



January 13th 2023

Ofsted

As you will be aware, we have had a Section 5 Ofsted Inspection this week. I am limited in what I say until the report is published (up to 30 days from now) but I wanted to say a huge thank you to Team Monty for their work this week. Our children were an absolute credit and many of them spent time reading or talking confidently to the inspectors on a host of subjects and topics. I am very grateful to parents/carers who completed the surveys and took time to speak to the inspectors. Our governing body are always an incredible support to me and the school and I thank them for their work during the inspection. Finally, a special thanks to our staff who constantly go above and beyond in every aspect of school life - and not just this week! In days when there is a real recruitment and retention issue in education, we are very fortunate to have the staff we do. I will update you on the outcomes in due course.

Oracy work

Last week I mentioned the importance we are placing on oracy for our children, in a world where effective communication is so important. I had the opportunity to see and hear lots of the children's speaking and listening activities from the first days of the new term and have been so impressed with the progress they have made from the start of this academic term. Children are much more comfortable presenting, debating or explaining to their classmates and this can only be a good thing. For some children, overcoming nerves and becoming more confident is a huge positive step so well done to all of our children for trying their best!

Curriculum this year

Our staff meeting this week was to update our class pages on the website to reflect the new term's work. Due to the inspection, this will be ready next week but, in the meantime, I thought I would share some of the learning from the wider curriculum this week:

Nursery

This week Nursery have been enjoying the story *Supertato*. There has been a very mischievous pea on the loose and it has been trying to capture their snack. But don't worry, the children have been busy designing other superhero fruit and vegetable characters and they even made 'Wanted Posters' to help us find Evil Pea. They have decided they would like the pea to join Nursery so that they can help him to make the right choices!

Reception

This week Reception have started a new topic on 'People who help us' with a focus on doctors and nurses. The children have been very enthusiastic when treating their 'patients' in our surgery and have become experts using stethoscopes, blood pressure monitors and x-ray machines. They have also been fully immersed in the story *Zog and the Flying Doctors*. The children have sequenced the story and even built a palace to trap Princess Pearl. Next week the children will be learning about Vets!

Year 1

The children had an exciting event on Thursday when Mr Hedley from Carrs Billington brought in a brand-new tractor as part of their History topic on how farming has changed. The children were allowed to sit in the cab and in the enormous wheels! The children are going to compare some of the features of the new tractor to an older tractor which will visit us soon.

Year 2

In Year 2 the children have started their historical enquires about the railways. In Science they have sown sunflower seeds and will see how these develop over the coming weeks. In Geography the children have started to locate buildings and roads on a map of Barnard Castle. The class are enjoying their new book, *The Railway Children*.

Year 3

Year 3 have been busy drawing, describing and naming rocks as part of their science. The children have started a new topic on The Stone Age and have been asking some historical enquiry questions. In Computing the children are using Scratch, a coding program, for the first time. In Geography, the children have begun to learn more about the countries of the United Kingdom. Mrs Smith has been impressed by children who have written stories at home and who have brought in their own rock collection!

Year 4

Year 4 have been very busy this week, with introductions to lots of new topics. In French we have begun to learn the names of family members, introducing the idea that there are feminine and masculine words in the French language. In Geography, we have been using an atlas to find out where Greece is in the world, and to locate the physical features. Staying with Greece, in history we have travelled back in time, and have begun to ask different historical questions. PE was very energetic as we had a very competitive game of dodgeball then strengthened our body in gymnastics. To round up a jam-packed week, we have been learning how to write a visitor's guide to Ancient Greece with the help of our class text.

Year 5

In Year 5, the children have been busy learning about Anglo Saxons. Miss Crampton has been very impressed and when I visited the class earlier in the week I was equally impressed with their comprehension of the tough extract of the text from *Beowulf*. In Geography the children have been looking at how Romans impact early settlements, by looking at, sketching and annotating the key features.

Year 6

In Year 6, children have begun to learn about Peru in their Geography lessons, locating the countries of South America as well as learning more about lines of latitude and longitude. In English, they have been reading a Peruvian Trickster tale. The children have been enjoying the different activities with the reading hour. They also spent quite a lot of time reading and discussing aspects of school life with the inspectors!

Inspirational People

This week Mrs Newton and Miss Richardson led a couple of assemblies I had prepared on two inspirational people whilst I was occupied. One of them was based around a clip from the 1992 Olympics in which Derek Redmond, a 400m competitor pulled his hamstring in the final. Despite this, he continued to the end with a little help from his father who hopped over the barriers to walk with him before letting him walk the last few metres to a standing ovation. It's worth looking up on YouTube if you want to be inspired!

The second was on Martin Luther King and the children listened superbly to one of his powerful speeches. Our children understand the importance of equalities and treating everyone with fairness, kindness and respect.

PE

This term the Year 5 children will have an external coach teaching them netball on a Friday so they will need to wear their PE kits each Friday.

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	98.8%
Year 1	96.2%
Year 2	97.6%
Year 3	97.3%
Year 4	96.2%
Year 5	92.1%
Year 6	95%
Whole school	96.3%

Dates for the Diary

February 15 th	Yr 5 Netball
February 15 th and 16 th	Parents' Evenings
February 16 th	Y2 Multiskills
February 20 th - 24 th	Half Term
March 17 th	Red Nose Day
March 21 st	Reception Class – Multiskills
March 22 nd	Yr 2 Football
March 23 rd	Yr 6 Multiskills
March 27 th	Yr 3/4 Orienteering (15 pupils)

Mr. C Minikin
Head Teacher

School Lottery Link Membership Link below:

