



February 17th 2023

Parents' Evenings

I hope that you enjoyed looking at your children's books and talking to their teacher. It seemed to be very well attended and I was pleased to catch up with many of you in the Book Fair and around school. I have been teaching in most classes this half term and your children never fail to impress me. Their knowledge about the subjects covered is very strong.

Staffing

As many of you will know, Miss Crampton is pregnant and we hope that the last few weeks of her pregnancy go well. When Miss Crampton takes her maternity leave, Miss Richardson will teach the Year 5 class for the remainder of the year. Miss Bean will teach the Year 6 class and I will support the class in the mornings.

Mrs Bartoli will return after half term from her maternity leave and we look forward to welcoming her back. She will cover some sessions within Year 2 for Mrs Newton, rather than Miss Richardson.

Miss Connolly, our Out of Hours Assistant, has just given birth to a little girl and we look forward to seeing them both on a visit soon!

Connections through Coffee and Crafts

We would like to invite you to a Coffee and Crafts session at school on Tuesday March 7th between 2.15-3.15pm. Hopefully these can become fairly regular events depending on if they prove popular or not! The basic idea is for parents/carers to meet up for a chat, coffee and perhaps help to make something that we can use in class or just for your pleasure! It is a time when you might catch up with people or meet new parents/carers. Mrs Bowron will host these informal occasions in the library and we hope that you can join us.

Brass Tuition

Mr Bradshaw has been a great addition to the music provision in school but this week was the end of the whole class work with Year 4 for this year. He will be offering brass tuition in school and I am sure many in the class would be keen to continue. He sent some postcards home with the children with details of how to continue tuition should you be willing for your child to have this. I understand the booking system has some issues so the contact number for Durham Music Service is 03000 262368. A reminder that we also have woodwind tuition which can be booked via the Music Service. Please contact the school if your child is interested in piano tuition.

NEU Industrial Action

Further industrial action is planned for Tuesday February 28th. 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 Tuesday, I will inform you as soon as possible.

World Book Day

On March 2nd, it is World Book Day. We are very aware of the cost of living so will not be dressing up this time. Instead, we would like to invite you to see some of the work produced by the children across the school, from Nursery to Year 6. It will be in the hall and parents/carers are invited to come in with your child any time between 3.15-6pm. We did this type of event a few years ago and it proved popular so I hope you can pop into school.

PE Days

Please see below for some changes to PE days after half term. Reception will get changed at school but other classes can come to school in their PE kits.

Reception – Monday

Year 1 – Thursday

Year 2 – Friday and Wednesday

Year 3 – Monday and Thursday

Year 4 – Monday

Year 5 – Swimming on Thursday and Gymnastics on Wednesday

Year 6 - Tuesday

Netball Competition

On Wednesday, selected Year 5 children took part in a netball competition at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre. They played brilliantly and had many shots that just missed the net! A huge well done to everyone who played. They showed an excellent level of teamwork and were a delight to take. Thank you to Mr Innes for organising and running a great event.

Year 2 Multiskills

I met Year 2 when they returned from the Multiskills Festival on Thursday and they told me that they had had a great time. They played games running and ball games and came back tired but happy! Well done Year 2.

Reception Visit to the Emergency Hub

Our children in Reception visited the Emergency Hub in town as part of their *People who help us* topic. They had a chance to sit in the Fire Engine and in the back of a Police van, use the hose and were lucky enough to try on some uniform. They also had a lot of fun turning on the siren, repeatedly! The children learned about what they should do in an emergency and even practised how to 'stop, drop and roll'. Thank you so much to Evie from the Emergency Hub for organising such a brilliant visit and to our fantastic parent helpers.

EYFS Toy Appeal

Both Nursery and Reception are lucky to have a wide range of toys and resources in school, but we are always looking to add to these with high quality resources.

If you have any pre-loved toys, games, construction equipment etc that might be suitable for our classrooms then we would be very grateful to make use of them.

Nasal Flu Catch Up Clinics

Please see message below.

The following Td/iPV MenACWY clinics can now be a Flu Nasal drop-in clinic. Please note these are the last Flu clinics we are holding until after the summer holidays.

If your child is in need of the Flu Injection, can you please call our office on 0300 003 2554.

Please note you are only able to drop-in for the Flu Nasal vaccination and not the Td/iPV MenACWY and is available for Reception to and including year 9

Date	Appointment Time	Clinic	Area	Address
18-Feb-23	9.30 to 2.30pm	The Dolphin Centre	Darlington	Horsemarket, Darlington DL1 5RP
20-Feb-23	9.30 to 3pm	Spennymoor Health Centre Home Education Room	Durham	Bishops Close, Spennymoor, Co Durham DL16 6ED
21-Feb-23	9.30 to 2.30pm	Bowes & Gilmonby Parish Hall	Durham	2 The Wynd, Bowes, Barnard Castle DL12 9HR

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.

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	95.1
Year 1	98
Year 2	96.6
Year 3	96.7
Year 4	99
Year 5	90
Year 6	94
Whole school	95.7%

Holidays

I hope that your children have a lovely half term break. We look forward to seeing the children when we return on Monday February 27th.

Dates for the Diary

February 20 th - 24 th	Half Term
February 27 th	Children return to school
March 1 st , 8 th , 15 th	Maths sessions for parents/carers with Paul Tucker
March 2 nd	World Book Day
March 7 th	Coffee and Crafts Session for Parents 2.15-3.15pm
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
April 3 rd – 14 th	Easter Holiday
April 24 th	All Stars Cricket Roadshow (All classes Y1-6)

Mr. C Minikin
Head Teacher

School Lottery Link Membership Link below:

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/montalbo-nursery-primary-school>

