



Dear Parents,

We've had an excellent start to this half term with our **Sports Games Week**. The weather, although mixed, was kind to us and didn't impact on our activities – we've all come to expect to get at least a little wet on the bike ride! Sports Day was a great success – all children competing in the true spirit of the games – enjoying the races, trying their best and never giving up – thanks to everyone who came to offer their support on the day. Ruby Team were the overall winners of the Upper School competition and the staff just managed to pip the other teams in their race. During the week the children had the opportunity to take part in a great variety of sports including some new ones; lower school took part in a very entertaining and wet obstacle race whilst the upper school tried out fencing and curling. 54 people took part in our Annual 12 mile bike ride, including 29 children aged from Y2 to Y6. It's a ride that has its challenges which were enjoyed by all. We've collected £223 in sponsor money so far. This money will go towards subsidising activities throughout the year. If you've not returned your sponsor money please do so by Friday 21st June. Thanks very much to all who supported this particular fundraising activity.

Before half term our Y2 attended the CNS Sports Stars Multi Sports Event, a team from Y1 and Y2 took part in an athletics competition and the Y3 and Y4 team took part in the cricket competition. All had a most enjoyable time and competed well. Our football teams have finished their season on a high. The girls came 8th in the league scoring 9 points and totally enjoying the experience. The boys, we're proud to say, are the Gordon Walton League Champions as well as the Eddie Embleton Champions—they've had another terrific season showing great team work and commitment.

We are a very active school and this has been recognised by Durham as Mr McIntosh applied for and secured the Active 30 award which recognises that our children have at least 30 minutes of activity every day – very important for sustaining healthy lives.



Alongside our School Games Week we have also held some **Dementia Friendly** activities and raised £125 pounds on our non-school uniform day – thanks again for supporting this cause. Y3 and Y4 learnt much from the Beamish Dementia Friends through a very informative assembly and then a number of thought-provoking activities. A small group also had the opportunity to go to Beamish Museum where they met with the Dementia Friends Group and took part in some activities which are beneficial to people who have dementia including gardening, art and wood carving. The group were very complementary about our children – they were great ambassadors for our school.

Thanks to all who came and took part in our **'House of Cards'** event. This picture I think sums up well the highs and lows of the activities – the frustrations and, with perseverance, the successes. I think all who took part learnt more about themselves through this.



We have a number of events happening before the end of term, see the Dates for your Diary for the full list. There are a few that you can join us for too:-

- ✓ Reception will visit the **Great North Museum** this Thursday and Y6 will go **orienteering in Wharton Park** and then attend the **Leavers' Service at Durham Cathedral**
- ✓ Y6 are invited to attend the **Sleepover** at Brandon Primary on Thursday night this week.
- ✓ Y5 and Y6 will attend an **Activity Day** at Brandon Primary on Friday – if you've not returned the permission slip for your child to use the climbing wall, please do so before Thursday otherwise they'll not be able to do this.
- ✓ Monday 17th June – **Puberty talk for Y5 and Y6** – the school nurse will lead this.
- ✓ Wednesday 19th June – our **Ukulele After School Group** will perform to their peers as part of The Big Play and we invite parents to come and join us for a performance at 2:45 p.m. which, if the weather permits, will be outside. The pedestrian gate will be open from 2:35 to enable you to join us.
- ✓ **Community Litter Pick is now Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June straight after school until 4:30.** If parents, grandparents, family members would like to help with this, that would be much appreciated; a letter will be sent out soon.
- ✓ Y4 will take part in our **'In it Together'** Conference with Y4 from Brandon @ Durham Leadership Centre on 27th June
- ✓ **Meet the Teacher** – following the children's transition lesson parents of children in Y1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 are invited in to meet your child's new class teacher on Monday 1st July either at 3:30 or 4:45. A creche will be available at both times. (More information later in this newsletter)
- ✓ Current Reception parents are invited to attend the **transition afternoon** on Wednesday 3rd July - 1 p.m. until end of the school day. More details to follow in a letter next week.
- ✓ Monday 8th July after school until 6 p.m. **Showing of 'The Greatest Showman'**
- ✓ **Bring Your Own Brass** (part of the Durham Brass Band Festival) will be performing in school from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. on Monday 15th July. You'd be welcome to join us if the weather is good as we'll have the performance on the yard.
- ✓ Tuesday 16th July @ 9.15 - **Y2 Moving On Assembly** –Y2 parents welcome
- ✓ Tuesday 16th July @ 6.00 p.m. - **Evening Performance of Y6 production – Aladdin Trouble**
- ✓ Wednesday 17th July – **Lower School Fun Day**
- ✓ Thursday 18th July – **Upper School Walk** – Craster to Embleton Beach
- ✓ Friday 19th July @ 9 a.m. **Y6 YEAR CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY** – Y6 parents welcome



We'll also be having our usual awards to selected KS2 readers (visit to Waterstones) and to those who've lost no Privilege Time in KS2 – a hot chocolate (or maybe this half term it will be ice-cream) event.

