



December 16th 2022

Years 1 and 2 Christmas Performances

On Thursday I had the great pleasure of attending two wonderful Christmas performances of *Hey Ewe* from our children in Year 1 and 2. I thought our children narrated, acted, sang and danced brilliantly. There's so much to remember and for children to step into the role of absent friends was a great achievement too. Well done to you all! Thank you to Mrs Newton, Mrs Leonard, Mrs Miller, Mrs Dupuy, Mrs Spence and Miss Smith for their hard work towards the performances.

Carol Service

This afternoon saw us return to St Mary's for our annual Christmas carol concert for the first time since Covid. The children's singing during rehearsals has been beautiful and I am looking forward to hearing this in church. Thank you to some of the Year 5 and 6 children for narrating and Miss Richardson for her work in organising this. Thank you to Canon Reverend Harding for his help and words and also to Mrs Butters, for playing the keyboard for us.

Christmas Lunch

Thank you to Mrs Slater, Mrs Dobinson and Mrs Briggs for this year's Christmas lunch. Over 170 were served, which is a record. Thank you to the staff who helped make the hall extra Christmassy on Wednesday!

Christmas Raffle

The Christmas Raffle was drawn this morning. Thank you for buying tickets and donating prizes. Due to the carol service taking place, prizes will be sent home next week.

2022

At this time of year, many of you will reflect on the year and think about the major events in your work and home lives. As a staff we reflect all the time: at the end of terms, weeks, days and lessons.

Looking back at this year it has been pleasing to get back to normal and to be able to hold many events in school involving families. We have had nativities, plays, the Carol Service, the Christmas Fayre, Stay and Play sessions, class assemblies, Parents' Evenings and Information Sessions, Monty does Musicals, The Platinum Jubilee, The Meet Parade, the Holi Festival, Sports Days and fixtures and much more! I hope you have enjoyed the events and your support at all of these is much appreciated – you are an important part of Team Monty! I look forward to arranging more events like these in 2023!

In terms of academic progress and children's learning, we have been able to learn from research and begin some projects within school, some of which are outlined below. I am sure you may have been surprised in Parents' Evenings by the volume and quality of children's work. A recent visit from our school leadership advisor highlighted the wide range of strengths of the school's curriculum from core subjects to foundation subjects, such as Art. I am fortunate to lead a staff who are open to new ideas and prepared to run projects, develop subjects and are committed to continual improvement.

As well as looking back at the larger community events and academic successes, it is important for us look forward as we seek to improve in our practices. From newsletters and updates, you will understand the importance we place on reading and this will always be a priority for schools. Other priorities this year include developing our children's speaking and listening through our oracy

curriculum and we have been pleased to teach our children techniques and build confidence as we prepare them for later life. We continue to be interested in recent, relevant and robust research to

improve our day to day teaching. Educating our children on environmental issues and looking at ways to improve energy efficiency, increase biodiversity and supporting wider initiatives in the community is something we are keen to promote.

Christmas Plans

The remaining plans for Christmas events in school are as follows:

December 19 th	Nursery & Reception Classes Christmas Party – morning
December 19 th	Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas Party – afternoon
December 20 th	Year 3 & 4 Christmas Party – morning
December 20 th	Year 5 & 6 Christmas Party – afternoon

Sporting events

There have been three sporting festivals this week: one for Reception, one for Year 4 and one for fifteen Year 1 children, where organisers stipulate numbers. We will endeavour to ensure that the rest of Year 1 attend the next event, should places be restricted.

Ice

The Fire Service shared some materials with class teachers this week reminding us of the importance of staying off ice in frozen ponds and waterways. I discussed these important messages in assembly this week.

Poppy Appeal

A total of £144.70 was donated for the Poppy Appeal. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Parent Pay Balances

Please ensure Parent Pay balances are paid in advance of any care/clubs and that accounts are up to date. Thank you.

Attendance:

The links between positive attendance and attainment are well-documented and this pattern is repeated at Montalbo.

It is so important that children are in school as often as possible and that they are punctual.

Below is a summary of attendance for this week.

Class	% Attendance
Reception	90.4
Year 1	93.4
Year 2	95.2
Year 3	92.3
Year 4	93.8
Year 5	98.3
Year 6	98
Whole school	94.4%

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

From all of us at Montalbo, I hope that you and your families have a wonderful Christmas and wish you all the very best for 2023.

We look forward to seeing you and your children on Thursday January 5th 2023.

Dates for the Diary

December 20th Last day of term
December 21st – January 3rd School Holidays
January 4th Teacher Training Day
January 5th Children return to school for the Spring Term

Mr. C Minikin
Head Teacher

School Lottery Link Membership Link below:

