



May 5th 2023

Coronation Celebrations

Today we enjoyed several activities to celebrate the forthcoming Coronation of King Charles III, with the children looking great in their red, white and blue. A highlight from the day for me was the catwalk, where the children paraded in their crown's to 'I just can't wait to be King!' Well done to all the children who made them – they were so creative. The staff enjoyed a royal scavenger hunt cheered on by their classes. The picnic was moved indoors due to the typical British weather which did not dampen our spirits and we ended the day with the national anthem in a Royal Celebration Assembly. It was great fun- I will add some pictures to next week's newsletter. Thank you very much to Mrs Bowron for organising this and the staff for being good sports in our royal quiz! Congratulations Queen Lauder!

Bright Woods Forest School Days

The children in Year 2 took part in a wellbeing day at Bright Woods Forest School. They had a fabulous day taking part in many different activities ranging from bug hunting and plant identification to leaf printing. The children also explored the different habitats and then had some time for free play. The children also got to eat garlic bread cooked on the fire. The children walked there and back very sensibly and were a credit to our school. Thank you to our helpers. Well done Year 2.

Years 3 and 4 Play

On May 24th and May 25th the Year 3 and 4 children will perform their play to their families and I am looking forward to the seeing the performances too. They will start at 6pm and we will share ticket information next week.

A Busy Term!

As you can see in the Dates for the Diary Section, I have added many more events in an extremely busy term. There are lots of events for the children to practise their oracy and performance skills, as well as sporting occasions to look forward to. I will give more detail on these as the term progresses.

Friends of Montalbo School Summer Raffle

Miss Richardson and I met with FOMS recently and they are organising our Summer Raffle once more. They have already started to collect prizes for local businesses and if you would like to contribute a raffle prize please bring it to the school office. FOMS have raised a lot of money recently and I hope to be able to tell you about a plan to use a lot of it to benefit our children next week. In the near future, we will send raffle booklets home with the children.

Nursery Questionnaire

Thank you to those parents/carers who have children under 4 who have returned the questionnaire about nursery provision. This will be useful information to help prepare for the future. As you may be aware, the government recently announced further support for 'childcare' which will likely lead to an increase in demand so any information I can gather on this is useful to help plan effectively. If you have not completed the questionnaire, please could you spare a few minutes to do so. Thank you.

End of Year Assessments

We are approaching the time for statutory tests to take place in school and the dates are in the 'Dates for the Diary' section below. There is only a short window when these tests can be taken so it is important that wherever possible, children are present and punctual. I know that the Year 6 children, in particular have been working hard and have impressed Miss Bean with their focus and progress. We look forward to some nice rewards for those children as we move towards the end of the year.

Survey from the Local Authority

We are currently running a survey that will help us better understand your views of special education needs and disabilities (SEND) support in County Durham. We are inviting parents and carers of children and young people with SEND to share their views on what is working well and what can be improved. Your response will be used to help us identify areas for improvement and inform an application for a grant from the Department for Education (DfE) to help us further improve the services in County Durham.

In line with our local SEND Strategy, we want to put children and young people at the heart of this plan and your views as a parent or carer are important to make sure we are focussing on the right areas. The survey will take around 5 minutes to complete and is anonymous. The survey will be open until Monday 15th May and we encourage you to share the link with other parents and carers in your area so that we can hear the views of as many people as possible. The survey can be found [here](#).

Thank you for your time.

Coronation Bank Holiday

A reminder that Monday May 8th is a Bank Holiday. We hope you have a lovely day and look forward to seeing the children on Tuesday 9th May.

Attendance

Below is a summary of attendance for this week.

Class	Attendance (%)
Reception	98.0
Year 1	95.0
Year 2	97.0
Year 3	96.7
Year 4	97.7
Year 5	97.9
Year 6	96.4
Whole School %	96.9%

Dates for the Diary

May 8 th	Bank Holiday
May 9 th -12 th	Key Stage 2 SATs
May 12 th	Year 5 to Bright Woods
w.b. May 15 th	Key Stage 1 SATs
May 18 th	Reception to Bright Woods (1/2 day) pm
May 19 th	Year 3 to Bright Woods
May 24 th and 25 th	Year 3/4 Performance (details to follow)
May 24 th	Year 1 Multiskills at Staindrop
May 29 th	Meet parade
June 5 th	Teacher Training Day
w.b June 6 th	June 6 th Year 4 Multiplication Tests
June 6 th -9 th	Bikeability Year 6 (details to follow)
June 8 th	Year 4 to Bright Woods
June 9 th	Hoopstarz event in school

June 9 th	Selected 4-6 athletes to Bishop Barrington
w.b. June 12 th	Year 1 Phonics Screening
June 14 th	Play in a Day Y5/6
June 14 th	Year 3 Cricket at Barnard Castle School
June 15 th	Play in a Day Y4
June 22 nd	Year 6 to Bright Woods
June 23 rd	Year 2 Class Assembly
June 28 th	Year 6 Activity Day at the Hub (details to follow)
June 28 th	Play in a Day Y3
June 29 th	Last swimming session for Year 5
June 29 th	Year 1 Class Assembly
June 29 th	Year 6 Sleepover at school! (details to follow)
July 4 th	New starters Parents/Carers meetings
July 6 th	Reception Class Assembly
July 7 th	Monty does the Decades rehearsal at the Witham (Y3-6)
July 10 th and 11 th	Monty does the Decades performances at the Witham
July 12 th	Year 6 athletics (15 max)
July 13 th	World Cup Football event
July 13 th and 14 th	Transition Dates for Teesdale
July 14 th	Move up day
July 18 th	Nursery Sports Day
July 19 th	Sports Day Rec-Y6
July 20 th	Reserve Sports Day
July 21 st	Leavers' Assembly

Mr. C Minikin
Head Teacher

School Lottery Link Membership Link below:

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

