

Dear Parents/Carers,

September 2017

Our new school year is well underway. The children have settled back in to the routines and we have lots of great things planned for the year.

Building Work - If you've brought your child to school this week you'll have seen a lot of changes externally to our Lower School Building and there are more changes inside. Funding from the Department of Education, Durham County Council and our own school budget has enabled us to make significant developments this summer. We have extended our Pre-School provision. We now have a dedicated Pre-School room and shared outdoor area with Reception. The Pre-School will enter under the new canopy and we can take up to 26 children for the first half of the week and the same for the second half. In addition to this we have been able to offer some parents 30 hours Pre-School education. This is a really exciting development for us and so important for the young children in our community.

Pre-School Places Available - We do still have some places left for the second half of the week – 2.5 days, Wednesday afternoon through to Friday afternoon. If you know of any families who have a child who is 3 years old then they would be eligible to start our Pre-School. Please contact the school office to discuss our provision.

Open House - During the 'Meet the Teacher' session later in September we will have on 'Open House' for our Pre-School so if you'd like to come and have a look at the new provision please take this opportunity. Mrs Dunham and Mrs Watson will spend the first week back setting up and resourcing the new room ready to start on Monday 11th September.

New Staff/New Names - Mrs Penna is now going by her married name – Mrs Morning. Mrs Johnson married over the summer and is now Mrs Wilkinson. Mr McIntosh is our new teacher, teaching in Y1 and our two new Play Supervisors are Ms Drummond and Mrs Livingstone.

For those parents who are new to us we wish you a warm welcome and look forward to working with you over the coming years.

This is the newsletter which gives you the plan for the year. We strive hard to keep to these dates as we know how much easier it is for you to be organised for the year. Please retain the '**Dates for your Diary**' sheets for future reference – they can also be found on the website.

Please read on to find out more.

Kay Hemmings (Head Teacher)



Meet the Teacher

Once again we'll be holding our 'Meet the Teacher' meetings for classes from Y1 to Y6.

This is the 3rd year we have run these but it **continues to be important for all parents to attend**. Whether it's your first year for them or you've experienced them a number of times – there are always new things to learn. A lot of important information will be shared about your child's class, what they will be doing this year and – most importantly – how you can support them.

The meetings this year will take place on **Tuesday 19th September**.

All parents will learn more about **Growth Mindset** including the changes we are making this year in the way we recognise children's achievements and what you can do at home to support this mindset.

In addition to this, KS2 parents will learn about the big changes we are making to how we develop reading. We are **introducing Accelerated Reader to all KS2 children** and it will be important for parents to come to the meeting to find out what this will be like in practice, what you can expect your child/ren to be doing and how you can encourage reading at home.

We are offering two times – either 3.30 or 5.00 p.m. If you have children in more than one class then you could go to both classes at different times.

Children are not invited to attend this meeting and so we are offering a crèche for both sessions.

If you want to use the crèche and are attending the 3.30 session, please collect your child from class and then bring them to the Lower School Hall and staff will supervise the children for you until you come to collect them at the end of the session. It will last roughly 30 minutes. If you are attending the 5 p.m. session then please bring your child/ren to the Lower School Hall before the start of the meeting. The children will be supervised in the hall or the Reception classroom – depending on numbers.

All classes except Reception and Pre-School will be holding these so we do hope you will be able to attend.

Pre-School Open Afternoon

Coinciding with the Meet the Teacher sessions our Pre-School will be accessible during this time (3.30 until 5 p.m.) so you can take this opportunity to look at the new area and set up for our children.

Residential Visits for Y5 and Y6

Arrangements for Y6 to attend Howtown from Monday 30th October are well in place. At least half of the total cost should have already been paid and the final payment is payable by Friday 6th October. We will be holding a meeting on Wednesday 20th September at 5.30 p.m. to go through the final details, give out kit lists and for parents to complete the necessary documentation for the visit. It is very important that an adult attends this meeting. It will last about 30 minutes.

Year 5 will be going to Grinton Lodge again in the spring term - Monday 26th February to Friday 2nd March 2018. We will be sending out information regarding this very soon and hope that all children will be able to attend.



Speak Out. Stay Safe.

