



January 7<sup>th</sup> 2022

### Welcome back

Happy New Year! I hope that you and your families have had a lovely Christmas, enjoyed spending time together and remained well. I have talked to many of our children already and they seem refreshed and ready to work hard again this term.

Welcome to the families of our new Nursery starters. It was lovely to meet your children this week and to see them settle in very well to their learning at Montalbo.

### Congratulations Mrs Newton

We were delighted to learn that over the holidays Mrs Newton gave birth to a beautiful baby boy, Charlie. They were back home just in time for Christmas. Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Newton. We are looking forward to meeting Charlie soon.

### COVID updates

We are in a period of time when guidance is changing quite frequently. Below are some of the key changes since the end of term:-

#### **Self-isolation for COVID-19 cases - reduced from 10 to 7 days following two negative LFD tests**

From the 22nd December the self-isolation advice for people with coronavirus (COVID-19) has changed. It is now possible to end self-isolation after 7 days, following 2 negative LFD tests taken 24 hours apart.

The guidance also applies to children and young people who usually attend an education or childcare setting.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

- Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation.
- The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. This also applies to children under 5, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion.
- If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education or childcare setting from day 7.
- You should not take any more LFD tests after the 10th day of your isolation period and you may stop self-isolating after this day.
- Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.
- Further information, including examples of when to end self-isolation if you have had COVID-19 symptoms, is available in the [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#).

We are fortunate that all of our classrooms have lots of windows we can open plus mechanical ventilation but it is a little cooler in school with these factors.

### Online Safety

As part of our training earlier in the week, we had some updates from an Online Safety Adviser. It was very useful as I know that many of our children have received new technology over Christmas. It is beneficial for parents to have an understanding and awareness of the games/apps that their children are playing on and their age certification/suitability. Discussing what your child should do if they see something that upsets them, for example, is important. Useful advice for parents can be found [here](#).

## 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](#).

## After School Clubs

Information was published on Weduc about After School Clubs which start next 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.

## Mental Health and Wellbeing Work

We are fortunate to have some NHS Emotional Resilience staff to be working in Year 4 this term. I think we all now have a much greater awareness of the benefits of positive mental health and I am pleased that we have this programme in place. Staff are accessing further training to support our work on this across the school.

## 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.

## Weduc

I have been made aware of some issues around Weduc and the Christmas videos. I was disappointed to learn of this as we checked with Weduc some time ago about the app's capabilities. We have contacted Weduc this week to try to rectify this. They gave some general advice around ensuring that you have the latest updates on your phone, whether that be the Weduc app itself or IOS operating systems for Apple phones, for example. Other devices such as tablets or laptops may be better to watch videos on if you have them. I understand from some staff that if you download the videos before watching them, they work fine. If you have tried the aforementioned and are having difficulties opening videos **this week** after we have contacted Weduc again, please could you let the School Office know and describe the fault to us.

## 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 9<sup>th</sup> Safer Internet Day  
February 21<sup>st</sup>- 25<sup>th</sup> Spring half term  
February 28<sup>th</sup> Children return to school

Mr. C Minikin Head Teacher