



Dear Parents,

24<sup>th</sup> November 2020

First of all, thank you for adapting to the tighter times for the start of the school day as per the 5<sup>th</sup> November newsletter. This has ensured that the classes can all have a prompt start to the day and it helps in keeping the bubbles separate.

As you will know, we had to close one of our bubbles last week. The children concerned will return to school on 1<sup>st</sup> December. The measures we have in place will hopefully have been effective in limiting the transmission of the virus within the bubble. The great benefit of having the bubbles means that we only had to send home one group of children. By continuing to keep children separate means it reduces how many are affected.

It is crucial at the start and end of the day that parents ensure they keep their children with them when waiting on the yard for siblings. I have had to speak to children almost daily about running around the yards, playing on equipment and mixing with other year groups. We work very hard to keep them all separate during the day. Please help us with this at the end of the day by ensuring your child remains with you at all times. Thank you.

## **Staffing Changes**

Miss Ellis's class were informed recently that she will be leaving us at the end of this term. She is relocating to Wales and has secured a job in a school near Chester. We will be very sorry to see her go. Miss Ellis started her teaching career with us five years ago and has taught in Y5 and Y4. As well as being an excellent classroom practitioner she has also significantly developed our Science curriculum, ensuring it is exciting and interactive. I know you will join me in wishing her all the best. Miss Forsyth will replace Miss Ellis up until the end of this academic year. She is relocating from Scotland. She attended our staff training last week and has met the children this week. We look forward to welcoming her to our team.

In addition to this, Mrs Townsend has decided to retire at the end of this term. Mrs Townsend has worked within our school community for over 20 years. First as clerical support at the Infant School and then as part of the primary school team where her role has evolved over the years. She now manages the Breakfast Club in addition to all of the clerical work she carries out. She will also be a great miss. We are very appreciative of all she has done to support our school community over many years and wish her all the best in her retirement.

## **Update on your child's attainment – Reception through to Y6**

Last year, following feedback from the parent questionnaire, we introduced the 'Attitudes to Learning' sheets prior to Parent Meetings and then, following our mid-term assessments, we sent out information updating parents on their child's attainment. These data sheets will be sent out this Friday. They will be put in your child's organiser (Reception parents will get these emailed directly to them). Please watch out for them.

## School Meals - Lunch Hound

For many years the children have said that they would like to be able to choose their meals in advance so that they get their preferred choice. Until now this has not been possible, but we were recently asked to take part in a trial of Lunch Hound which would enable this to happen. The School Council have been involved in meetings with Taylor Shaw, our caterers, and the system has been implemented. The children may have mentioned this to you. Inevitably there have been some initial teething problems but the system now seems to be working well and can only be beneficial for the children.



## Teacher Training Days

On Thursday, the staff received training from Steve Ingle about sticky learning (supporting the children to remember more). We aim to find further interesting ways to support children in retaining the information they learn about. As parents you can help with this by regularly practising spellings and supporting your child to access Times Table Rockstars (Years 2 - 6) and Mathletics (Rec - Year 6).

## Extended School Day

The two sessions we have had so far have gone well. Can I thank you again for your support with this. What we have put in place will benefit everyone. These sessions will continue every Wednesday until July.



## Numeracy guidance for parents of children in Reception

A presentation has now been uploaded on to our website to share the information we would have shared with you at the meetings which were not able to take place. Please take time to look through this – we hope it will be helpful to the parents of our Reception children.

## Christmas Cards

I mentioned Christmas Cards in the last newsletter and said we are happy for the children to send cards to any other children in their own bubble i.e. Y1 can send them to their Y1 friends, Class 5M can send them to their class 5M friends.

**We are not going to let children give cards beyond their bubble.**

When they bring their cards in, if they give them to their teacher then they will arrange for them to be given out. **These can be sent in from the 1<sup>st</sup> December.**



## Nativities and Carol Service



Staff are busy planning and rehearsing for our Lower School Christmas Performances and the Upper School Carol Service. We are hoping to record the performances so that we can share these via our school YouTube site 'Tanfield Lea Primary' by the end of the term. I'll update you as to when these will be available. It won't be the same but the hope is that as a family you can enjoy watching them in your own home .

## Y1 to Y6 Visit to Beamish

Beamish are hoping that they get the go ahead to reopen, following the end of the current lockdown. If they do then we should still be able to do our visit on 10<sup>th</sup> December. This being the case, if you have not paid your contribution towards this visit if you could do so before Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November. Many thanks.



**Finally we have received the following information from the Rev. Andy Miller.** I thought many of you would be interested in making the Advent Angels and would appreciate the invitations to the online services. Rev. Miller has kept in regular contact with us and continues to pray for our local community during this time.



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

**The Benefice of Tanfield with Burnopfield and Dipton**

## Why not join us for these events during Advent and Christmas?

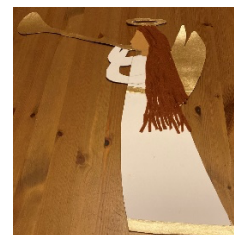
### Advent Angels

The angel said, "I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people!" Luke 2:10b

Can you knit or sew, draw or paint, cut and stick? If you can, why not make an angel?

We hope that you will join us in putting angels in your window this Advent as a message of hope and love and to bless our communities.

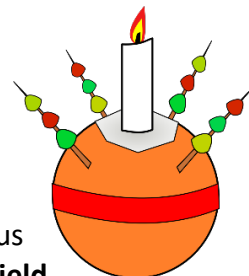
So why not get one ready for Advent Sunday (the 29<sup>th</sup> of November)?



### Online Christingle Service

"The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world" John 1:9

Gather together an orange, some sweets or raisins and everything else you need and join us in putting together a Christingle during our online service **streamed to the St James Burnopfield Facebook page on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm.**



### Online Crib Service

"This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger" Luke 2:12

Have you got a crib at home, with all the animals, Shepherds, Kings and Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus?

Again, why not **join us online on the St James Burnopfield Facebook page, this time on Christmas Eve (Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December) at 4pm** to hear the Christmas Story and to put it all together?