NSPCC Programme for Primary Children

The NSPCC are coming in to school to work with our children. They will do an assembly for all children from Reception through to Year 6 and will then, the following week, work directly with our Y5 and Y6. They have asked us to share the following information prior to their visit: -

The NSPCC's *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme is visiting our school to make sure our pupils have the knowledge and understanding they need to stay safe from abuse.

This is a nationwide programme for every primary-school-aged child in the UK and Channel Islands. With the help of their friendly mascot Buddy, they'll be presenting an assembly to the children in our school as well as a workshop for Years 5 and 6. **"NSPCC has helped me to build the confidence to tell people about my worries and problems." Child's feedback.**

What is the *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme?

Through child-friendly, interactive assemblies and workshops their specially trained staff and volunteers will give our children information about how to keep themselves safe from harm and how to get help if they have any worries, sensitively discussing issues like bullying and sexual abuse, without using scary words or adult language. We have studied the content of the materials and heard from other schools who have participated and are extremely confident that they are appropriate for primary-school-aged children. By the end of their visit, we're convinced children will feel empowered – knowing how they can speak out and stay safe.

"This service provides important information in a child-friendly way – it should be made mandatory in all schools. A brilliant service!" Teacher, Wistaston Primary, Crewe

If you would like any more information about the NSPCC *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme, including frequently asked questions, you can find it on the NSPCC website nspcc.org.uk/schools or please come into speak to me and I can provide more information.

Talking about the Underwear Rule with your children

The NSPCC's work in schools will help encourage conversations about staying safe – and they have a number of child-friendly materials to help you carry on the conversation afterwards. That includes 'The Underwear Rule', a simple way for parents to help keep children safe from sexual abuse – without using scary words or even mentioning sex.

The guide uses the rules of PANTS to teach children that their body belongs to them and them alone. You can find out more and download the free resources at nspcc.org.uk/pants

If you'd like to know more about the NSPCC's work, or take a look at the wide range of information and advice which is available for parents and carers, please visit their website nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/



SCARECROW WEEKEND - Don't forget it's the Tanfield Scarecrow Festival this weekend - if you venture to Tanfield Village I'm sure there'll be lots to see including the scarecrow that Mrs Morning's class have been busy making. In addition to this there will be the photography competition entries to enjoy. All are welcome.

OPAL Due to the success of OPAL last year and the positive way children responded to it we were able to be more flexible with the areas the children played in, extending their opportunities. If the ground is dry then the children can access the grass areas at break time and lunchtime. When it is wet then children need to wear their wellingtons. If your child has not got their wellingtons in school yet it would be great if you could organise for them to leave a pair in school with their names written clearly inside them.



SPORTS COMPETITIONS/MULTISPORTS

As in previous years all children from Y1 through to Y6 will have the opportunity to take part in sports with our partner schools. Every child will have the chance to take part in a Multisports Event during the year. In addition to this, teams will be selected to compete in interschool competitions. There will be one every half term (2 for each year group during the year). This year, in addition to these two activities, there will be additional After School Clubs, one every half term, which will give further opportunities for those children who would like to compete with others. The schedule is as follows and letters will follow for those interested in attending. Anyone who attends the club will have the opportunity to be selected for the team competition at the end of the half term.

Aut 1 Y5 and 6 – Cross Country
Spring 1 Y3 and 4 – Golf
Summer 1 Y1 and Y2 – Athletics

Aut 2 Key Stage 2 - Dance/Gym
Spring 2 Key Stage 1 – Gymnastics
Summer 2 Y3 – Maths Challenge

School Security

Keeping our children safe is extremely important to us. You will be aware of many of the security measures we have in place. The main entrance is the only place people can access school during the day. If you do visit school during this time then you need to buzz the door to gain access. All children are told they should not let anyone in so please do not be offended when they don't give you access. Once in school please report to the office. Many thanks.

School Photographs

The photographer will be in twice this term. On Wednesday 13th September they will be taking the class photographs, Wednesday 4th October will be the individual and sibling photos. In the past we have arranged a Family Photograph Evening in addition to these two sessions. For the last two years we have not had enough interest to run these. If you would be interested in your family being photographed together, please contact the office by Friday 15th September and if there is a lot of interest we will try to arrange a date.

