



16th December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to another end of Christmas term with a difference, which is now becoming our 'new normal'. I hope that you enjoy the Christmas Carol concert available on Weduc. It was a lovely surprise to see those wicked reindeer in Nursery, and Santa's sleigh being rebuilt by the Nursery children.

The Governors have welcomed 3 new members of staff to the Team Monty: Miss Foster as the Year 2 teacher while Mrs Newton is on maternity leave, and 2 new apprentices, with Miss Henderson in Nursery and Miss Fayle-Smith in Year 1.

During this term, a range of educational visits and sporting fixtures took place. Staff and children really appreciated going back out into the local area and have visited Flatts Wood, Babuls, Eden Camp, Captain Cook's Birthplace Museum, Bowes Museum, Locomotion, the River Tees and some COP26 zoom meetings have also been attended by KS2 children. Sporting fixtures that have taken place include cross country, tag rugby, swimming, gymnastics, dance and multiskills.

Two audits have been carried out this term by the Local Authority. Firstly, a Health and Safety Audit showed that we were fully compliant: thanks to Mr Blissett (H and S Governor) for his work on this. A Safeguarding Audit showed that we were following correct procedures and I thank Mr Minikin and Mrs Hauxwell for their work on both of these audits.

Our termly visit from Gabrielle Reddington (our School Leadership Advisor from DCC) went well and the school's curriculum goes from strength to strength, with the new Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum changes introduced in September, and the continued progression of the RSE (relationships and sexual education) curriculum. Dr Greenwell and Mrs Patterson have started the Primary Science Quality Mark Gilt Award process this term, bringing science further into focus at school.

FOMS have helped to purchase the Roundhouse, with the building work due to start in the New Year. Anyone willing/able to provide FOMS with any support or time would be appreciated, as all money raised goes directly to improving the learning experiences of all Montalbo children. Following on from this, the Outdoor learning section of the curriculum has been a huge success, with shelters, fire and cooking being the themes for this term.

There will be some upcoming work to be carried out on the Nursery building - replacing and modernising fascia's and soffits and also some widening of a couple of internal doors within the main school building. We are also making progress towards installing solar panels, a project close to my heart, in an attempt to reduce the carbon footprint of the school and ensure it becomes more sustainable.

Recent governor training that has taken place this term: Chair of Governors Autumn term briefing; An OFSTED update for Governors; Developing confidence in the lead up to inspection; Developing the Effectiveness of the Governing Board.

Governor meetings held this term:

- Finance, Premises and Staffing
- Curriculum, Standards, Behaviour and Safety
- Head Teacher's Performance Management
- First Pay / Review Committee

I conclude by thanking all staff, parents, carers and children for the exceptional way they and you have responded to these difficult times, and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Sarah

Sarah O'Doherty (Chair of Governors)
On behalf of all Governors of Montalbo Nursery & Primary School