

Dear Parents/Carers,

September 2018



The children have come back to school looking refreshed, very smart in their uniforms and ready for another busy year with lots to look forward to.

We've had some improvements done to the Upper School building – three 'wet' areas have been refurbished and are now great learning environments for small group work. Porch space has always been a challenge in the Upper School building so one large cupboard has been converted into a porch and an additional area for bags and coats has been created outside Mrs Wilkinson's classroom. The changes have already had a positive impact on the beginning and end of the day.

Our Reception children had a good first week and our new Pre-School children visited with their parents last week, so they are ready to start their regular timetable this week. We look forward to getting to know them. We are now full in Pre-School for this year but are accepting applications for September 2019.

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.

Kay Hemmings (Head Teacher)

Meet the Teacher



Our 'Meet the Teacher' meetings will be on Tuesday 18th September. We are holding these for classes from Y2 to Y6. There will be no meetings for parents who have children in Pre-School, Reception and Y1 as all the relevant information has been shared with parents at meetings before the summer.

For parents from Y2 to Y6 it is really important, if at all possible, for you to attend one of the meetings.

There are changes to the way we do things every year and a lot of information will be shared about your child's class, what they will be doing this year and – most importantly – how you can support them.

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 meetings 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/ren from school as usual and then take them to the Upper School Hall where staff will be available to 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 take your child/ren to the Upper School Hall before the start of the meeting. The children will be supervised in the hall or the Reception classroom – depending on numbers.

For Y2 session please go to Mrs Morning's classroom, Y3/4 session please go to Mrs Davis' classroom and for the Y5/6 session please go to Mr Temple's classroom.

Residential Visits for Y5 and Y6

Our Y5 children are heading off to Grinton tomorrow for their residential visit. We have reduced the number of days to lessen the cost and have also arranged for the visit to take place earlier in the year to give parents more time between this visit and the Howtown residential in Y6.

Our Y6 will go to Howtown straight after October half term – 29th October. **There will be a meeting for all parents of children going to Howtown on Tuesday 25th September at 5:15 p.m. and it will be important someone attends this meeting as there is information to share and a form to complete.** Thank you.



We've had a good sort out of the Upper School wellies during the first week. As children have grown out of wellies, many have been left and so these will be redistributed to children who don't have wellies and would like them. We'll try to do the same with the Lower School wellies over the next few weeks.

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.



SPORT AT OUR SCHOOL

We are very proud of all the sports we offer during the year. At the end of last year, we submitted an application for the School Games Award and I am very pleased to inform you that, due to the great variety of sports on offer and the time committed to these, we have been awarded the Gold Award. A great achievement!

COMPETITIONS/MULTI-SPORTS

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 Multi-Sports Event during the year. In addition to this, children will be selected to compete in interschool competitions. There will be one every half term (2 for each year group during the year), children will be selected following training in the P.E. session on a Friday morning. As with last year, there will also be an additional After School Club offered to specific year groups each half term – the children attending these will have the opportunity to take part in a competition at the end of that half term.

YEAR GROUP COMPETITIONS (Selected from the P.E. lessons taking place on a Friday)

Aut 1	Y3 and 4 – Tag Rugby	Aut 2	Y1 and Y2 - Hockey
Spring 1	Y5 and 6 – Girls and Boys-High 5 Teams	Spring 2	Y1 and Y2 – Football
Summer 1	Y3 and Y4 – Cricket	Summer 2	Y5 and 6–Girls and Boys-Athletics

COMPETITIONS LINKED TO THE ADDITIONAL AFTER SCHOOL CLUB (THURSDAY NIGHTS)

Aut 1	Y5 and 6 – Cross Country	Aut 2	Key Stage 2 - Dance/Gym
Spring 1	Y3 and 4 – Golf	Spring 2	Key Stage 1 – Gymnastics
Summer 1	Y1 and Y2 – Athletics	Summer 2	Y3 – Maths Challenge

M.U.G.A. (Multi-Use Games Area) Many thanks to all who responded to our M.U.G.A. questionnaire. We were inundated with positive feedback and this supported our bid. Although we have not heard specifically about our bid, we have heard back from the funder saying that they have been massively oversubscribed with bids and so we would, I think, be very lucky if we are to be chosen for this funding. However, we'll wait and see... you never know!

