**Tanfield Lea Community Primary School Newsletter January 2020**

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year to everyone. The holidays fly by and we’re now into our second week back already.

Thanks, as ever, to all who supported the many events we had before the end of last term. The Carol Service is a lovely way to end the term and thank you to the many parents who expressed how much they enjoyed this. It is a lovely family occasion and the Upper School children did us proud with their readings, singing and musicianship. We will look forward to the Easter Celebration now for KS2 in April.

We were inundated with contributions for the Christmas Fair in the form of tombola items, cakes, special items made by relatives to raise money for school and of course, many raffle prizes. It was extremely well supported and enjoyed by children and adults and we raised a grand total of £1279.83 (which includes £253.74 raised through the raffle by the Friends of Tanfield Lea). Our class winner for the enterprise competition (creating gifts to sell at the fair) was Mrs Morning’s class who raised a massive £127.10; narrowly beating Mr Patterson’s class by £21.70. As I say each year, this money is crucial to us – enabling us to offer the various enrichment activities we do throughout the year – some of which are offered free to the children, otherwise are heavily subsidised. Thank you.

Please read on for more information about events that have happened or upcoming activities.

It’s important to save the ‘Dates for your Diary’ pages as these inform you of the upcoming events. If you lose this, don’t forget you can always find a copy on our website.

Kay Hemmings (Head Teacher)

**Reading Book Amnesty**

****We’re very proud of our libraries in school and the wealth of reading books we have. We know we have been successful when children are asking for new books written by their favourite authors. Our visits to Waterstones regularly replenish the book choices in the Upper School with the newest literature and in the last year we purchased new books for the Lower School reading scheme. With the best will in the world, reading books from school can sometimes get buried under a pile of things at home. Children forget to return them and soon our resources are dwindling. Could you have a good check round at home and if you find any of our reading books – no matter how long you’ve had them – please return them to school. They are a very valuable resource and we need to ensure we look after them.

**Please check at home and return any books you have to us. Thank you. ☺**

**Visit to Germany**15 of our Y5 and Y6 children plus 5 Y11 students from Tanfield School had an amazing 4 days in Tübingen over the penultimate weekend of the autumn term. Some flew for the first time; all experienced their first time in Germany. They met their German pen-pals, spent a day in school, visited the German Christmas market, sampled the local produce – including waffles, fruit punch and bratwurst - and they also took part in a ChocoArtists workshop at the Ritter Chocolate Factory. They loved every minute of the visit, showed great resilience and self-assurance and were commended by many of the general public for their excellent behaviour. This visit was made possible thanks to the grant from the Stanley Community Fund. The children will be preparing a slideshow of their adventure and parents will be invited in to see this once it is completed. (Probably towards the end of this term).

** Places** Now is the time to apply for a Pre-School place at our school. If you – or any of your friends or family members - have a child who has just turned 3 years old or will do so before the end of August, then you are eligible to apply for a free Pre-School place from September 2020. If you have not submitted an application yet, please request a form from the office and return it as soon as possible as we will be confirming places by the end of May.

**Don’t forget – you can find us on twitter - @TanfieldPrimary – where you can follow many of the things that happen in school on a daily basis.**

**COMPETITIONS** At the end of last term Y1 and Y2 children and Upper School were selected to complete in the interschool competitions. Y1 and 2 played extremely well and were unlucky not to be placed. The Upper School gymnastics group performed an impressive routine and were awarded first place. You can see their routine on twitter (posted on Wednesday last week). Well done to all involved.

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**Gala Theatre Concert – 12th February 2020**

Following our success last year, we will once again return to the Gala Theatre for a joint concert on Wednesday 12th February with children from Brandon and Langley Moor Primary Schools. Our Y3 children will be the star performers and they will sing en masse with Y3 from the other two primary schools. They’ve already started learning the songs. In addition to this our choir and ukulele ensemble will perform. More details will be sent nearer the time but if you have children who are involved in this please keep the date free. The concert will start at 6 p.m. that evening. The children will go to the theatre for the afternoon to rehearse and will then stay on for the concert, being bussed back at the end of the evening. As I said, it was a huge success last year and a terrific experience for the children to perform in a professional theatre.

**School Messaging System – Schoolgateway**

Thank you to all who have now signed up to this new service. A lot of people are now making payments online and this makes things much easier, safer and more efficient.

We now have 76% of parents using the service (was 74.6% in December). This means that we still have a quarter of our parents not signed up to this. If you receive a text from us, rather than a message through the app, this costs the school. Last term we paid £275 for 4000 texts. We’d rather not be spending money on this so if you haven’t got the app, please download this today.

If you have had trouble downloading it, please contact the office – it may be the case that we’ve recorded some details incorrectly or we may not have your email address.

