

Dear Parents,

February 2018



We hope the children have had a good half term and are looking forward to a busy 6 weeks in school before the Easter break.

Our Talent Show was held just before half term. Our thanks to Mrs Morning and Mrs Brown for organising this and the staff and our Friends of Tanfield for organising refreshments and ensuring all went smoothly on the night. The children were terrific and ensured it was a true variety performance including magic tricks, dancing, singing, jokes, origami, cups and tap dancing. All who were able to come had a very entertaining evening.

This half term we have a few different things planned including some den building work for adults and children as well as raising children's awareness of the difficulties some families face in times of crisis through fundraising for Shelter Box and considering what it might be like to be a refugee. Some children from Y5 and Y6 will also take up the challenge of camping on the school grounds for a night in March.

Finally – for our Y6 parents - don't forget that the Y6 Howtown Slideshow will take place this Friday, 23rd February @ 9 a.m. and we hope many Y6 parents will be able to attend.

As always we look forward to seeing you in school at some point this half term.

Kay Hemmings (Head Teacher)

### **Sporting Competitions with our Partner Schools**

Our Y5 and Y6 children competed in the High 5 competition with Brandon, Langley Moor and Witton Gilbert and came away with the trophy! Well done to all involved. Our Y3 and Y4 After School Golf Club also competed at Brandon in challenging weather and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

This term the focus is on a Y1 and Y2 football competition and KS2 Dodgeball (children selected from the Dodgeball After School Club).



### **New Roof**

You'll have noticed that three large containers have appeared at the front of the school over half term. Durham County Council have identified our school to have the pitched roofs on the Upper School building replaced. We have managed to maintain and repair these over the years but replacing these will make a huge difference and save us money. There will be some inconvenience. The classes at the front of school will be able to carry on as usual when the work is being done but once they work on the lower pitched roof facing over the yard, classes will have to move out one at a time for the work to take place. We will keep this disruption to the minimum for the children.

### **OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) – unwanted items always needed**

Thanks for all the items that have already been contributed for our Outdoor Play. The children really do benefit from the unwanted items you have continued to send in. Don't forget about us when you have your next clear out – we're interested in a variety of items including push chairs, cases on wheels, cuddly toys, wheeled cars, dressing up clothes and so on; please send them in.

Requests are frequently made by other schools to come and see our platinum winning lunchtime provision - we are rightly proud of the high standard of play we offer at lunchtime.



### **Easter Celebration Service**

I am very pleased to confirm that we will be holding an *Easter Celebration Service* at St. Margaret's Church on the afternoon of Tuesday 27th March. This will involve all Key Stage 2 children plus the children in Y1 and Y2 who are in the choir and we'll be celebrating Easter through music and poetry.

We are really grateful that the congregation of St. Margaret's Church, led by Rev. Andy Miller, are happy to host this for us. It is a very special venue and gives our children another opportunity to perform to an audience through music and recitation, further developing their confidence and self-assurance as well as being involved in an act of worship. We hope that many parents will be able to join us for this. We are anticipating beginning the service between 1:30 and 1:45 p.m. We will be having an early lunch for KS2 children, all children will then walk to the church and the service will begin once we are all in position – hence the approximate start time. Once the service is finished children whose parents are in attendance will be able to go home with them. The rest of the children will be walked back to school for the end of the school day. This is a new occasion for us and we are really looking forward to it.

The choir, musicians and children who are reciting poetry will go to the church that morning for a rehearsal. We are then going to take the opportunity to share our children's talent in the community by taking some of the performers to Stanley Park Care Home to share our Easter Celebration with the residents before returning to school for lunch. More information will be given to parents of the children involved nearer the time.

## Den Building Afternoon for KS1 and KS2

Plans are afoot for our Den Building afternoon. We hope that you can join us on the afternoon of Wednesday 14th March when we will arrange children (Y1 to Y6) in family groups, linked to their coloured teams, to work as teams to build den communities on the field. It would be great if you could join us for this afternoon of fun on the school grounds – OPAL in action. Come prepared for any weather.



We now have 199 followers on twitter. If you are not one of them then you are missing out on weekly updates and activities in school – to follow us we are @TanfieldPrimary

You could be follower number 200!! 😊



**Sports Relief** Sports Relief is a biennial charity event from Comic Relief, in association with BBC Sport, which brings together the worlds of sport and entertainment to raise money to help vulnerable people in both the UK and the world's poorest countries. The heart of the campaign involves members of the public doing their 'sporting' bit for charity.

This year, our school will support this event on **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March**. Children will be asked to wear their favourite sporty clothes, make a donation to aid the campaign and take part in sport related activities in school.

## Egg Decorating

Don't forget, our annual Egg Decorating Competition is rapidly approaching.

The Lower School children are asked to bring their pre-decorated egg into school on Wednesday 28th March in readiness for competition that day. Preference is given to those eggs that have clearly been decorated by the children with minimal help from adults. The Upper School children, are to bring their undecorated boiled eggs (always worth bringing some spare ones) in to school that day, plus any resources they would like to use to assist them in their decorating. Parents of the Upper School children are welcome to come in to school first thing that morning and assist with the egg decorating in class.