Reducing the demands on your pocket



As a school we aim to offer your child an enriched, exciting and varied education. Both within and beyond school we look for ways to make learning fun and fulfilling.

We are always conscious of the financial demands we make. We try to keep the cost as low as we can and, wherever possible, subsidise or offer experiences for no charge at all.

For example – there is no charge for all of the CNS Multi-Sports mornings and Sports Competitions (there is the cost of buses every time we go to another school), with additional support from the Friends no charge is made for the Upper School Walk. For our residential visits we have chosen providers who offer high quality provision at a competitive rate. In addition to this we book Howtown at a time when they have reduced their charges (winter months) and we also receive a subsidy. We have changed the timing of the visit to Grinton (for Y5) to allow a gap of one year between the Y5 and Y6 visit – giving parents enough time to save up in between, and this year have reduced the Grinton visit by one day – again, making it cheaper. Our aim is for the visits to be accessible for all. This year we have cancelled the Book Fair in the Autumn Term –considering demands on parents – and will just have the one Book Fair in March.

We fund many of the activities with money raised through non-school uniform days, our annual sponsored Family Bike Ride, Christmas Fair etc. and the only visits we rely on your contribution is for the Class Educational Visits. Thank you for your support, working in partnership with us to give the children a rich variety of experiences.

Gifts for Staff

At Christmas and the end of the school year our staff are always very flattered by the generous gifts we receive from the children in appreciation for the care and support that has been given throughout the year. This is greatly appreciated by everyone but recently we have reflected on this and discussed it as a staff. It links with the previous paragraph about financial demands. As much as we appreciate it, we don't need to receive gifts from you to show your gratitude. As a staff we'd like to request that from now on if you would like to express your thanks then you do not have to buy a gift – instead a card or note would be an excellent alternative and mean just as much to us, if not more. We hope that you will understand our request.



"Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless." - Mother Teresa

Promoting and Celebrating the Arts

As a school we value the arts and decided this year to have more of a celebration of this. We have a contract with the County Music Service for a **music programme for our Early Years and KS1 children**. This will take place on a Wednesday morning. Y2 will share the sessions in the autumn term, Early Years in the spring and Y1 in the summer term.



We are very excited about a music project we are going to do with Y3. Along with Brandon and Langley Primary Schools **we have hired the Gala Theatre in Durham** on the evening of 13th February. Y3 children from all 3 schools will sing en masse and we hope that some of our musicians will have the opportunity to sing or play too.

To celebrate our art work **we are going to hold an Art Exhibition in school on Thursday 18th October from 2 p.m.** There will be an environmental theme for the art work – 'Plastic Pollution' - and the children will develop their own art work using a famous artist's work as an inspiration (different artist for each year group). We hope that you will be able free up some time to come and enjoy this.

Finally, we are going to commit money raised over the last few years to go towards some professional art work this term. At the end of September an artist who works with willow will team up with some of our Upper School children to weave the willow and then use this to create a piece of art work which will be woven into the fence by the staff car park. Sue Warlock, the mosaic artist (she worked with us to create the British Value Birds) is going to work with the children across the school in November to make 3 mosaics; one to commemorate the end of the First World War and two to celebrate children's literature. All will be displayed indoors. Then Graeme Hopper, renowned artist, designer and sculptor, is going to create a piece of metal art work to celebrate what our school offers. It will be displayed on the front of the school building facing onto the road, enhancing our entrance and offering a piece of stunning artwork for the community to enjoy too. A small group of children from Y5 and Y6 will have the opportunity to visit his workshop later this month. As you can see – there is a lot going on.



EVERY DAY COUNTS
GOOD ATTENDANCE MATTERS FOR SUCCESS

Attendance

Good attendance is crucial to good progress and also has a positive impact on well-being.

As a school we promote this with the children at every opportunity. Class attendance is discussed and celebrated every Friday during assembly. We also do a random draw for all of the children who have had 100% attendance that week – the children receive a small prize and a photo of the winners is tweeted. Although Reception are not in assembly for this we include them in the draw and so Reception children may bring a small prize home if they were a lucky winner that week.