Home Learning - To support the learning in school children will be asked to complete some Home Learning on a weekly basis. They will generally bring this home on a Wednesday night and will be expected to complete it and return it to school by the following Monday. It is great if you can show interest in their home learning and guide them through it. In addition to this it is important to hear your child read as much as possible but at least three times a week.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS We are in the process of sorting out the timetable for this term. You will receive letters shortly. The current plan is as follows. Letters will be sent out from the individual clubs once they are ready to begin.			
Monday	Choir	Y1 upwards	3.15 - 4.00
	Football	Y5 and Y6 girls and boys	3.15 - 4.15
	Multisports	Lower School (not Reception)	3.10 - 4.10
Tuesday	Cross Country	Y5 and Y6 - with view to compete at end of this half term	3.15 - 4.15
	OPAL CLUB	Y1 up to Y6	3.05/3.15 - 4.15
Wednesday	Tag Rugby	Upper School	3.15 - 4.15
	Lingotots - Learn Spanish	Upper School Children	3.15 - 4.15
Thursday	Young Leaders	Successful applicants from Y6	3.15 - 4.15
	Home Learning Club	By invitation	3.15-4.15

Dates for Your Diary		Main Events for the Year	
AUTUMN TERM 2017			
Sat 9 th & Sun 10 th Sept	Scarecrow Festival in Tanfield Village - please go along if you have some spare time		
Monday 11 th Sept	All Pre-School to come in with their parents today - half a.m./half p.m a.m. = 8.55 until 11.30 p.m. = 12.50 until 3.10 (one parent/no siblings)		
	Y3/4 (Mrs Davis) and Y4 (Mrs Brown) classes to go swimming every Monday		
	3.15 onwards - Football matches for the girls' team @ home		
Tuesday 12 th Sept	Pre-School - For these 4 days children will come in for one session over the next 4 days. This session will be from 8.55 until 11.30 + they will stay for lunch with a parent.		
Wednesday 13 th Sept	Tempest in to do Class Photographs all day		
	Friends of Tanfield School Meetings @ 3.30 in the Conference Room - any parent wanting to help with this group will be very welcome to attend the meeting		
Thursday 14 th Sept	NSPCC to do assembly for KS2 and EY and KS1 this morning KS2 9-9.30 and EY/KS1 9.50 to 10.10		
Friday 15 th Sept	Ballot for School Council and voting for Team Captains		
Friday 15 th Sept	Friendly football match with St. Joseph's at home for boys		
Monday 18 th Sept	Pre-School in full time from today		
	3.15 onwards - Football matches for the girls' team @ St. Mary's, Bridgehill		
Tuesday 19 th Sept	Rev. Andy Miller in to do assembly for Lower School		
Tuesday 19 th Sept 3.30 or 5 p.m.	Meet the Teacher (for all classes from Y1 to Y6) - what you need to know about your child's learning this year - Sessions for all parents - 30 minutes - choose either 3.30 p.m. or 5 p.m. <i>Crèche available in Lower School Hall for both sessions</i>		
Tuesday 19 th Sept Dragonflies today - half of parents a.m. (9 to 11) and other half p.m. (1.10 to 3.10) - letter to follow	Stay and Play and Phonics Workshop for Reception Parents of children in Reception Dragonflies are invited to come in for a session (either a.m. or p.m.). You'll have the opportunity to stay with your child during this session and play with them, learning more about the Early Years and the different experiences they have. This will be followed by a Phonics Session to support you in supporting your child's reading.		
Wednesday 20 th Sept Butterflies today - half of parents a.m. (9 to 11) and other half p.m. (1.10 to 3.10) - letter to follow	Stay and Play in Reception Parents of children in Reception Butterflies are invited to come in for a session (either a.m. or p.m.). You'll have the opportunity to stay with your child during this session and play with them, learning more about the Early Years and the different experiences they have. This will be followed by a Phonics Session to support you in supporting your child's reading.		
Wednesday 20 th Sept	Boys' football match tonight at home		
	Howtown Meeting - 5.30 p.m. for Y6 parents IMPORTANT AN ADULT ATTENDS		
Thursday 21 st Sept	NSPCC to come and work with Y56		
Monday 25 th Sept	Girls' Football Team at home		
Tuesday 26 th Sept	Rev. Andy Miller in to do Upper School Assembly		
	Early Years Drop In Session - 3.30 until 4.30 - More information soon		
Wednesday 27 th Sept	Boys' Football at Delves Lane Primary		
Friday 29 th Sept	9.15 Harvest Celebration led by Y1 and Y2 children - Parents Welcome We will be asking the Y1 and Y2 children to bring food contributions for the Harvest that can then be distributed in the community or to the Food Bank. If you would like to nominate anyone for a food parcel please let the office know by Friday 22nd Sept.		
Monday 2nd October	BOOK FAIR THIS WEEK - Tuesday to Friday		
	3.15 onwards - Football matches for the girls' team @ home		
Tuesday 3rd October	Macmillan Coffee Afternoon - combining the opportunity to buy from the Book Fair as well as raising money for Macmillan - 2 pm until 3.15 pm organised by the Friends of Tanfield Lea		
Wednesday 4th Oct	Tempest in to take Individual Photos today and siblings		