Please read on for more news and events and, as ever, please contact us if there is anything you wish to discuss further. Otherwise we look forward to seeing you in school during the next few weeks.

Kay Hemmings (Head Teacher)

## Schoolcomms – our new messaging service

all together, smarter

This is our new messaging service and, as anticipated, we have experienced some initial teething problems. Thanks to all who have given us the necessary contact details and to those who have downloaded the app. Currently just under half of our users – 47.7% - have done so. Everyone should now be able to receive messages but these are only free to the school if you receive these via the app. If you get the message as a text message then the school will be charged. **In order to ensure best value for money all users must use the app.** This will also be the way that online payments can be made when we set this up for September. If you have had trouble downloading the app, please contact the office – if may be the case that we've recorded some details incorrectly. If you've not attempted to download the app yet, please do so as soon as possible. You can do this through the following links, thank you. **Apple iPhone : [schoolgateway.co.uk/iosdownload](https://schoolgateway.co.uk/iosdownload)**  
**Android phone: [schoolgateway.co.uk/androiddownload](https://schoolgateway.co.uk/androiddownload)**



This year we are going to hold our 'Meet the Teacher' meetings before the end of this term so that you have chance to meet your child's new teacher before the summer and have the information you need to ensure a smooth start in September. The meetings will be held on Monday 1st July – the same day that the children will have had time with their new teacher. We will have written to you, prior to 1st July, to inform you of the class your child/ren will be moving to. We are holding these for the current year groups from Y1 to Y5 (i.e. Y2 to Y6 next year). There will be no meetings for parents who have children in Pre-School and Reception as all the relevant information will be shared with parents at their transition meetings before the summer.

**For parents from Y1 to Y5 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 4:45 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 4:45 p.m. session then please take your child/ren to the Upper School Hall before the start of the meeting.

The meeting will take place in your child's new classroom – don't worry if you are not sure where that is, we'll help you to find it on the night.

### **Friends of Tanfield Event – The Greatest Showman**

The Friends continue to be busy, raising money to enrich the experiences for all children. The Spring Disco raised an amazing £559 which has been match funded by Barclays Bank, thanks to one of our parents who works there, giving a grand total of £1118. They raised £46.30 selling light refreshments on Sports Day and bought ice-lollies for all children following Sports Day and will be giving them ice-creams during the Lower School Fun Day (Lower School only) and at Oakey's Park (Upper School only). Their next event is on Monday 8th July and will be a showing of the film 'The Greatest Showman'. It is open to the whole school. Tickets are £2:50 and will include a hotdog, bag of mix ups and a drink. The film will start at approximately 3:30 p.m. (once all children are settled in Upper School Hall). All children will need to be collected from the Main Entrance at 6 p.m. Letters will go out on 19th June and must be returned by 1st July to secure a place.



### **Residential Visits for the new academic year**

The new Year 5 children are going to Grinton the second week back in September. They go from Tuesday until Friday. The majority of children have now signed up. Full payment needs to be made by Monday 8th July.

Don't forget that there is a meeting on Wednesday 3rd July @ 5:15 p.m. when you will receive all the necessary information regarding the visit.

The new Year 6 children will be going to Howtown in the middle of October. Half of the full payment should have already been made (this was due on 13th May) and the full payment has to be made by Monday 30th September.

There is still one place available for this visit so if your child has not signed up but you would now like them to come, please contact the office. If you would like your child to attend, then you must let us know as soon as possible and pay a deposit to confirm the place. The children greatly benefit from both of these experiences. It would be a shame if your child misses out.

### **Ukulele Performance**



Our After-School ukulele group will be entertaining us on Wednesday 19th June. They will play to both lower and upper school children during the afternoon and parents are invited to join the upper school for the performance at 2:45 p.m. – hopefully outside, if the weather permits.



## Class Set up for 2019-2020

All children from Reception through to Y6 will have a session in their new class on Monday 1st July. In addition to this, on Wednesday 3rd July the Reception parents are invited to attend for the whole afternoon with their child to support this transition – please come to school for 1 p.m.  
(A letter regarding this will come out before the end of this week.)

These arrangements coincide with the Y6 transition when the children who will be going to Tanfield School will have their transition – Monday 1st to Wednesday 3rd July.

