



January 14th 2022

Thank you, Team Monty

This week has been particularly tricky in school as many of us have been taking on additional tasks to cover for self-isolating staff. It has not been easy so I thank the whole team for their endeavours. I hope that children, parents and staff who have been affected by COVID 19 recover well and look forward to having the team back together before too long. In the meantime, it has been enjoyable for me to work with the younger children on phonics and see the magic first hand of the children learning a new sound each day.

Roundhouse

I hope that many of you have been intrigued by the development of the Roundhouse near the playground. The speed at which the construction is progressing has been amazing. The team will be finished by the middle of next week and I do not want to spoil the surprise of the finished look or features yet! It will be a great addition to the school for work and play. I am very grateful to the Friends of Montalbo School who have worked with me again, to provide something special for our children, which further enhances our outdoor learning and wellbeing opportunities.

COVID updates

Hopefully you will have received my letter on Wednesday highlighting COVID cases, particularly in Year 1 and the temporary measures brought in for this class. I think it would be sensible to keep these arrangements in place until Monday to see if we have any further cases over the weekend.

Once again, the guidance has changed around isolation. Below is an extract from the DfE today:-
From Monday 17 January, people who are self-isolating with COVID-19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to their education or childcare setting immediately on day 6. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be [reported to NHS Test and Trace](#).
If the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest. Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.

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](#).

Learning Zone

Class teachers have been busy adding content to the Learning Zone of the website. To find out more about what your child will be learning about this half term, please visit [Learning Zone \(montalbo.durham.sch.uk\)](https://www.montalbo.durham.sch.uk)
Listed on the right of the page are the different classes and terms. Find your child's class and the Spring Term 2022 and you should get a flavour of this half term's curriculum.

Welcome Miss Copeland

Well done to Miss Copeland from High Force SCITT (teacher training) who has completed her first full week working alongside Miss Bean in Year 5. Miss Copeland has been visiting school for a number of weeks to get to know children and familiarise herself with planning as she begins this placement.

Nursery Palaeontologists

It was great to get to chat to our Nursery children this week about their topic and interests in dinosaurs and fossils. They have been uncovering some great discoveries in the sand this week and the vocabulary they are using to describe their learning is fantastic. Well done Nursery!

After School Clubs

Information is published on Weduc about After School Clubs which started this week until Thursday 16th February. Each class from Reception to Year 6 will run an after school club for 6 consecutive weeks. A consent form is available in the Forms section of Weduc, which should be completed as soon as possible. **The cost is £2.50 per session (£15.00 in total) which must be paid in advance via your Parent Pay Account unless you pay using a childcare voucher system in which case please complete the form only.** No additional charge will be made from the end of the club to 5.15pm should your child need to stay until then. Wraparound care continues in the same format as before Christmas, from 7.45am until start of school and 3pm-5.15pm except for Year 1 at the moment.

PE and Outdoor Learning

Some PE/outdoor learning sessions have changed this term. Please see below:-

| | PE | Outdoor Learning |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| Reception | Monday (change into PE kit at school) | |
| Year 1 | Friday | Wednesday |
| Year 2 | Wednesday | Thursday |
| Year 3 | Tuesday | Wednesday |
| Year 4 | Monday and Thursday | Monday |
| Year 5 | Thursday (Swimming) and Friday | Tuesday |
| Year 6 | Tuesday and Thursday | Monday |

Nursery and Reception have access to indoor/outdoor provision so their timetables are different. For the rest of the school, please send your child to school in PE kits for those days and have suitable footwear/warm coats etc. for outdoor learning.

Free School Meals Applications

Have you had a change in circumstances? If you would like to know if you qualify for free school meals please complete the application form available on both the school website and Weduc or contact the school office for the application forms.

Dates for the Diary

February 9th Safer Internet Day
February 21st- 25th Spring half term
February 28th Children return to school

Mr. C Minikin Head Teacher