We constantly monitor attendance. The national target is for a school to have attendance of 96% or above. Our school attendance for 2017-2018 was 95.34%. If a child's % attendance dips below 95% then a letter will be sent home informing parents of this. If it goes below 90% then further letters are sent and parents may be invited in to school to discuss this. If absence persists then the case is referred to County Hall and a planning meeting is held with parents. Leave of Absence can significantly impact on a child's overall attendance and will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances. The National Assessment period is in May (and Phonics Tests for Y1 and some Y2 in June) – requests for these times **must** be avoided.

Please do all you can to ensure that your child is a good attender – it develops a work ethic for life.

Dates for your Diary	
Autumn 2018	
Monday 10th Sept	Swimming to start this afternoon – Mrs Brown’s and Mrs Davis’ classes
Tuesday 11th Sept	Year 5 to go to Grinton – Tuesday to Friday
Wednesday 12th Sept	Friends of Tanfield Lea Meeting – any parents interested in helping with events and fundraising through the year please join us – 3:30 in school Mrs Davis’ classroom – creche available
Monday 17th Sept	Y6 to attend Monozukuri Caravan Event at Nissan Factory
Tuesday 18th Sept	Meet the Teacher (for all classes from Y2 to Y6) – Come and find out 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. Crèche available in Upper School Hall for both sessions – TAs to do this as directed time. For Y2 session please go to Mrs Morning’s classroom For Y3/4 session please go to Mrs Davis’ classroom For Y5/6 session please go to Mr Temple’s classroom
Wednesday 19th Sept	Football Matches – Boys – @ home
Thursday 20th Sept	Stay and Play for Reception – a.m. and p.m. session Curriculum Introduction A letter is coming out today (Monday 10th Sept.) with sign up slots. Please complete and return as soon as possible.
Friday 21st Sept	Stay and Play for Reception – a.m. session only Curriculum Introduction <i>As above.</i>
Friday 21st Sept	Voting for School Council and Team Captains today
Monday 24th Sept	Football Matches – Girls - @ Blackhill St. Mary’s
Tuesday 25th Sept	Howtown Meeting for parents of children in Y6 attending this residential – 5:15
Wednesday 26th Sept	Football Matches – Boys - @ Delves
Friday 28th Sept	9:15 KS1 to lead Harvest Assembly – 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 21st Sept. Willow Artist – in all day working with some Y4,5,6 children weaving willow into the fence to create a work of art.
Monday 1st October	Football Matches – Girls - @ home
Wednesday 3rd Oct	Tempest – Individual Photo Day. All children to have their photo taken but there is no obligation to buy. If you particularly do not want your child to have their photo taken, please contact the office.
Friday 5th Oct	Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund per family
Monday 15th October	Football Matches – Girls - @ home
Tuesday 16th Oct	Y6 Multi Skills Festival @ Tanfield
Wednesday 17th Oct	Football Matches – Boys - @ home
Thursday 18th Oct	2 p.m. onwards – Art Exhibition in Lower School Hall – All parents invited to attend to view the children’s art work. Friends to provide refreshments.
Friday 19th Oct	Tag Rugby Competition (YEAR 3/4), Cross Country & ABCs (Year 4s) @ Brandon
HALF TERM	Monday 22nd Oct to Friday 26th Oct
Monday 29th Oct	Y6 away at Howtown all week
Friday 2nd Nov	Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund – one per family
Thursday 8th Nov	Flu Vaccine for Reception, Y1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 to take place today – more information later
Friday 9th Nov	Commemorative Event led by Councillors re end of WW1 – more info later CNS Sports – Recognising Disabilities – Sports Activities for whole school