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**

**Android phone: schoolgateway.co.uk/androiddownload**

***DATA COLLECTION SHEETS – We want to ensure we have the correct contact details for you and so will be sending out the current information we hold. Please check this, mark any changes clearly on the sheet and return to school asap.***

**Parental Engagement**

It was our intention this year to invite parents into school to have a ‘hands on’ experience in their child’s classroom. To date parents have attended Pre-School and Reception Stay and Play days, Y2 parents joined their children for puppet making followed by a Teddy Bears’ Picnic and Y5 and Y6 parents had a great time building bridges.

During the spring term the following is planned. More information will be sent to you nearer the time.

*Pre-School Stay and Play Every term*

*Reception Stay and Play Every term*

*Y1 Rainforest Animal Sculptures Summer 2 –* ***Please note change of term***

*Y3/4 Tommy Armstrong Sing-a-long Spring 2 – probably after Egg Decorating-1st April*

***End of Year Reports***

We are going to redesign the End of Year Reports for all year groups. As with the mid-term updates we provide with a summary of where your child is working with regard to national expectations and if your child has a good attitude to their learning. In addition to this, instead of writing about every subject in turn, there will be one paragraph which summarises your child’s year. We hope that this will give you a clear, personalised summary of your child’s year.

***The following pages list most of the main events in school throughout the year. It’s important that you keep a copy so that you can keep up to date with what is happening in school. Don’t forget, you can also find all our newsletters on the school website.***

