



June 18th 2021

COVID-19

The recent rise in case numbers nationally and locally is naturally concerning to all of us and it is important to maintain the systems of controls that we have had to date. I am aware of class bubbles closing locally and it is crucial that we remain aware of the symptoms of COVID-19 and the procedures should anyone have symptoms.

Local Authority reminder

Have coronavirus symptoms and need a test?

'If anyone in your household has symptoms you need to book a PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) test as soon as possible. For more information and to book a PCR test visit www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or call NHS test and trace free on 119.

As coronavirus symptoms in children can vary it is advised that children who are unwell should not attend school until they are well again. Durham County Council offers support to people seeking further advice about coronavirus through the County Durham Together Community Hub, details of which can be found at www.durham.gov.uk/covid19help or by phoning 03000 260 260.'

Transition for Year 6 Pupils to Teesdale

Unfortunately, I have been contacted by staff at Teesdale School to say that due to the Prime Minister's announcement and the latest guidance, the transition events planned will not be going ahead. Instead, staff will be contacting children on a weekly basis via email, setting some work.

The uniform sizing event will not take place either. Instead, Teesdale School are hoping to have different sized uniforms sent to our school and parents can come and look at these to make a more informed choice before ordering. I will let you know when these arrive.

Events

The DfE released further guidance this week around Transitions and Leavers Day events and it makes traditional organisation of these events impossible. We believe, however, that the moving up day, July 16th, can go ahead largely as planned.

The Leavers' Day Assembly will be via TEAMS this year and has been brought forward a little to July 15th due to the activities planned for the Year 6 children and the unusual midweek last day of term. This event will be recorded so parents/carers of children in Year 6 will be able to watch it at their convenience.

Acts of Kindness

Mrs Patterson informed me of a very kind act from one of our parents, Mrs Peat, who purchased and planted up some bedding plants around the nursery paths – thank you Mrs Peat! There are plans to tidy up and improve the appearance of the front of school which will begin in July.

I also received a lovely email about Tommy (Y5) and George (Reception) who have been gardening and donating plants to school and relatives, helping carry shopping for their Nana, opening doors for others, helping with tea and giving the best cuddles! Well done boys!

Thank you, Team Monty!

It has been a difficult spell for all organisations over recent times and we have been stretched over recent weeks. The 'bubbles' arrangement is staff heavy and absences to staff and the supply staff covering have made things tricky. However, the children continue to impress us with their adaptability and I am grateful to all of our team, who constantly go above and beyond.

Friends of Montalbo School

I met with Friends of Montalbo School (FOMS) this week who are keen to continue their fundraising drive. The major project that they are planning to support is for the construction of a roundhouse, which will hopefully be sited among the trees near the playground. This will have a natural, living roof and be made of wood. It will be a flexible space that will enhance outdoor learning, playtimes and in normal times, be a good shelter for parents! It will be a space large enough to hold a whole class and would be a welcome addition to our site. I hope that you will support FOMS in their efforts to achieve the funds needed.

To this end, FOMS would like to hold a Summer Raffle and would be grateful of any prizes you may be willing to donate. They are planning to send home raffle tickets in sealed envelopes which should be returned to school. The draw will be made on Wednesday 14th July. FOMS are also hoping to create a new logo for their website and to help with funding applications and are encouraging children to design this. In normal times, FOMS are instrumental in running Bingo nights, discos and the wonderful Christmas Market. Perhaps your child could use these ideas to come up with a spectacular design. There will be a prize for the chosen design.

Music Day

A huge thank you to Dr Greenwell for arranging a host of musical opportunities for each class on Monday. It promises to be a really nice day with musicians and singing as we join other schools virtually to perform the Big Sing.

Safer Futures

During the recent restrictions County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service have been unable to deliver their safety event 'Safer Futures Lives' to Year 6 pupils. However, due to the importance of being able to educate young people in Fire Safety, they will be running online activities for our Year 6 pupils on Wednesday 23rd June.

Swimming

It was great to be able to take the Year 5 children swimming on Monday. They enjoyed the session and have further sessions each Monday.

After School Clubs

It has been lovely to see after school clubs resume within bubbles. Please remember to book and pay in advance for these sessions.

Emblematic Website

We have been informed by Emblematic, one of the school uniform providers, that July 18th is last day for orders to be delivered at home.

Nursery uniform can be ordered [here](#).

School uniform can be ordered [here](#).

Attendance for w.b.14.06.21

Reception	87.2%	Class 3	93.9%
Class 1	96.3%	Class 4	98.8%
Class 2	95.5%	Class 5	98%
		Class 6	96.3%

School overall attendance this week is: 94.9%

Dates for the diary

June 21 st	Swimming for Year 5
June 28 th	Year 2 Football (squad of 7)
June 29 th	Year 4 Cricket (whole class)
June 30 th	Year 6 Athletics (10 children)
July 5 th	Year 1 Festival (whole class)
July 6 th	Year 3 Festival (whole class)
July 7 th	Year 5 Festival (whole class)
July 15 th	Leavers Assembly
July 16 th	Year 6 Activity day at the TCR Hub
July 16 th	Moving Up Day
July 20 th	Last day of term
September 1 st	Teacher Training Day
September 2 nd	Children return to school

Mr C Minikin, Head Teacher