



November 19th 2021

Children in Need

Thank you for supporting Children in Need. The children and staff looked brilliant in their mismatched outfits and can be seen [here](#). We will let you know the amount raised next week.

Well done Anya!

This week I received a lovely email from Anya's mum explaining that she had won a poster competition about litter. After talking to Anya (Y6), she explained she was given a special prize, full of colouring pencils and gifts from the Houses of Parliament. As part of the prize she met Dehenna Davison MP for a hot chocolate and chat – Dehenna was very impressed with Anya's poster!

We are very proud of you, Anya – well done!

Light Up Barnard Castle

Last week the children in Year 6 worked with a local artist and staff from TCR Hub to create some brilliant lanterns. The lanterns will form part of a parade to coincide with the Christmas lights which will be switched on on Friday 3rd December between approximately 6.15pm-7pm. Further details will be provided nearer the time.

School Photographs - November 23rd

The school photographer will visit school on November 23rd to take pictures of individual pupils and siblings who are in school. Please can all children come to school in school uniform on this day, even if it is usually a PE or Outdoor Learning day. Please send in appropriate kit to change into if this applies to your child. Nursery children who do not attend on a Tuesday morning are welcome to have their picture taken too and should arrive at the hall doors for 8.45am.

Nursery Firefighters

This week our nursery children have been listening to a story, Dinosaur Firefighters. Mrs Patterson decided then to put the rookie Fire Fighters through their paces with a series of challenges: driving the fire engine; putting out the 'fire'; rescuing a cat and climbing a ladder. The children all passed the tests and received a firefighting certificate – well done Nursery! Thank you to Mr Northey who loaned us some Firefighting uniform and gave the children their own helmets.

One Kind Word

This year's anti-bullying week was entitled One Kind Word. We talk to our children a great deal about the importance of kindness and I know that has been given renewed focus this week.

Roundhouse

Friends of Montalbo School have done a superb job fundraising for the roundhouse which is going to be installed at the start of December. This will be a wonderful space just off the playground and will provide a place to meet and work during our outdoor learning sessions and other curriculum subjects, a place to read or for quieter activities during playtimes and will provide shelter for KS2 parents at pick up times!

PE coaches

We are lucky to have 3 specialist PE coaches working in school each week. They currently work with children in Year 1, 2 and 3 and we will look to build further on this provision next term.

Dance Off

As you may know, dance is one of the only statutory requirements of the National Curriculum for PE. A couple of years ago we had an amazing dance off between all of the classes, including some 'guest' judges from Strictly Come Dancing! We are repeating the idea this year at the end of the month and we will look at ways of sharing this with you this year.

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](#).

Beamish Educational Visit for Year 4

On Wednesday, Year 4 had a great visit to Beamish to add to their understanding of the mining topic. They learnt more about a local mining disaster, visited the farm and town where they were chased by a policeman from the 1900s! The class behaved brilliantly and really enjoyed their day. Well done Year 4!

Christmas Lunch

On December 15th Mrs Slater, our school cook, will serve Christmas Lunch and the menu is available on Weduc. A letter has been handed out to those children who usually have a packed lunch who would like to order a meal for the day. This must be returned by 26th November, payment to be made via Parent Pay.

Green Jumper Day - November 26th

On Wednesday I received an email from Mrs Rothwell of Barnard Castle School about an eco-charity 'Green Jumper Day.' The idea behind this day is to put on a green jumper and turn down the heating to save energy. Whilst we hope to support this day and charity, I do not want anyone to go out and buy a green jumper – wearing any jumper and maybe one green item of clothing if you have one would be great. It is the idea behind the day that is important -saving energy and helping the environment.

I have been working for a number of months on a plan to add solar panels to the roof at school and hopefully will make some progress on this in the near future, helping to reduce the school's carbon footprint.

FOMS Christmas Cards

Sample cards have been sent home with the children today or your child's design. It is quite a tight turnaround for orders so please return any orders **no later** than Friday 26th November.

FOMS

Friends of Montalbo School are organising a Christmas raffle and we are always delighted with how well this is supported. Two books of raffle tickets have been sent home with each child and we would be grateful if you could return any money and raffle stubs to school in a named envelope for FOMS to collect. If you have any prizes that you would be willing to donate, please bring them to the School Office.

FOMS have secured some more funding from the CO-OP. If you are a member, it would be great if you could select Friends of Montalbo School as your cause. [Sign In - Co-op \(coop.co.uk\)](http://coop.co.uk)

Barnard Castle Library

Friends of Barnard Castle Library are running a book review competition entitled "My Best Book of 2021" This is open to all children in Key Stage 1 or Key Stage 2 and involves drawing (KS1) or writing a review of a favourite book (KS2). The competition is for children to enter in their own time, and all entries should be sent to Barnard Castle library as per the information on the entry form which can be found [here](#). The closing date is Friday 26th November.

Diary dates

November 23rd

Individual and sibling photographs

November 26th

Green Jumper Day (any warm jumper will be fine!)

December 15th

Christmas Lunch

Mr. C Minikin Head Teacher