



December 3rd 2021

Reverse Christmas Advent Calendar

We have been overwhelmed by the kind donations for the TCR Hub's Care Packages. We currently have a huge display of the produce in the hall as it awaits collection. Thank you to everyone who has contributed.

Light Up Barnard Castle

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. Details have been shared with parents/carers of Year 6 children who can hopefully join in with the parade – Y6 please meet at the main entrance to school for 5.25pm.

Well done Archie

I received another lovely email this week from Archie in Year 2's Mum informing me that he had won the Key Stage 1 Barnard Castle Library competition. The judges 'loved his illustration of *'The Lion Inside'*. and his depiction of the characters, filling the whole page with full colour detail and personality.' Congratulations Archie!

COVID 19

Hopefully you will have seen the new information sent to schools from Amanda Healy (Public Health Durham) and Jim Murray (Head of Education and Skills) around the concerns of the Omicron variant which we shared via Weduc. As we had these recommendations in place, we will not be making any other adjustments. Please be aware of the recommendations to parents regarding children in households where there is a positive case of Covid-19, with the advice being to test children daily for 7 days (the children can attend each day providing their LFT is negative).

Christingle Service and the Christmas Tree Festival

Reverend Harding has asked us to mention that the Christingle Service will be taking place this Sunday at 4pm in St Mary's Church. All are welcome.

The Christmas Tree Festival is taking place between Monday 6th December starting at 4:00pm and finishes on Sunday 12th December. We have decorated a tree again this year – why not visit the festival and see if you can spot it? Dr Greenwell and I will take the choir to sing at the festival between 4-5pm on Wednesday December 8th.

Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Parties

Friday December 10th is Christmas Jumper Day. I am aware that we have supported a lot of charities recently so will not be asking for donations for charity. However, we have worn our Christmas jumpers over the last few years and would love your children to join in on this day. If they do not have a Christmas jumper, they could wear festive colours. Christmas parties will take place during the last week of term. Please see Diary Dates below for details. Children can come to school in their party clothes and we will provide refreshments.

School Photographs

The children's photograph proofs were sent home last week. To order the prints or other items, please visit www.tempest-oders.co.uk, enter the reference number from the proof and make your selection.

The closing date for **free delivery** back to school is Sunday 5th December.

If you need any assistance in ordering your photos, feel free to contact Tempest on 01736 751555 (option 3).

Reception School Places September 2022

The window for applying for Reception places is still open 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](#).

Flip and Flop

Well done to Adam in Year 6 who won the naming the fish competition. He suggested Flip and Flop!

Flu Immunisation

The Influenza Childhood Immunisation Programme will be undertaken in school on December 15th. Parents/carers wishing for their child to have the nasal influenza vaccination need to give consent by following the instructions below: -

1. Go to <https://www.hdft.nhs.uk/fluconsent/>
2. Enter the school code 114115 and click 'find school.'
3. Complete the form
4. Click the green submit button

For those parents/carers who have declined nasal spray due to porcine content, please visit hdft.immunisationteam@nhs.net to book via a community clinic for the injectable flu vaccination.

Vaccinations will not take place without prior consent.

FOMS

Friends of Montalbo School have organised a Christmas raffle and we are delighted with how well this is being supported. Please return any unsold tickets and/or raffle ticket stubs and money to the school office by Tuesday December 7th in a named envelope for FOMS to collect. Thank you to the parents and businesses who have supported us – there are some amazing prizes. FOMS will be selling raffle tickets either in or outside the CO-Op on Saturday, depending on the weather! 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)

FOMS are arranging a bag collection on behalf of the Great North Air Ambulance in time for a Christmas clear out!

Please drop off bags either Monday December 6th, Tuesday December 7th or Wednesday December 8th. Please do not bring bags in after this time. Thank you.

Diary dates

December 3 rd	Christmas Lights Switch on/Lantern Parade
December 8 th – 12 th	Christmas Tree Festival at St. Mary's Church
December 10 th	Christmas Jumper Day
December 13 th	Nursery and Reception Christmas Party
December 14 th	Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas Party
December 15 th	Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Party
December 15 th	Flu Immunisation
December 15 th	Christmas Lunch
December 16 th	Year 5 and 6 Christmas Party
December 16 th	End of term
December 17 th	Teacher Training Day
January 4 th	Teacher Training Day
January 5 th	Children return to school

Mr. C Minikin, Head Teacher