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| **Dates for your Diary** | | |
| Wednesday 22nd Jan | Pre-School Stay and Play a.m. and p.m. | |
| Thursday 23rd Jan | 4 Inspectors from schools in France to visit us to learn more about our school and the Ofsted process | |
| Wednesday 5th Feb | **Tanfield’s Got Talent – 6 p.m.** | |
| Friday 7th Feb | Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund | |
| Y5/6 High Five competition, Y3/4 Golf and ABCs @ Brandon | |
| Monday 10th Feb | **ASSESSMENT WEEK** | |
| Science Club to visit Battlesteads Observatory, Wark, Northumberland – after school visit | |
| Tuesday 11th Feb | Y4 Multi Skills Festival @ Tanfield and Safer Internet Day | |
| Mrs Morning’s Class to attend 3 robotics session at Tanfield School–11th Feb/3rd March/17th March p.m. | |
| Wednesday 12th Feb | Gala Theatre booked for combined school evening concert.  Y3 to be central to this plus our ukulele ensemble and choir | |
| Thursday 13th Feb | Film Night organised by the Friends of Tanfield Lea – The Lion King | |
| **HALF TERM** | **Monday 17th-Friday 21st February** | |
| Monday 24th Feb | **Back to school** | |
| Tuesday 25th Feb | **Parent Meetings – 3:15 until 5:30** | |
| Wednesday 26th Feb | Full Governing Body Meeting –9:15 a.m. | |
| Wednesday 26th Feb | **Parent Meetings – 3:15 until 5:30** | |
| Monday 2nd March | BOOK FAIR this week **Author Visit – Gareth P. Jones –will be visiting us today**  **Special Stimulus Week** –Theme to be decided linked with World Book Day. | |
| Thursday 5th March | World Book Day (We will **not** be asking children to dress up as book characters. Our whole week will have a reading focus) | |
| Friday 6th March | Non School Uniform Day –please send in a donation for school fund (1 per family) | |
| Tuesday 10th March | Stay and Play for Reception – afternoon session (1:30 until 3:10) | |
| Wednesday 11th March | Stay and Play for Reception – morning (9:00 until 10:30) and afternoon session (1:30 until 3:10) | |
| Friday 13th March | Fundraising Event for Sport Relief organised by the School Council | |
| Friday 20th March | **CNS Healthy Living Morning –** children doing activities all morning | |
| Monday 23rd March | **Half of Grinton payment to be made by today please** | |
| Y3/4 are planning a visit to Beamish Museum and hope to confirm a booking for this week | |
| Tuesday 31st March | Y3 Multi Sports Festival @ Brandon | |
| All Star Cricket Roadshow for Y1, Y2 and Y3 children during the day | |
| Mr Temple’s Class to attend 3 robotics session at Tanfield School–31st Mar/28th April/12th May p.m. | |
| Wednesday 1st 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 | |
| Thursday 2nd April | Rehearsal for main children involved in the 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. | |
| Friday 3rd April | Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund  Y1/2 Football Competition, KS2 Dodgeball and ABCs @ Brandon. **Break up for the Easter Holidays** | |
| **EASTER HOLIDAYS** | **Monday 6th April to Friday 17th April** | |
| Monday 20th April | **Back to School** | |
| Wednesday 22nd April | Pre-School visit to Hall Hill Farm | |
| Friday 24th April | Reception Class to visit the Great North Museum | |
| Friday 1st May | Non School Uniform Day–please send in a donation for school fund (one per family) | |
| Monday 4th May | KS1 SATs to start this week | |
| Wednesday 6th May | Pre-School Stay and Play a.m. and p.m. | |
| Friday 8th May | **BANK HOLIDAY FRIDAY** | |
| Monday 11th May  Monday 11th 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.** | |
| **Half of Howtown payment to be made by today please** | |
| Friday 15th May | Y3/4 Cricket Competition, Y1/2 Athletics and ABCs @ Brandon | |
| Tuesday 19th May | Y1 Multi Skills Festival @ Langley Moor  School Council to organise a fundraising for a charity today | |
| Wednesday 20th May | **TEACHER TRAINING DAY – no children in school today** | |
| **HALF TERM** | **Wednesday 20th May to Friday 29th May** | |
| Monday 1st June | **Back to School.** SPORTS WEEK – various activities encouraging healthy, active living. | |
| Tuesday 2nd June | Sponsored Bike Ride – 3:15 until 6 p.m. From Tanfield to Leadgate and back. | |
| Wednesday 3rd June | Upper School Sports Day – from about 9:15 onwards  PS and Rec Sports Day – 1 until about 1:30  KS1 Sports Day – 1:45 onwards. (Alternative date in case of bad weather – Thursday 4th June) | |
| Friday 5th June | Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund  **CNS Active Morning – Y1 to Y6 involved in active activities all morning** | |
| Monday 8th June | **Phonics Testing Week** – Y1 & those Y2 children who did not reach the required standard last year.  **Multiplication Test Window opens for 3 weeks for Y4 children** | |
| Wednesday 10th June | Full Governing Body Meeting – 9:15 a.m. | |
| Thursday 11th June | Meeting for new parents (new Reception children) 4 p.m. in Lower School Hall – no children to attend this | |
| Sleepover with Brandon for Y6 – starting at 7 p.m. | |
| Friday 12th June | Activity Day at Brandon Primary for Y5 and Y6 | |
| **In It Together Conference for Y4 children at Spennymoor Leadership Centre.**  Joint event with Y4 children from Brandon Primary School | |
| Tuesday 16th June | New Reception children and their parents to visit – 3:30 until 4:30 | |
| Wednesday 17th June | New Reception children visits (children starting in September 2020) | |
| Pre-School Transition Meetings | |
| Wednesday 24th June | New Reception children visits (children starting in September 2020) | |
| Pre-School Transition Meetings | |
| Friday 26th June | Letters to go out to all children re classes for next year | |
| Monday 29th June | Transition Day for Tanfield School | Children move to new class second lesson today  MEET YOUR CHILD’S NEW TEACHER MEETINGS  Choice of two meetings - 3:30 or 4:45 |
| Tuesday 30th June | Transition Day for Tanfield School | |
| Wednesday 1st July | Transition Day for Tanfield School | Transition afternoon for Rec children moving to Y1 and their parents (parent invited to attend from 1 p.m.) |
| Weds 1st July @5:15 | **Grinton Meeting** for all parents of children in Y4 who are going on the residential in September | |
| Friday 3rd July | Non School Uniform Day–please send in a donation for school fund (1 per family)  **Reports go out to parents** | |
| Monday 6th July | **Drop in Session** for all parents to look at children’s work as well as opportunity for informal chat with teacher if desired – 3:30 to 4:30 | |
| Tuesday 7th July | Y2 Multi Sports Festival @ Langley Moor | |
| Friday 10th July | Y5/6 Athletics Competition, Y3 Maths Challenge and ABCs @ Brandon – all day | |
| Monday 13th July | Dress Rehearsal for Y6 Performance this afternoon – approx. 1:30 | |
| 3:30 p.m. Thank you tea for all who have helped and supported the school this year | |
| Y6 Leavers’ Meal – 4:45 until 5:45 at local venue | |
| Tuesday 14th July | 6 p.m. Y6 Evening Performance | |
| Thursday 16th July | Y2 Moving on Assembly – Parents welcome – approx. 9:15 start | |
| Friday 17th July | Y6 Leavers’ Celebration Assembly approx. 9 a.m. start – Parents welcome  Upper School to go to Oakies Park following Assembly | |
| Monday 20th July | Lower School Fun Day Upper School Walk from Craster to Embleton  **3:15 - Summer Holidays begin** | |
| **Tuesday 1st September** | **Back to school** | |
| **INSET DAYS 2020-2021** | **Teacher Training Days next year (when the children are not in) are 19th and 20th November 2020 and 26th, 27th and 28th May 2021.** | |