We will send a letter out to all parents on Friday 28th June informing you as to which class your child will be in next year. The teaching set-up will be as follows:-

<b>Pre-School</b>	Mrs Dunham
<b>Reception</b>	Mr Durham and Mrs Geach (2 classes)
<b>Year 1</b>	Mrs Davidge and Mr McIntosh (2 classes)
<b>Year 2</b>	Mrs Brown and Mrs Wilkinson (2 classes)
<b>Year 3</b>	Mrs Marley
<b>Year 3/4</b>	Mrs Davis
<b>Year 4</b>	Miss Ellis
<b>Year 5</b>	Mrs Morning
<b>Year 5/6</b>	Mr Temple
<b>Year 6</b>	Mr Patterson

Reports will be sent home on Friday 5th July.

## Water Slide

If we get a spell of warm weather before the end of term we hope to set up the water slide on the field. If this does happen we will text you in advance to say that if your child would like to have a go they'll need to bring a towel and a change of clothes – clothes you are happy for them to get wet and that they can change out of afterwards (they'll need underwear too!). All events will be timetabled to manage the number of children on the slide at one time safely. We'll just do it once for everyone.



## Gifts for staff

As we approach the end of the school year can I take this opportunity to remind you again that, as a staff, we'd like to request that if you would like to express your thanks then you do not have to buy a gift – instead a card, a note or a brief comment to us 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*



## 2020 Bank Holiday Monday – advance notification

We have had notification that the early May bank holiday will be moved to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day. This means that school will be closed on Friday 8th May and not Monday 4th May as expected. Please note, Y6 SATs and the school assessment week will be the week commencing 11th May and so it is crucial that all children are in school that week – 11th to 15th May – and the preceding weeks. Thank you.

**Community Litter Pick** – we didn't manage to get this up and running this week so have rescheduled for Wednesday 26th June. If you can join us for this a letter will be coming out very soon giving you more information and asking you to sign up.



**Pedestrian Entrance** – this access will be widened during the summer holidays – an additional gate will be fitted. It should make the flow of people easier. If you are waiting for children from the Upper School please continue to wait at the fence, rather than the wall, leaving the exit clear.

## From this week onwards, on Fridays, the gate will remain locked until 3:05 p.m.

This will ensure that the children can enjoy the full length of Privilege Time and that parents are not having to walk through activities to get to the Lower School yard. It should make it safer for everyone. If you can come a little later on Fridays to accommodate this later opening that would be appreciated.



### Dates for your Diary

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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	Reception to visit the Great North Museum – all day	
	Y6 Leavers’ Service at Durham Cathedral – service is during the afternoon but possibility of children taking part in a morning activity in Durham too.	
	Meeting for new parents (new Reception children) 4 p.m. in Lower School Hall – no children to attend	
	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) Individual Meetings for new Pre-School children and their parents (children starting in September 2019) Ukulele After School Group to perform to Upper School and parents @ 2:45 on yard	
Wednesday 26th June	New Reception children visits (children starting in September 2019) Individual Meetings for new Pre-School children and their parents (children starting in September 2019)	
	Community Litter Pick – children and family volunteers– After school until 4:30 p.m.	
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	Meet the Teacher Meetings tonight at 3:30 or 4:45 p.m. (for more info see in this newsletter)	
	Transition Days for Tanfield School	Children move to new class second lesson today
Tuesday 2nd July		
Wednesday 3rd July		Transition afternoon for Rec children moving to Y1 & their parents (from 1 p.m.)
	5:15 Meeting for parents and children re Grinton Residential	
Friday 5th July	Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund (1 per family) Reports go out to parents today	
Evening of 5th July	Possible Family Camping Night on school grounds – unfortunately, due to time limitations, we are not going to organise this this year. Apologies for any disappointment.	
Monday 8th July	Y6 children and parents asked to complete Exit Questionnaire	
	Full Payment to be made for Grinton Residential by today	
	Friends of Tanfield Event – Showing of ‘The Greatest Showman’ After school until 6 p.m.	
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	10 a.m. Bring your own Brass to perform to whole school – parents welcome to join us	
	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 Oakey’s Park following Assembly	
Friday 19th July 3:15	Summer Holidays begin	
Tuesday 3rd Sept	New Term starts	
Teacher Training Days (when no children are in) 2019-2020 are Friday 22nd November, Wednesday to Friday 20th to 22nd May. Please note, our last day of the academic year 2019-2020 is Monday 20th July 2020.		
Also – the early May Bank Holiday in 2020 will be on Friday 8th May and NOT Monday 4th May as expected.		