Finally, don't forget about the competition for parents - you are very welcome to decorate your own egg and enter the parent competition - all eggs to be submitted on the Wednesday too. Thank you.



## Attendance – The Road to Success

We had joint winners in our Road to Success class attendance competition last half term – Mr Durham and Mr McIntosh's sharing the £20 class prize. Our attendance as a school last term fell to just over 94%, 2% below the national expectation. This was partly due to sickness bugs we have, as a community, been hit by. However, it has also been as a result of holidays in term time and children being late after registration closes. We continue to promote good attendance and promptness with the children and where this is becoming a concern it is our policy to send letters to parents or invite them in for a meeting to discuss these concerns.

Good attendance and arriving at school on time is crucial to good progress. In primary schools it is parents who play a particularly important part in ensuring their children are in school as much as possible and are on time. Please work with us to make sure your child has the best opportunity to succeed. **Every day counts!**

## Annual Litter Pick in our Community

Every year our school supports [LitterFree Durham's](#) litter pick campaign, a popular community litter-pick operation, which runs every spring, in partnership with LitterFree Durham and Darlington Borough Council.

Litter not only blights the environment and makes areas look untidy; it also affects natural habitats and wildlife. Big Spring Clean encourages and supports residents, businesses and volunteers to organise litter pick activities or events to help tidy their village or town. This year, the children in our school will support the litter-pick campaign on **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April** (3:15 until 4:30 p.m.). We will focus on tidying Tanfield woods. (adjacent to our school grounds). Mrs Wilkinson will be sending a letter out soon regarding this and we hope that both children and adults will be able to help in this community clean up.



## After School Child Care

Our Child Care operates every day after school until around 5:30 (slightly earlier on a Friday). More information is available on our website or from the office. Payment should be made in advance of sessions attended. Please note, if there is a problem with regard to pick up for After School Child Care, the mobile number **07427 471782** must be used. Please **do not** use the school number or a leave message on this as after 5 p.m. (and 4:30 on a Friday) there is no one available to pick up those calls. Thank you.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY		SPRING TERM DATES 2018
Mon 19 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Children back to school</b>	
This half term	During this half term Y3 & Y4 intend to visit Beamish - date still to be confirmed	
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Full Governing Body Meeting	
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Howtown Slideshow for Y6 - parents welcome to see the pictures from this visit. 9 a.m.	
26 <sup>th</sup> Feb to 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Y5 residential visit, staying at Grinton Moor Youth Hostel	
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	<b>World Book Day</b> We aren't doing anything special today. Our activities are in the following 2 weeks.	
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Non School Uniform Day- please bring a donation for school fund	
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	BOOK FAIR all week	
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	SATs Meeting for all Y6 parents - you will be given advice on how to best support your children through these tests.	
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Rev. Andy Miller to lead Lower School Assembly	
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	OPAL Den Building afternoon - parents invited to join us for the afternoon	
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Y5 and Y6 children to camp on the school grounds this evening and reflecting on what it might be like to be a refugee or a victim of a natural disaster	
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Nicola Davies - author/illustrator - to come work with our children today	
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	Reception to visit the Great North Museum	
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>PARENT MEETINGS for whole school - 3.15pm until 5.30pm</b>	
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Y3 Multi Skills Festival with Brandon, Witton and Langley Moor @ Witton (9.30-12)	
	Rev. Andy Miller to lead Upper School Assembly	
	<b>PARENT MEETINGS for whole school - 3.15pm until 5.30pm</b>	
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	CNS Competition - Y1 and Y2 Football Team and KS1 Gym/Dance Competition v Brandon, LM & WG @ Brandon (9.30-12) and Anti-Bullying Team out all morning.	
	<b>Sports Relief - Fundraising Day</b> Children to come to school wearing their favourite sporty clothes and make a donation to Sports Relief.	
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>KS2 Easter Celebration - through music and poetry in St. Margaret's Church</b> We hope all parents of children involved will be able to join us for this special service - starting between 1:30 and 1:45.	
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Egg Decorating</b> Lower School children to bring decorated egg in to school today for competition. Upper School children to bring boiled egg and decorating resources to school to decorate egg - parents welcome to come and work with the upper school children in class on this a.m. <b>Friends Coffee Afternoon 2 p.m.</b> -School Choir to sing, plus viewing of all decorated eggs	
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Break up for Easter Holidays 3.15pm</b>	
<b>Future dates early next term</b>		
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> April	Pre-School to have a day visit to Hall Hill Farm - all Pre-School children in all day today. More details to follow soon.	
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	Big Spring Clean - Annual litter pick up in Tanfield. We will focus on tidying Tanfield woods. (adjacent to our school grounds).	
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> April	Y5 and Y6 to visit Durham Cathedral	