



July 16th 2021

What a year!

As we come to the end of this academic year and my final newsletter of the year, it is hard to believe that we have had another whole year affected by COVID 19. One of the fundamentals of teaching is that we reflect on everything we do: within lessons, after lessons, at the end of the day and so on, in order to understand what went well and what we could do differently.

Looking back over the year, I am very proud of all of our school community and how we have continued to provide an excellent education in trying circumstances. In the Autumn and Summer terms we could run largely as we would like to under the circumstances, although as in other schools, we have been affected by absences of children and staff alike. It gave me great pleasure in these terms to observe all classes. The teaching and learning behaviours evident are ensuring that children are learning more and remembering more.

Our curriculum continues to be a real strength and is inspiring children. The work on our foundation subjects and curriculum research is exciting and something we will continue next year. Our push on reading is getting rather competitive between classes with their reading raffle entries! It has been lovely to see some children choosing to read at playtime and also the development of the library.

We look forward to visits and sporting festivals resuming in Autumn term but the number of virtual visits/visitors we accessed enhanced children's learning. I also look forward to the opportunity to welcome parents and families back into school to share more closely the excellent work our children produce and the lovely sports, plays, assemblies and Friends of Montalbo School events that usually occur.

I would like to thank all parents/carers for their valuable feedback and support throughout the year and their compliance with the systems that we have put in place. I am grateful to the school governors for their support during the year and to Mrs O'Doherty, Chair of Governors, who I discuss school business with several times a week. I am very lucky to have such an amazing staff and Team Monty continue to go above and beyond and for that I am truly grateful. Finally, and most importantly, I would like to thank our children for being resilient, committed learners who have continued to shine no matter what the pandemic has thrown at them. I look forward to seeing most of the children in school in September and meeting our new starters properly.

Good luck Year 6s

Today, as the rest of the school 'Moves Up,' I am with the Year 6s at the TCR Hub for an end of year celebration. When I started this school, twelve of the cohort were in Reception and I could see instantly the potential they had. As the school has grown, they have been joined by other children and as a class, they have produced very high standards of work across the curriculum. They have formed some strong friendships, have adapted well to online learning and are definitely ready for their next steps in their education. It has been very difficult trying to piece together a Leavers' Assembly with absences and I thank Miss Richardson for her work on this. It will be shared on the children's TEAMS account. The Year 6s will be moving on to four different schools and I wish them all a happy and successful future. Good luck Year 6s!

FOMS Raffle

Thank you very much to FOMS for their superb Summer Raffle and to the businesses and individuals who kindly donated the prizes or bought tickets. I understand that FOMS have raised over £1400 which is brilliant. We are hoping to have the Roundhouse installed in the Autumn term.

September plans

We have decided to keep the same start of day and pick up arrangements for September which have worked well this year. The benefits of this are reduced congestion around the school site and neighbouring streets and we have also had improved attendance and punctuality. A reminder of the timings is below. Please remember, if your child has a sibling in another key stage, they can arrive at an earlier time to save two or more different drop offs.

Years 3, 4, 5 and 6	8.30am-3pm
Year 1 and 2	8.45am-3.15pm
Nursery and Reception	9am-3.30pm

Wraparound care will run slightly differently and be in different rooms, to allow teaching staff to set up and work without interruptions.

Wraparound care for Nursery and Reception will be in the library

Years 1 and 2 will be in the ICT room

Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be in the hall.

We are able to offer wraparound until 5.15pm and any children staying after 4.30pm will move to the hall to be supervised. Breakfast club will continue to be available from 7:45am, we will be offering after school clubs too and will share these in September.

Staffing from September

Please find below a list of the staffing for September, based on the needs of the class.

Nursery – Mrs Patterson, Miss Moody and Miss Henderson

Reception – Miss Lauder, Miss Earl, Mrs Wood and Mrs Thomas

Year 1 – Mrs Leonard, Mrs Spence, Miss Fayle-Smith

Year 2 – Mrs Newton, Mrs Miller and Mrs McIntyre

Year 3 – Miss Crampton and Mrs Dupuy

Year 4 – Mrs Smith

Year 5 – Miss Bean

Year 6 – Dr Greenwell, Miss Richardson, Mrs Bowron and Mrs Daniels

Mrs Bartoli and I will continue to work in classes from time to time which is by far the best part of our jobs!

Reading at home

I hope that all parents/carers are aware of the importance we place on reading. We pride ourselves on our phonics teaching in our younger year groups and guided reading sessions with our older children, as well as the rich and varied texts we read together with classes. We encourage children further through reading raffles and reading assemblies. However, this is only part of the process to build up a child's fluency, comprehension and love of books.

'The reading framework- teaching the foundations of literacy' released by the DfE this month evidences research, some of which I have shared before, the statistics quoted are staggering.

Figures such as 'How many words children would have heard by the time they were 5 years old -

Never read to: 4662 words,

Read to 1-2 times per week: 6350 words,

Read to 3-5 times per week: 169520 words

Read to daily: 296660 words.

Sports Day

The weather shone for a very different Sports Day this year as Citius (yellow), Altius (blue) and Fortius (red) competed for the trophy. The Latin words are the Olympic motto – Faster, higher and stronger and these qualities were demonstrated by all. Well done to Altius for their victory and to all who took part!

Dates for the diary

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