Friday 6 th October	Non School Uniform - please bring a donation for School Fund
Monday 9 th October	3.15 onwards - Football matches for the Girls' Team @ home
Wednesday 11 th Oct	Boys' Football at home
Monday 16 th October	ASSESSMENT WEEK for all children from Y1 to Y6
Tuesday 17 th October	Y6 Multi Skills Festival with Brandon, Langley Moor & Witton @ Tanfield(9.30-12)
Wednesday 18 th Oct	Stay and Play Session for Pre-School - parents to stay with their children for the session today - play with them and find out more about their time in Pre-School. Bumblebees morning - Ladybirds afternoon. Caterpillars to come either a.m. or p.m.
Thursday 19 th October	Rosie Revere, Engineer - Assembly for Whole School on this and then all children to design and make a Paper Aeroplane to fly as far as possible - Growth Mindset theme
Friday 20 th October	CNS Competitions -Tag Rugby-Y3/4 Team, Cross Country Team Y56 and Anti-Bullying Team out all morning @ Brandon
	HALF TERM HOLIDAY BEGINS - 3.15
Monday 30 th October	Back to School Y6 to go to Howtown today for the week
Friday 3 rd November	Non School Uniform Day - please bring in a donation for school fund
Thursday 9 th November	NHS to do nasal spray vaccinations for Reception through to Y4
Friday 17 th November	Children in Need Fundraising today, led by the School Council
Tuesday 21 st November	Rev. Andy Miller in to lead Upper School assembly
Wednesday 22 nd Nov	Full Governing Body Meeting - 9.15 onwards in Conference Room
Tuesday 28 th November	Rev Andy Miller in to lead Lower School Assembly
Friday 1 st December	Non School Uniform Day - please bring a donation for the tombola stall Poetry Recital 9 a.m.- Upper School children selected to recite poetry. Parents welcome.
Monday 4 th December	PARENT MEETINGS (Whole School) - 3.15pm until 5.30pm
Tuesday 5 th December	PARENT MEETINGS (Whole School) - 3.15pm until 5.30pm
Sunday 10 th December	5 p.m. Choir to sing at Ecumenical Carol Service - Tanfield Club
Week beg 11 th Dec	Enterprise Week for Christmas Fair - all to do as an Enterprise Project - planning, designing, budgeting, making
Monday 11 th December	Christmas Performance by Early Years (Pre-School and Reception) for parents - 9.15
Tuesday 12 th December	Y5 Multi Skills Festival-with Brandon, Witton & Langley Moor 9.30 - 12 @ Tanfield
Wednesday 13 th Dec	Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity Performance for Parents - 9.30 a.m. Christmas Dinner ALL CHILDREN TO COME DRESSED IN THEIR CHRISTMAS JUMPER TODAY. Pre School Bumblebee and Ladybird children are invited to join us for this special lunch today. (Caterpillars will already be staying)
Thursday 14 th Dec	Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity Performance for Parents - 9.30 a.m. Christmas Performance by Early Years (Pre-School and Reception) for parents - 2.15
Friday 15 th December	CNS Competition - Hockey Y1 and 2 Team, KS2 Gym/Dance Team and Anti-Bullying Team out of class all morning @ Tanfield
Monday 18 th December	'The Littlest Elf' - outside theatre company in school to perform to Pre-School children - 2 p.m. onwards - Ladybirds to be invited and children from Burnopfield Primary Y3 and Y4 Christmas Party - 1 pm until 3.15 pm in Upper School Hall
Tuesday 19 th December	Y1 and Y2 class party 1 until 3.05 Y5 and 6 party 1pm - 3.15pm Santa to visit children in Lower School a.m. - if he can fit us into his busy schedule The Pre School Ladybirds are invited to join us from 9 until 10
Wednesday 20 th Dec	Extra Non School Uniform Day - Children to dress up on a Christmas theme - please bring cake in for cake stall All children involved in Carol Service to go to church for a rehearsal this morning Early Years Christmas Parties today (a.m and p.m.) - Due to numbers and morning and afternoon Pre-School the children will either be at the party in the morning or the afternoon.
After school 20 th Dec	Christmas Fair - 3.15pm until 4.30pm in Upper School