Tuesday 13th Nov	Stay and Play for Reception – p.m. session (1:10-3:10) to be offered - Curriculum and, in particular, Maths focus this time.
Wednesday 14th Nov	Stay and Play for Reception–a.m. (9-11) and p.m. (1:10-3:10) session to be offered
Friday 16th Nov	Fundraising Event organised by the School Council
Wednesday 21st Nov	Class Photos
Monday 3rd Dec	PARENT MEETINGS (Whole School) – 3.15pm until 5.30pm
Tuesday 4th Dec	PARENT MEETINGS (Whole School) – 3.15pm until 5.30pm
Friday 7th Dec	Non School Uniform Day – FREE DAY as asking for cakes in 2 weeks
Sunday 9th Dec	Choir to sing at Ecumenical Carol Service – Tanfield Club
Week Beg 10th Dec	Enterprise Week for Christmas Fair – all classes to take part in this enterprise week: planning, designing and making items/activitie for the Fair
Monday 10th Dec	Christmas Performance by Early Years (Pre-School and Reception) for parents – 9.15
Tuesday 11th Dec	Y5 Multi Skills Festival @ Tanfield
Wednesday 12th 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/Christmas themed clothing. Pre School Bumblebee and Ladybird children are invited to join us for this special lunch today. (Caterpillars will already be staying)
Thurs 13th – Sun 16th Dec	Possible visit for a group of Y5 and Y6 children to Germany – UK/German Connection Project – more information once funding confirmed
Thursday 13th Dec	Christmas Performance by Early Years (Pre-School and Reception) for parents – 9.15 a.m. Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity Performance for parents – 1.30 p.m.
Friday 14th Dec	Y1/2 Hockey Competition, Dance/Gym (KS2) and ABCs meeting @ Tanfield
Monday 17th Dec	Y3 and Y4 Class Party – 1 pm until 3.15 pm in Upper School Hall
Tuesday 18th Dec	Northern Stage Production ‘A Christmas Carol’ – Y1 to Y6 to attend a.m. Big Foot Theatre Production for PS and Rec in school this morning ‘The Clumsiest Christmas Elf’ – 9:45 until 10:30
Wednesday 19th Dec	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 Y1 and Y2 Class Party 1 until 3.05 Y5 and Y6 Class Party 1 until 3.15pm
Thursday 20th 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 Class Parties today (a.m and p.m.) – Due to numbers the children will either be at the party in the morning or the afternoon. 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.
Friday 21st Dec	FAMILY CAROL SERVICE – a.m. for all children and parents at St. Margaret’s Church, Tanfield Village. Children able to go home following this.
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY	Monday 24th Dec to Friday 4th January
Monday 7th Jan	Back to School
Friday 11th Jan	Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund
Wednesday 6th Feb	Tanfield’s Got Talent – 6 p.m.
Friday 8th Feb	Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund
Tuesday 12th Feb	Y4 Multi Skills Festival @ Tanfield
Wednesday 13th Feb	Gala Theatre booked for combined school evening concert. Y3 to be central to this as well as some of our musicians and choir

Friday 15th Feb	Y5/6 High Five competition, Y3/4 Golf and ABCs @ Brandon
HALF TERM	Monday 18th-Friday 22nd February
Monday 25th Feb	Back to school
Friday 1st March	Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund
Monday 4th March	BOOK FAIR this week Author Visit sometime this week - Lou Treleaven – if you get chance, check out her books.
Thursday 7th March	World Book Day
Friday 15th March	Fundraising Event organised by the School Council
Monday 25th March	PARENT MEETINGS (Whole School) – 3.15pm until 5.30pm
Tuesday 26th March	PARENT MEETINGS (Whole School) – 3.15pm until 5.30pm
Tuesday 2nd April	Y3 Multi Sports Festival @ Brandon
Wednesday 3rd April	Rehearsal for main children involved in Easter service to take place from about 9:30 and then some of the children to go to Stanley Park Care Home to perform too. KS2 Easter Celebration – through music and poetry in St. Margaret’s Church We hope all parents of children involved will be able to join us for this special service – starting between 1:30 and 1:45.
Thursday 4th April	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
Friday 5th April	Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund Y1/2 Football Competition, KS2 Dodgeball and ABCs @ Brandon
EASTER HOLIDAYS	Monday 8th April to Friday 19th April
Tuesday 23rd April	Back to School
Friday 3rd May	Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund
Monday 6th May	BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY
Tuesday 7th May	KS1 SATs to start this week – it’s really important they are in school for this
Monday 13th May	Y6 SATs WEEK and School Assessment for the rest of the school 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 and absence will impact on your child’s attainment.
Friday 17th May	Y3/4 Cricket Competition, Y1/2 Athletics and ABCs @ Brandon Cricket Club (Venue TBC)
Tuesday 21st May	Y1 Multi Skills Festival @ Langley Moor Fundraising for a local charity this time – organised by School Council
Wednesday 22nd May	TEACHER TRAINING DAY – no children in school today
HALF TERM	Wednesday 22nd May to Friday 31st May
Monday 3rd June	Back to School SPORTS WEEK – various activities encouraging healthy, active living.
Tuesday 4th June	Family Sponsored Bike Ride – 3:15 until 6 p.m. From Tanfield to Leadgate and back.
Wednesday 5th June	Upper School Sports Day – from about 9:15 onwards Pre-School and Reception Sports Day – 1 until about 1:30 KS1 Sports Day – 1:45 onwards (Alternative date in case of bad weather – Friday 7th June)
Friday 7th June	Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund

