



April 23rd 2021

Parents' Evening

This week saw us foray into the virtual world once more! Many schools chose not to report on the Spring term as it was so disrupted by Lockdown with most children being in school only three weeks, but we felt it was important to tell you how your child had settled back in and give you an update on recent work. We tried something different from the November phone calls and will learn more from this too. I am aware that some parents had problems with browsers not being updated/supported but I hope that you were able to speak with the Class Teacher by telephone instead. We realise that it is not quite the same as being in school but also recognise that some parents actually preferred this way.

I would like to thank the Class Teachers for their efforts. They continue to work above and beyond trying to support parents, for example, covering breakfast club in COVID times then working long hours each day, especially the last two nights. The Spring Term in particular was a real test and we look forward to times when we can have our usual breakfast club, chill out club and activity clubs with mixed ages.

COVID-19 Home Testing

Durham County Council are keen to reduce the spread of COVID 19 further by identifying asymptomatic cases. They have asked us to share the following:-

- Residents can book an rapid Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test online at www.bookwhen.com/dcc_testing or contact County Durham Together Community Hub on 03000 260 260 if you have no internet access.
- You can check the location of all County Durham LFD sites, opening times and get directions at <https://countydurham.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk>
- You can also collect LFD testing kits at a community collect sites and pharmacies across County Durham. Find your nearest collection point <https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk>
- Lastly you can order a home LFD test kit online to be delivered to your home at Gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests
- Please remember, anyone who takes a home test must always register their result at Gov.uk/report-covid19-result

Reception Places

Last week the Local Authority allocated Reception places for September 2021. You will be well aware that our school continues to grow and we look forward to welcoming 30 children into Reception in September.

The Big Ask

You may be aware of The Big Ask, launched by Rachel de Souza, the new Children's Commissioner. She is asking children to be part of the largest ever survey of young people in England and states 'We will use what you tell us, to show the Government what you need to live happier lives.' The Big Ask is now live at thebigask.uk

Earth Day

Yesterday was Earth Day and Dr Greenwell arranged some activities for the classes to mark the occasion. I was teaching in Year 3 yesterday and we enjoyed a very interesting and amusing virtual talk from a geologist, who took us back millions of years to dinosaurs and climbing fish! Thank you, Dr Greenwell.

As a school, we are very interested in the environment and many of our children feel passionately about protecting it. An article should appear in The Teesdale Mercury next week highlighting our work in this area, culminating in the Eco Schools Green Flag Award.

Money found

On the last day of the Spring Term some money was handed into the School Office. Please contact the School Office if you think that it could be yours.

Water bottles and healthy snacks

Please can parents/carers ensure that water bottles are filled with water rather than juice and children bring a healthy snack for breaks, should they choose to bring a snack.

Nut Free School

Please can parents ensure that children's packed lunches do not contain items like Nutella, as we have children with severe allergies. A reminder too, that we encourage healthy snacks for break time. Thank you

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 . **We are 5 short of our target of 100** – I wonder who will be our 100th Act? If you have not submitted an act yet or want to submit another, talk to your child about how they could help/be kind to you, family, neighbours or the community. Please see the end of the newsletter for the list (the highlighted ones are this week's good deeds)

Attendance for w.b. 19.04.21

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|-----------|-------|---------|-------|
| Reception | 97.9% | Class 3 | 93.8% |
| Class 1 | 94.7% | Class 4 | 100% |
| Class 2 | 100% | Class 5 | 96.3% |
| | | Class 6 | 98% |

School overall attendance is: 97.0%

Dates for the diary

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| May 3 rd | Bank Holiday |
| May 31 st – June 4 th | Half Term Holiday |
| June 7 th | Teacher Training Day |
| June 8 th | Children return to school |

Mr C Minikin, Head Teacher

Don't forget to scroll down to see 100 Acts of Kindness from Montalbo and send in any kind acts you have noted!



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. Isaac told his mam funny jokes and stories to cheer her up after long, stressful, hard days/weeks at work.

26. Grace in Year 4 wrote a lovely letter to a Care Home who cared for her Great Grandmother, thanking them for looking after her.
27. Matthew in Year 4 won a competition and donated his £20 prize to The Hub's Care Package Scheme.
28. Maxwell in Year 3 and Rosalie in Year 1 have been looking after their Mum who had a recent injury.
29. In between remote learning lessons, 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!
30. 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.
31. Ethan in Year 4 has been helping his Grandad wash the car and make tea for Grandma.
32. Callum in Year 3 has been helping to tidy the nursery at his home over half term to help Mum.
33. Phoebe in Year 5 completed a litter pick collecting two bags of rubbish from Montalbo Road, Woodside and the Cricket Club Lane.
34. 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!
35. Isaac in Year 4 helped choose items for the food Bank collection at his mam's work.
36. Alfie L in Nursery picked up Mrs Patterson's things that she dropped by accident and swept up too!
37. Harvie in Year 6 picked up litter from the school grounds and put it in the bin.
38. Olivia P in Year 6 for bringing Miss Richardson some lovely cakes!
39. Daniel P in Year 2 for sending Mrs Newton a lovely card.
40. Hollie in Year 6 has been helping to make the tea at home
41. Caoimhe in Reception has helped make breakfast for Mummy.
42. Georgia in Year 3 and Darcey in Reception have written letters to their Gran in Scotland who is shielding
43. Seren in Year 6 gave flowers to all of her neighbours to cheer them up with a random act of kindness!
44. Erin in Nursery brought in chocolates for all of her Nursery friends.
45. Abbie in Year 6 helped dig a trench and put gravel down in her garden.
46. Daniel J in Year 2 helped his Mum and Dad with gardening jobs over the weekend.
47. Billy in Year 4 helped his Uncle repair some furniture.
48. Isaac in Year 4 helped his nana and grandad with housework and gardening.
49. Harry in Year 1 has been very kind by helping to tidy up at home
50. Max in Year 5 has been helping to carry boxes and decide where to put things in the new house. He even decided to give away some of his toys and things, especially his favourite beanbag which he has given to his friend, Ben.
51. Miah in Year 5 has donated a full trolley of food to the local foodbank.
52. On the way home from school Abbie, Jake and Joey (Year 6) rescued an injured frog from the road and placed it on the bank side so it could recover.
53. Harry D in Year 5 has helped his Granny power wash all her paths and patio