	All children to finish school at 3.00pm today to allow Fair to start at 3.15pm.
Thursday 21st Dec	Whole School (except Pre-School) to go to see 'Alice in Wonderland' at the Northern Stage - leaving at 9 a.m. Friends subsidise the visit by paying for the transport (Thank you!)
Fri 22nd December Last Day of Aut Term	FAMILY CAROL SERVICE - a.m. for all children and parents at St. Margaret's Church, Tanfield Village. Children able to go home following this. January Pre-School new starters to visit this morning

SPRING TERM DATES 2018	
Monday 8th January	School Reopens following Christmas Break
Friday 12th January	Non School Uniform Day- please bring a donation for school fund
Tuesday 30th January	Rev. Andy Miller to take Lower School Assembly
Tuesday 31 st January	Meeting for parents of those Y5 children going to Grinton Lodge - important someone attends - 5.15 p.m.
Friday 2nd February	Non School Uniform Day- please bring a donation for school fund
Monday 5th February	ASSESSMENT WEEK for all children from Y1 to Y6
Tuesday 6 th February	Y4 Multi Skills Festival with Brandon, Langley Moor & Witton @ Witton (9.30-12) Rev. Andy Miller in to lead Upper School Assembly
Wednesday 7 th February	Tanfield's Got Talent - Talent Show - 6.00pm
Friday 9 th February	Y5 and Y6 High 5 Competition and Y3 and Y4 Golf Competition v Brandon, LM and WG @ Brandon (9.30-12) and Anti-Bullying Team out all morning. HALF TERM holiday begins 3.15pm
Mon 19th February	Children back to school
Wednesday 21st Feb	Full Governing Body Meeting - TBC
Monday 26th February to Friday 2nd March	Y5 residential visit, staying at Grinton Moor Youth Hostel
Thursday 1st March	World Book Day
Friday 2nd March	Non School Uniform Day- please bring a donation for school fund
Monday 5th March	BOOK FAIR all week Nicola Davies - author/illustrator - to come in this week or next week - awaiting confirmation
Monday 12th March	Nicola Davies - author/illustrator - to come in this week or last week - awaiting confirmation
Tuesday 13th March	Rev. Andy Miller to lead Lower School Assembly
Monday 19th March	PARENT MEETINGS for whole school - 3.15pm until 5.30pm
Tuesday 20th March	Y3 Multi Skills Festival with Brandon, Witton and Langley Moor @ Witton (9.30-12) Rev. Andy Miller to lead Upper School Assembly PARENT MEETINGS for whole school - 3.15pm until 5.30pm
Friday 23rd 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. Non School Uniform Day - please bring a donation for School Fund
Wednesday 28th March	Egg Decorating 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. Friends Coffee Afternoon 2 p.m. - School Choir to sing, plus viewing of all decorated eggs
Thursday 29th March	Break up for Easter Holidays 3.15pm