	Alternative day for Sports Day	
Monday 10th June	Phonics Testing Week – Y1 and those Y2 children who did not reach the required standard last year. Again-important for children to be in school.	
Thursday 13th June	Meeting for new parents (new Reception children) 4 p.m. in Lower School Hall – no children to attend this meeting	
	Sleepover with Brandon for Y6 – starting at 7 p.m.	
Friday 14th June	Activity Day at Brandon Primary for Y5 and Y6	
Tuesday 18th June	New Reception children and their parents to visit – 3:30 until 4:30	
Wednesday 19th June	New Reception children visits (children starting in September 2019)	
Wednesday 26th June	New Reception children visits (children starting in September 2019)	
Thursday 27th June	In It Together Conference for Y4 children at Spennymoor Leadership Centre. Joint event with Y4 children from Brandon Primary School	
Monday 1st July	Transition Days for Tanfield School	Children move to new class second lesson today
Tuesday 2nd July		4 p.m. Pre-School Meeting for those children starting in Sept.
Wednesday 3rd July		Transition afternoon for Rec children moving to Y1 and their parents (from 1 p.m.)
Friday 5th July	Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund Reports go out to parents today	
Week Beg 8th July	Y6 children and parents asked to complete Exit Questionnaire	
Tuesday 9th July	Y2 Multi Sports Festival @ Langley Moor	
Friday 12th July	Y5/6 Athletics Competition, Y3 Maths Challenge and ABCs @ Brandon – all day	
Monday 15th July	Dress Rehearsal for Y6 Performance this afternoon – approx. 1:30	
	Y6 Leavers' Meal – 4:45 until 5:45 at local venue	
Tuesday 16th July	Y2 Moving on Assembly – parents invited – approx. 9:15 start	
	6 p.m. Evening Performance of Y6 Performance	
Wednesday 17th July	Lower School Fun Day	
Thursday 18th July	Upper School Walk from Craster to Embleton	
Friday 19th July	Y6 Leavers' Celebration Assembly approx. 9 a.m. start – Parents welcome Upper School to go to Oakies Park following Assembly	
Friday 19th July 3:15	Summer Holidays begin	
TBC	New Term starts	

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

After School Child Care runs every day from the end of the school day until 5:30. Children in Y1 and above can attend the CNS Sports Club as part of this. The CNS Booking Form must be used for this (already sent out)

As well as the CNS daily sports clubs, we do have other clubs on offer. The children will have already received letters for some of the clubs and others will be sent out in the coming weeks once they are ready to begin.

Monday	Choir	Y1 upwards (to start in a few weeks)	3.15 - 4.00
	CNS Sports Club - Tag Rugby	Lower School (not Reception)	3.15-4.15
Tuesday	CNS Sports Club - Multi-Sports	Lower School (not Reception)	3.15-4.15
Wednesday	CNS Sports Club - Hockey	Lower School (not Reception)	3.15-4.15
	Lingotots-Learn Spanish	Upper School Children	3:15 - 4:15
	Football	Y5 and Y6 girls and boys	3.15 - 4.15
	French Club	Run by a Sixth Form Student from Durham Sixth Form	3:15 - 4:00
Thursday	Home Learning Club	By Invitation for KS2 (Letters to come out soon)	3.15-4.15
	CNS Sports Club - Dodgeball	Lower School (not Reception)	3.15-4.15
	Cross Country	KS2 - with view to compete at end of this half term	3:15-4:15
Friday	CNS Sports Club - Apparatus	Lower School (not Reception)	3.15-4.15

Young Leaders Training for Y6 will take place one lunch time a week during the autumn term (Start date to be confirmed)
Clubs planned for Summer Term 2019 - OPAL, Cricket, Table Tennis and Cookery