



January 27th 2023

Industrial Action

I am sure you will be aware of the industrial action on Wednesday February 1st by members of the National Education Union. Due to guidance, it has been quite difficult to ascertain how school may be affected but at this stage I believe school will run normally. If I am given any other information before Wednesday, I will inform you as soon as possible.

Maths Sessions for Parents/Carers

J and K training and Durham County Council have gained funding through the government's Multiply programme to support parents/carers with their Maths skills. Paul Tucker, a local Maths teacher, is planning to deliver 2 hour sessions over 3 weeks and parents/carers will have the option of progressing on to a Functional Skills Maths qualification if they are interested. They will also receive a free copy of the Arithmetic Ninja book of which Paul has co-authored. He has limited availability on an evening due to other commitments so the sessions are 1.10-3.10pm starting on March 1st. Please let the School Office know if you would be interested in attending.

Charges

Last week I met with the School Finance Committee and one area discussed was charging. The School Governors have decided that the charges for Extra Care provision will increase with effect from Monday 27th February 2023. The new charges can be found [here](#). This decision has not been taken lightly and is due to the increase in utility, staffing and resources cost rising beyond the control of the school. The prices have remained unchanged for several years but are necessary to ensure the provision is viable. We believe the charges are still extremely competitive compared with other providers offering a similar provision.

FOMS Meeting

On Tuesday 31st January at 5pm Friends of Montalbo School will meet in school. It is an important meeting as they will review their constitution. Two longstanding members have announced their intention to step down so it is crucial that parents/carers attend if we want FOMS to continue. During the meeting, we hope to appoint a new Chairperson and Treasurer, as well as other roles, and general membership. As you will know, FOMS continue to support the school in many ways and play a huge part in the lovely events we have in school, as well as raising money to be spent on our children. FOMS usually meet once a half term or more often if a large event is taking place, with meetings lasting no more than an hour. I hope you will be able to attend on Tuesday.

RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch

Big Garden Birdwatch long weekend is here! There's still time to sign-up and take part. Just spend one hour between Friday 27 and Sunday 29 January counting the birds, and help monitor how birds are faring. It's free, fun and a great way to keep an eye on your local wildlife. Wherever you are, whatever you see, it counts! To sign up and take part please visit [here](#).

Last week I was visited by Mr Graystone who asked if we would be interested in having swift boxes put up at school. Having visited the site, the most suitable position is on the hall gable end as swifts prefer to nest at least 5 metres high. Mr Graystone will make us a three-storey box as swifts like to nest in small colonies of family groups.

Junior Cricket at Teesdale Sports Centre

Local cricket coach Josh Bousfield will be running coaching sessions at Teesdale Sports Centre each Thursday between 7.30-8.30pm. The sessions are aimed at 9-11 year olds and cost £3 a session. To book or for more information please contact Josh on 07940357331.

Safer Internet Day

This year's Safer Internet Day is Tuesday, February 7th. Classes will be engaged in more online safety activities during this week and would like to share some key messages with parents/carers from 3-3.15pm on this day, in their classroom. I hope that you are able to join us.

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	97.1
Year 1	91.4
Year 2	93.8
Year 3	98.7
Year 4	92.4
Year 5	91.7
Year 6	93.0
Whole school	94.1 %

Calendar on Weduc

The calendar on Weduc has been updated. Hopefully you will find this a useful way to check what is happening during the week.

Dates for the Diary

January 31 st	FOMs meeting @ 5pm
February 7 th	Safer Internet Day (parents invited to classes at 3pm)
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 1 st , 8 th , 15 th	Maths sessions for parents/carers with Paul Tucker
March 2 nd	World Book Day
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)
March 30 th	Yr3,4,5 & 6 Taekwondo sessions

Mr. C Minikin
Head Teacher

School Lottery Link Membership Link below:

