



We are rapidly approaching Christmas now, with less than 3 weeks of school left before the end of term.

Last week I sent out a Christmas letter re arrangements for performances next week (Lower School) and for the Carol Service on the last day of term (Upper School). I'll include reminders about these in this newsletter too. We've also got some general news to update you with alongside the arrangements for Christmas. Please read on for more information.

Kay Hemmings (Head Teacher)

Non-Christmas News first:

School Data

The school is required to publish its school data on an annual basis. Due to Covid we have not had any data since 2019 but in May our children completed the statutory Teacher Assessments. We were very pleased with our assessments across the school. Although the pandemic clearly had an impact on the children's learning our school results compared extremely favourably with other schools nationally. All data is now uploaded to our website. You'll find it in the 'Key Information' section under 'Results and Performance Data'.

Calculation Policy

Over the last year the staff, led by our Maths Subject Leaders, have been working on a Calculation Policy. The purpose of this is to ensure consistency in the teaching and learning of the four operations from the time children start school in Pre-School through to Y6. As the children move through school they will develop their written methods from practical to pictorial representation before moving to more formal written methods that will prepare them for their adult lives. Our Calculation Policy aims to show the progressive steps the children will take, the vocabulary they will use, the resources that will support their learning and how their work will be presented in their books. We recognise that this will be very helpful for you, as parents, as you support your child/ren with their home learning. This has now been finalised and can be found on our website under Curriculum/Maths/Calculation Progression. We hope you can find time to look at this as we do think you'll find it very useful.

Year 2 Addition Progression Grid		
Key vocabulary: add, addition, more, sum, total, altogether, column, double, near double, count on, tens, ones, column, tens boundary, equals, number bonds		
Progressive Key Skills	Method	Manipulatives/Resources
Number bonds 20		Numicon Tens frames
Add 1s		Number line
Add 10 more		Dienes Place value counters
Add multiples of tens		Dienes Place value counters
Number bonds to 100		Tens frame

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE)

PSHE is a necessary and important part of children's education. We have a well-planned and fully embedded PSHE curriculum which covers all aspects of the curriculum including relationships education. This includes the children learning about themselves and their body. When they learn about their body we will refer to parts of their body using the correct terminology. It's important that children learn the correct biological/medical names in order to have the right language to describe the private parts of their body accurately and support their understanding of the human body.



Second-hand uniform

Don't forget, a range of second-hand uniform is available from school and PACT house in Stanley. If you are short of any items or just need some bigger ones as your children grow, please feel free to access this.



Bank Holiday - Monday 8th May 2023 and Key Stage 2 SATS

An additional bank holiday in honour of the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III will take place on Monday 8th May 2023. This means that the school will be closed on 8th May.

As this date had previously been announced as the first day of the 2023 Key Stage 2 test week a change to the KS2 test schedule next year has been made.

It has been decided that KS2 tests will take place one day later than originally planned. As such, the new schedule will be:

- Tuesday 9th May: English grammar, punctuation and spelling papers 1 and 2
- Wednesday 10th May: English reading paper
- Thursday 11th May: Maths papers 1 (arithmetic) and 2 (reasoning)
- Friday 12th May: Maths paper 3 (reasoning)

It's really important that all children in Y6 are in school this week, as well as the weeks preceding this.

Help needed in school

Do you have a love of reading?

Do you enjoy working with children?

Do you have some spare time on a weekly basis?

If you have answered yes to all of the above then

you may be interested in volunteering to come in on a weekly basis to hear children read. Reading is key to learning and the more support children receive with this, the better readers they become. We are looking to build a team of volunteers who will support reading in school. We will invite you in for some training so that you know exactly what you need to do to

support reading and then we'll ask you to commit to a time, once a week, to come in to hear readers. If you are interested in this, please contact the office and leave your name and contact number. Mr Temple will then get in touch with you to discuss this further. Thank you.



Guide Dogs UK

Thank you to all who supported the Guide Dogs UK fundraising organised by the School Council. A massive £225 was raised for this charity which will be gratefully received.



Christmas News next:

Here's a quick reminder from our Christmas Performance newsletter last week:

For the Early Years and Key Stage 1 performances we are requesting that you attend only **one** of the performances (there are two on offer) and that **only 2 adults attend this**.

Early Years Christmas Performance (Reception and Pre-School)

These will take place on **Wednesday 7th December**

Either: 9:15 or 2:15



Key Stage 1 Nativity (Year 1 and 2)

These will take place on **Thursday 8th December**

Either: 9:15 or 2:00

We are not going to do tickets for the performances but will expect *only 2 adults* for each child at *one* performance. This way we can ensure there is enough room in the hall for everyone.

Key Stage 2 Carol Service on the last day of term – 20th December (Y3 to Y6)

All children in Key Stage 2 will be taking part in this and this year we'd like to invite their parents to join us. I know many of you who have had the opportunity to attend this in the past have thoroughly enjoyed it and have missed it when we've not been able to invite you.



The arrangements will be as follows:

All Key Stage 2 children to meet at St. Margaret's Church in Tanfield Village – parents to bring them there instead of school that morning, arriving between 8:40 and 8:50 and bringing the children to the hall which is near the church on the opposite side of the road. (For those parents who cannot take their children to the church we will be sending out another letter regarding arrangements for them soon.)

Parents then take their seat in church ready for the service to begin. The service will start as soon as we are ready – probably between 9:15 and 9:30.

Parents who are attending can bring younger siblings as once the service is over, the children who have attended the church service will be able to go home.

