



October 22nd 2021

Half Term

This has been another tricky half term for schools to try and navigate and I am proud of our team's effort. It has been pleasing to have some normal school events such as the sporting festivals and educational visits. They add a great deal to school life and we have certainly crammed a lot of both into the first eight weeks. It has been lovely to see the children enjoying the curriculum and I have been delighted with Mrs Smith's work developing the outdoor learning sessions. For example, this half term's den building was a huge success. There has also been a lot of fun activities and I know the whole school enjoyed the Halloween Discos – the children looked amazing! Thank you to Friends of Montalbo School for organising some prizes, refreshments and glo-sticks for the children.

I have also enjoyed talking to many of our children about their learning and I know our Subject Leaders have too. I have mentioned before that I am keen to trial some innovative approaches and to be involved with educational research. Yesterday I observed some new strategies in Year 6 which I thought added a lot to discussion. We have tried to create a culture where we all see ourselves as learners and thank the staff for committing to this.

It can be frustrating with coronavirus in the community, knowing that we have adopted a more cautious approach than stipulated and are still having cases but this is, unfortunately, how it may be for a while yet. I thank you for your support with some of the temporary changes which we have had to make, particularly with the Year 6 cohort. I hope that all of our families remain well and that our children, parents/carers and staff have an enjoyable and well-deserved break. We look forward to seeing the children again on Tuesday November 2nd.

Sporting Superstars

This week has seen us enter 3 sporting festivals at Staindrop Academy. I have challenged Miss Richardson and teaching teams to have an extra push on physical fitness this year and we will continue to enter every event available to us. Huge congratulations must go to our Year 5/6 Cross Country Team for their run on Monday. Harry in Year 6 finished 2nd and Jack finished 3rd; Bella finished 1st in the girls' race. The whole team did brilliantly and they all completed the course. The Year 5 children will have benefited from competing against older children and can be very pleased with themselves.

Year 4 had a fantastic time at their Tag Rugby Tournament, playing other primary schools from across the area. All of the children showed a superb attitude. Congratulations to our B team who won the tournament and to the A Team who won many games too.

Year 5 also enjoyed a multi-skills festival in which they tried out a range of sporting activities. Well done to you all!

Welcome Miss Foster

Miss Foster will be teaching our Year 2 children after half term, covering Mrs Newton's maternity leave. I hope that Miss Foster really enjoys her time with us and I know that the children have enjoyed getting to know her this week.

The John and Josephine Story

Year 2 enjoyed a great day at the Bowes Museum on Monday. The Bowes Museum is an important local history topic and we are lucky to have such an iconic building in town and strong relationships with staff there. Year 2 were a credit to our school and enjoyed all of the activities. Well done!

Captain Cook's Birthplace Museum

Our Year 5 children had a super trip to Captain Cook's Birthplace Museum. The staff there could not believe the children's amazing knowledge and praised their behaviour too. The children made clay sculptures depicting important parts of Cook's life and learnt more about his voyages and discoveries.

Parents' Evenings

We will be holding virtual Autumn Parents' Evenings after half term via School Cloud which is found on the Weduc App. Appointments can be booked from November 2nd.

Commemorative Tea Towels

FOMs are arranging for commemorative tea towels with your child's self portrait or handprint to be printed which would make an ideal Christmas present. Please complete the order form and return to school with payment by Friday 5th November.

Poppy Day

We are selling various items to support the British Legion Poppy Appeal as we do every year. Full details of items available are on Weduc and any donations should be brought into school in a named sealed envelope with a description of the item required.

2 Litre Plastic Bottles

Year 6 would be grateful of any used clean 2 Litre Plastic bottles you may have for an art project that they will run after half term.

Reception School Places September 2022

The window for applying for Reception places has opened and runs until January 15th 2022.

If you would like to visit school, please contact the School Office who will arrange this with you.

Parent/Carers of all children eligible to start Reception must submit an application.

Further details on the process can be found [here](#).

School Meals Menu

New Autumn Term menus have been issued for meals which start after half term holiday.

If any child currently on packed lunches wishes to have a school meal please contact the office for a menu, alternatively, if your child no longer wishes to have a school meal 2 weeks' notice is required by the school meals provider. If you have had a change in circumstances and believe you may be eligible for Free School Meals please contact the school office for an application form. This applies to all pupils including those in Reception, Year 1 & 2 who are in receipt of Universal Free School meals.

ParentPay

Please remember to pay for Nursery care, clubs and wraparound care before the event and check that any arrears are cleared. Thank you.

Morrisons It's Good to Grow

We have registered with the Morrisons It's Good to Grow Scheme. From September, for every £10 spent in store or online, you'll get one Grow Token that your local school can then redeem for a wide range of gardening and growing equipment. Download the MyMorrisons app to donate tokens to our school, you can see how we are doing by visiting [here](#). Thank you to the families who have donated to date.

Diary dates

October 25 th -October 29 th	Half term
November 1 st	Teacher Training Day
November 2 nd	Children return to school
November 16 th and 18 th	Autumn Term Parents' Evenings (details to follow)
November 23 rd	Individual and sibling photographs

Mr C Minikin
Head Teacher