54. Alfie in Year 1 and Alice in Nursery used money from their savings to buy food donations towards the TCR Hub food collection this week
55. Phoebe in Year 5 baked 13 cakes 2 weekends ago to help her God mother raise money for cancer research. Phoebe sold the cakes over social media and raised £180 towards the target. It was a very busy Saturday baking from 8 30am till 4pm! She is doing 10,000 steps each day in March!
56. Seren in Year 6 has been using her new crochet skills to crochet 6-inch squares to support the charity 'Blankets for the homeless'. Her squares are being sewn together with squares from others and turned into blankets which are distributed to charities working with the homeless in County Durham.
57. Amelia in Year 3 donated a play kitchen and toys to the Friarage Hospital. She received a lovely letter in return.
58. Ruby in Year 1 kindly gave her prize from in class to one of her friends because it was their birthday.
59. Phoebe in Year 4 made a beautiful card for her Granny for her birthday.
60. Isaac in Year 4 watched over and played with his baby cousin while his auntie was busy making tea
61. Alice H in Nursery kindly offered her friend a dice when they were playing a game so that they could join in and play.
62. Raphael C in Nursery has been really helpful tidying up the nursery garden.
63. Evie in Year 2 made a card for all the children in her class
64. Hollie H in Year 4 baked a cake for a friend of the family who has been in hospital
65. Frankie S in Year 6 made his dad a cup of tea on his birthday and has been helping out feeding Ellie the dog.
66. Jessica in Year 3 and Sophie in Reception bought a memorial plaque for their neighbour in memory of his dog Alfie to put in his garden
67. Eliza S in Nursery helped her Daddy when he was cleaning the car. She helped him and washed his sponge when he dropped it on the floor so the cars could be cleaned. Eliza did a great job!
68. Hannah and Molly from Year 2 picked up some litter from the school site.
69. Reception and Year 3 children sent Easter cards to residents of some care homes in town.
70. Charlie D in Nursery brought in chocolate bunnies for the children in Nursery.
71. Amelia in Year 3 and Isla in Year 4 have been very helpful at home this week. They have been helping dig up stones and put them in rubble bags. They've also been helping to dig a trench ready for pipe work.
72. Evie in Year 2 has baked some yummy Easter cakes for all of her classmates.
73. Eve in Year 2 has made Easter cards and brought in Easter bunnies for all of her class.
74. Isaac in Year 4 helped his Auntie and Uncle move and decorate their new home.

75. Stella helped her Mum after she was feeling unwell and by sitting her down and making her a cup of tea.

76. Isla has added to her acts of kindness over the Easter break. She has helped endlessly with household tasks and she has been loving, caring and selfless helping look after her little brother, playing with him in the garden and reading him books.

77. Seren in Year 6 has been looking after local wildlife and daily tops up her garden bird feeders, not having missed one day since Christmas. She also brought home a peacock butterfly that she found struggling out during the cold snap so that it could recover in the warm. It has been in recovery for a few days now, and she hopes to release it as soon as the days get warmer.

78. Grace in Year 2 has been super helpful helping Daddy tidy the house and baked cakes whilst her little sister was unwell. She has been so independent in getting ready for school which has helped a great deal.

79. Hannah in Year 2 has been picking up litter from around school and putting it the bin.

80. Georgia in Year 3 made a 'Welcome Card' for Miss Gilbert as she begins her training with us.

81. Ava in Year 4 has been tidying her room and dusting the house

82. Bella in Year 5 has been helping walking the dogs on the farm.

83. Rose in Year 1 helped around the house unstacking the dishwasher, making beds, tidying rooms and looking after her little sister.

84. Thomas in Year 3 brought Dr Greenwell some eggs from his chickens for her omelette!

85. Sarah and Olivia in Year 6 have been very helpful by sorting out school library books.

86. Daisy in Year 4 helped give some baby lambs some milk

87. Maddie in Year 6 has been walking the dog each morning which has been a great help to her injured Dad!

88. Grace in Year 4 put the sheep and hens away on the farm.

89. Emily and Evie in Year 3 washed the car with Dad.

90. Evie in Year 5 has been extra helpful around her home, doing lots of jobs for Miss Rudge!

91. Amelia in Year 4 helped Mum look after her baby brother when he was poorly.

92. Molly and Phoebe in Year 4 have been picking litter up in their neighbourhood.

93. Elise in Year 3 has been helping to clean her kitchen.

94. Teddy in Year 3 helped Dad cook fajitas.

95. Millie in Year 3 helped to tidy her room.

