March 5th 2021

March 8th

As I mentioned last week, we are really looking forward to welcoming back all children to school. Although I genuinely think we have responded well to my plea of ‘Let’s make the best of this’ and that we were far more connected than in previous lockdowns, we all know how important it is for children to be in school with the teaching staff and their friends. The timings are the same as the Autumn term: 8.30am-3pm for Key Stage 2; 8.45am-3.15pm for Key Stage 1 and 9.00am -3.30pm for Early Years. Further details are on the links below.

Please see a reminder [here](#) from the Local Authority with regard to social distancing at the gates around school.

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](#).

Travelling to school safely

The DfE released the following advising on safe travel to school:-

If you live a short distance from your school or college, walk, cycle or scooter to and from school wherever it is possible and safe to do so. Avoid sharing a car with anyone outside of your household or support bubble. If you are using public transport to get to school or college, plan ahead and allow more time for your journey. When you are travelling by public or dedicated school transport, don’t forget to:

- wear a face covering (unless you are exempt, including if you are aged 11 and under). It is important you wear them for the entirety of your journey
- social distance where possible
- wash or sanitise your hands regularly
- be considerate to fellow passengers and staff.

PE and Outdoor Learning Timetable

On PE days, children should come to school in their PE kits with a tracksuit/sportswear suitable for the weather – much of the PE will be outdoors when possible. The children are continuing to have outdoor learning lessons so should bring separate footwear for this – they may be on the field which can be boggy at this time so wellies/old boots etc.

Year group	PE	Outdoor Learning
Year 1	Thursday and Friday	Monday
Year 2	Monday and Tuesday	Tuesday
Year 3	Monday and Thursday	Friday
Year 4	Monday and Tuesday	Monday
Year 5	Thursday	Thursday
Year 6	Friday	Friday

Reception PE is on Wednesday but as in the Autumn term, we would like these children to get changed at school to aid their independence.

Other things to remember

Most children collected work books to complete their home learning in. Even though many of you photographed work from within them, it would be very useful for us to retain those this year so please send these books to school.

Please return any reading books that you have at home. These will be stored separately for 72 hours before they are reissued. Children will be able to choose new books on their return.

If you borrowed a laptop from school, please return it on Monday. Thank you.

World Book Day 2021 Thursday 4th March

On Thursday children in school and at home took part in special lessons to celebrate World Book Day including book related quizzes. Children across the school read the book 'The Lion Inside' by Rachel Bright and completed activities linked to the text. This beautifully illustrated book is about a determined little mouse who shows the courage to face his insecurities and was chosen because of the great wellbeing messages. Every child will be given a book token next week when they return to school.

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

Acts of Kindness

Thank you to the children and parents/carers who have sent in their child's Acts of Kindness to montalbo@durhamlearning.net. It is lovely to receive these. Let's see if we can get to 50 by Monday – the challenge has been set! Please see the end of the newsletter for the list (the highlighted ones are this week's good deeds)

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.

As a result, we will not be using OurSchoolsApp from 22.3.21 as messages we be sent out via Weduc. Your child will bring Weduc login information home on Monday. Weduc is a free app that can be used on phones, tablets or PCs.

British Science Week

During the first week back at school for all children, Dr Greenwell has arranged for guest speakers and virtual visits to celebrate British Science Week for Year 1 – Year 6 children.

Year 1 – Which came first, the chicken or the egg?

Year 2 - Are taking part in a virtual rock pooling event held in the West Country.

Year 3 - Are having an interactive Q and A session with a volcanologist

Year 4 - Are joining a lambing live interactive session

Year 5 - Are joining an engineer for a varied range of cool engineering inventions guaranteed to make you go WOW!

Year 6 - Are joining Laura Hepburn owner of Greenology who will explain why she swapped the dazzling lights of the red carpet to the world of recycling.

Dr Greenwell is also running a poster competition 'How does science help us?' so get creating!

St David's Day

On Monday Dr Greenwell arrived at school in a traditional Welsh outfit to mark St David's Day. She gave each class some daffodils. In the afternoon, she made Welsh Cakes in the afternoon with the class and I know several families did at home too. I tasted some and they were delicious! Thank you Dr Greenwell!

Dates for the diary

March 8 th	School open for all children
March 8 th - 12 th	British Science Week
March 19 th	Red Nose Day

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.
30. Ethan in Year 4 has been helping his Grandad wash the car and make tea for Grandma.
31. Callum in Year 3 has been helping to tidy the nursery at his home over half term to help Mum.
32. Phoebe in Year 5 completed a litter pick collecting two bags of rubbish from Montalbo Road, Woodside and the Cricket Club Lane.
33. Charlie D in Nursery has been very helpful over the weekend, helping his mum with household chores. Charlie helped with the washing, polishing, vacuuming, mopping and loading the dishwasher. He also did a brilliant job helping to tidy up the garden ready for spring!
34. Alfie L in Nursery picked up Mrs Patterson's things that she dropped by accident and swept up too!
35. Harvie in Year 6 picked up litter from the school grounds and put it in the bin.
36. Olivia P in Year 6 for bringing Miss Richardson some lovely cakes!
37. Daniel P in Year 2 for sending Mrs newton a lovely card.