SUMMER TERM 2017	
Monday 16th April	Return to School
Friday 20th April	Non School Uniform Day
1st May	Rev. Andy Miller to lead Lower School Assembly
4th May	Non-School Uniform Day - please bring a donation in for school fund
Monday 7th May	BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY - no children in school today

7th May to 22nd May	Y2 Assessment period —it is important that Y2 children are at school during this time.
7th May - 11th May	Assessment Period for the rest of the school
Tuesday 8th May	In It Together Conference for Y4 children at Spennymoor Leadership Centre. Joint event with Y4 children from Brandon Primary School
14th - 18th May	Y6 SAT WEEK It is very important that you do not book a holiday for this week or for the weeks leading up to it. Requests will not be authorised.
Friday 18th May	Y3 and Y4 Cricket Competition and Y1 and Y2 Athletics Competition v Brandon, LM and WG @ Witton (9.30-12) and Anti-Bullying Team out all morning.
Tuesday 22nd May	Y2 Multi Skills Festival with Brandon, Langley Moor & Witton @ Brandon (9.30-12)
Tuesday 22nd May	HALF TERM HOLIDAY BEGINS @ 3.15
Weds, Thurs & Fri 23/24/25th May	Teacher Training Days - no children in school
Mon 4th June	Children back to school
4th June - 8th June	SPORTS WEEK - various activities encouraging healthy living
Tuesday 5th June	SPONSORED CYCLE RIDE - 3.15pm - 6pm Tanfield to Leadgate and back
Wednesday 6th June	SPORTS DAY a.m. Upper School p.m. Early Years 1 until 1.30 Key Stage 1 (Y1 & 2) 1.45 onwards Alternative date in case of bad weather - Friday 8th June
Friday 8th June	Non-School Uniform Day - please bring a donation for school fund
11th June to 15th June	Y1 Phonics Test Week (+ those children in Y2 who did not reach required level)
Wednesday 13th June	Full Governing Body Meeting - TBC
Thursday 14th June	Meeting for new parents (new Reception children) 4.00 p.m. in Lower School Hall No children at this meeting. Sleepover for Y6 at Brandon Primary School - reunion with children who they went to Howtown with. Starting 7 p.m.
Friday 15 th June	Activity Day at Brandon for Y5 and Y6 children
Tuesday 19th June	Rev. Andy Miller to lead Lower School Assembly New Reception children and their parents to visit - 3.30 until 4.30
Wednesday 20th June	New Reception Children Visits (children starting Reception in September 2018)
Tuesday 26th June	Rev. Andy Miller in to lead Upper School Assembly
Wednesday 27th June	New Reception Children Visits (children starting Reception in September 2018)
Monday 2nd - 4th July	Transition Days for Tanfield School
Monday 2nd July	Children move to new classes for a taster session today
Tuesday 3rd July	Pre-School Meetings for children starting in September - 4.00 p.m. (Adults only)
Wednesday 4th July 1pm	Transition afternoon for Reception children moving into Y1. Parents of Reception children will be invited in to move with their Reception children to the Y1 classroom.
Friday 6th July	Non-School Uniform Day - please bring donation for school fund Reports go out today
Tuesday 10th July	Y1 Multi Skills Festival with Brandon and Langley Moor @ Brandon (9.30-12)
Friday 13th July	Y5 and Y6 Athletics Competition and Y3 Maths Challenge Competition v Brandon, LM and WG @ Brandon (All day) and Anti Bullying Team - ALL DAY EVENT THIS TIME
Monday 16 th July	Dress Rehearsal for Y6 performance during afternoon Y6 Leavers' Meal - 4.30 until 5.30 at local venue
Tuesday 17 th July	Y2 Moving On Assembly - 9.15 - parents welcome 3.30 p.m. Thankyou tea for all volunteers, helpers and governors Evening Performance of Y6 production - 6 p.m.
Wednesday 18 th July	Lower School Fun Day
Thursday 19 th July	Upper School Walk - Craster to Embleton via Dunstanburgh
Friday 20th July <i>Back to school tbc</i>	Y6 YEAR CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY - 9 am Parents welcome Following the Celebration Assembly, Upper School to go to Oakies Park for the morning BREAK UP FOR SUMMER HOLIDAYS 3.10/3.15