



**December 16<sup>th</sup> 2021**

### **End of the Autumn Term**

As we break up for the Christmas holidays, it is a time to celebrate and reflect upon a successful term. Despite the challenges that we face in our day to day lives, we have kept school as 'normal' as possible and I hope that the children have enjoyed their term's learning. We have a drive to continually improve and I thank the staff for working with me to develop teaching and learning, with a particular focus this term on reading. The children are benefiting a great deal from this work and I hope the children continue to read often over the holidays.

Other noteworthy news this term includes Dr Greenwell and Miss Lauder successfully completed their Middle Leadership qualifications and I am delighted that we have staff who are committed to their professional development. I have enjoyed studying alongside work this year too and it is good to be able to bring fresh ideas and approaches into school. We have been keen to develop apprentices over the past few years and have been very impressed with Miss Henderson and Miss Fayle-Smith's start to their time at Montalbo. It has also been nice to welcome Miss Foster to school and we are delighted that Mrs Edwards will remain with the Early Years Team after Christmas.

This term, it was lovely to see the children broaden their knowledge and experiences with educational visits and sporting fixtures and look forward to these resuming in the new year. The behaviour, attitude, knowledge and skills demonstrated on these visits and fixtures made us all very proud as we have received such lovely feedback from the organisers of the events. I am pleased with how our provision continues to develop and how we have expanded the range of PE coaches and Music teachers to support these subjects.

During this half term, I have enjoyed seeing the children being creative in their Art sketchbooks and Design and Technology work. Outdoor learning sessions have become incredibly popular and I look forward to seeing what Mrs Smith has got lined up for us next! The feedback from all our subject leaders has been incredibly positive from their conversations with children, who could explain their knowledge and term's work to them.

By far the best thing about working at Montalbo is being with your children. Like every school, we have struggled with staff absences this term and I have really enjoyed teaching around the school more than usual and being with them in wraparound care too.

As we look forward to 2022, we will look to improve the fabric of the building with changes to the outside of the Nursery building, as well as progressing work towards the installation of solar panels. I am also looking forward to seeing the Roundhouse installation which should be in January.

### **Christmas Carols on Weduc**

Thank you to Mrs Newton, Miss Moody and to all of the staff who helped make the Carol Service videos that we will share via Weduc. I know parents of children in Nursery and Reception have had some separate videos too which are super cute! Well done to all the children who have taken part, it's been hard to catch absolutely everyone due to absences on recording days. I am also pleased some of Mrs Unwin's tuition groups were able to take part too.

## FOMS

Thank you to FOMS for their organisation of the tea towels, cards and Christmas accessories and to Mrs Hauxwell and Mrs Collin for distributing these. I received some cards of the children's designs and they were brilliant!

## Hub Care Packages and Sal's Shoes

Staff from the Hub were very grateful for the huge donation of food, drinks and toiletries for the Care Packages that are sent to families in our local community. Mrs Bartoli also informed me that we will have helped 76 children go to school in the wider world with new shoes, which is wonderful.

## Christmas Crib Service at St Mary's



Please see message from St Mary's. 'This year at St Mary's we're not just offering one crib service on Christmas Eve, we're offering two!! Our 2.30pm Crib service will be more suitable for the little ones (those who are pre-school) and for those who may appreciate a slightly quieter service. Then at 4.00pm there will be a second Crib service mainly for those who are school age and above.

Of course, families should feel free to choose which service to attend but we hope that by holding an extra service this year we can do our bit to help keep everyone safe and create a bit more space in church. Everyone is still invited to come dressed as a character from the Nativity story at either service.

## 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](#).

## Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

From all of us at Montalbo, we would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope that you have a lovely, family time and we look forward to seeing your children on Wednesday, January 5th 2022.

January 4<sup>th</sup>

Teacher Training Day

January 5<sup>th</sup>

Children return to school

Mr. C Minikin, Head Teacher