Those children who do not have an adult there will come back to school for the rest of the day.

Any younger siblings who do not attend the Carol Service, and so have come to school as usual, will not be allowed to be picked up early from school after the service.

Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day is on Wednesday 7th December. Orders have already been taken for those staying for dinner, but we encourage all children to come in something Christmassy that day, instead of their uniform, to add to the occasion ☺

Christmas Fair

Our Christmas Fair is on Monday 19th December, after school from 3:30 until no later than 4:30. We hope you can join us for this. The children will be planning their class stalls over the next three weeks in preparation for this.



For our Non-School Uniform Day this Friday we'd be grateful if, instead of money this time, you could send in an item for either the bottle stall (any bottle – wine, shower gel, squash, bubble bath etc.) or the tombola (anything... chocolates, games, toys, books, stationery etc.) Thank you in advance for this.



Christmas Parties

These will take place the week beginning 12th December. See the 'Dates for your Diary' for the dates for each year group. On the children's party day they can come to school in their party clothes. It would be worth reminding your child not to access the grassy areas during lunchtime on their party day as they could get very muddy.



Christmas Entertainment for the children

As explained earlier this term, we are not taking the older children to the Northern Stage this year as the performance is the same as the one last year and we saw that via a video link. Instead, we have invited the Durham Music Service to come in on Thursday 15th December to perform to the children. They will be string players and will play a variety of Christmas music as well as taking the opportunity to teach the children more about the stringed section of the orchestra.

Children in Pre-School, Reception and Y1 will enjoy a live performance in school of 'The Clumsiest Christmas Elf' performed by Bigfoot Arts Education North. The Pre-School Bumblebee children are invited to join their friends for this from 10 until 11 that morning.



Christmas Tree Festival

Don't forget, St. Margaret's will be holding their Christmas Tree Festival on Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th December, 11 until 4 p.m.

They would love you to visit the church and enjoy the different trees on display.

School Choir

Our School Choir have been busy rehearsing since half term. They will be performing at the Ecumenical Community Carol Service outside Tanfield Lea Club on Sunday 11th December at 5:30 p.m. as well as at our own Carol Service on Tuesday 20th December.

Finally, as usual I've included the current dates for the rest of this term. The full year's dates are on the September newsletter, a copy of which is on our website. Dates added since your last update have been highlighted in green on the table below.

Many thanks.
Kay Hemmings
Head Teacher





Dates for your Diary Autumn 2022



Friday 2 nd Dec	Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for either our tombola stall or bottle stall for the Christmas Fair (1 per family)
Friday 2 nd Dec	Data Sheets to be given out to parents this week – Reception to Y6 These will be put in the children's Personal Organisers
Tuesday 6 th Dec	Y5 Multi Skills Festival (@ Tanfield)
Wednesday 7 th Dec	Christmas Performance for parents by Pre-School and Reception 9:15 a.m. Christmas Dinner ALL CHILDREN TO COME DRESSED IN THEIR CHRISTMAS JUMPER TODAY or other Christmas clothing.
	Christmas Performance for parents by Pre-School and Reception 2:15 p.m.
Thursday 8 th Dec	Y1/2 Christmas Performance for parents 9:15 a.m. Y1/2 Christmas Performance for parents 2:00 p.m.
Friday 9 th Dec	Y1 and Y2 Hockey Competition/Dance&Gym Routine (TBC) and ABCs meeting @ Tanfield
Sunday 11 th Dec	Choir to perform at the Ecumenical Carol Service outside Tanfield Lea Club. This will start at 5:30 p.m. and usually lasts about 30 – 40 minutes. We hope that the children and their families will be able to attend this.
Tuesday 13 th Dec	Santa hoping to visit children in Lower School a.m. - if he can fit us into his busy schedule. <i>The Pre-School Ladybirds are invited to join us from 9 until 10</i>
	Reception Party – Lower School Hall p.m. – come to school in party clothes
	Y5 Party - Upper School Hall p.m. – come to school in party clothes
Weds 14 th Dec	Pre- School Party – a.m. and p.m. Lower School Hall – come to school in party clothes
	Y3 Party – Upper School Hall p.m. – come to school in party clothes
Thursday 15 th Dec	9:15 Durham Music Service to perform to Y2 and above – a Christmas Concert (Money raised through fundraising during the year will be used to pay for this and the performance of The Clumsiest Christmas Elf)
	10 a.m. Christmas Performance by BigFoot for Pre-School, Reception and Y1 - The Clumsiest Christmas Elf <i>The Pre-School Bumblebees are invited to join us from 10 until 11</i>
	Y1/2 Party – Lower School Hall p.m. – come to school in party clothes
	Y4 Party Upper School Hall p.m. - come to school in party clothes
Friday 16 th Dec	Y6 Party Upper School Hall p.m. – bring party clothes to school
Monday 19 th Dec	Christmas Fair -This will take place in both the lower and upper school halls as well as holding some stalls outside, between the two halls. It will start after school (as soon as staff are in position) and finish sometime before 4:30.
Tuesday 20 th Dec	Upper School Carol Service – parents of Upper School children invited to attend with siblings. Children attending can go home following the service. Those with no parents attending will come back to school. Lower School children will attend school as usual (unless they have Upper School siblings and attend the service with their parents)
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS	Wednesday 21st December until Wednesday 4th January

A holiday club is being offered by CnS for 3 days over Christmas. Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd December and Tuesday 3rd January. An email has already been sent to you about this. Places are limited and being filled on a first come first served basis.