

We have a couple of additions to our dates for this term and a few more updates for you.

## Dates for Fundraising

First of all, for our non-school uniform day this Friday we are going to have a coronation theme. For those who would like to, they can come dressed in red, white and blue, to acknowledge the fact that it is the King's Coronation on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May.

As a souvenir for this event the Friends of Tanfield are making commemorative bookmarks and every child will be given one.



Secondly, the School Council have discussed charities that they would like to support as they have two more fundraising activities before the end of the academic year. They shared their chosen charities with their classes and a vote took place for the charity for this half term.

The vast majority of children voted to support the victims of the earthquake in Turkey and Syria. They are going to hold a non-school uniform day on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May in support of this cause.



The Friends of Tanfield had a really successful Bingo Night last Tuesday. It was very well attended and raised £352.90. This money is going to be used to purchase dictionaries and thesauruses for the Upper School.

## Assessments

SATs (Standard Assessment Tasks)

As I mentioned in the April newsletter, May is a key assessment month in primary schools.

Year 6 will be taking their national tests from Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May until Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May.

It's therefore even more important that during this week they are here every day and arrive on time. This is the opportunity for them to show how much they have learned during their time at primary school. It would also be beneficial if parents can make sure they have early nights in preparation for this.

Y2 will also be completing some assessments which will inform their end of Key Stage 1 assessment. These will take place over two weeks starting 9<sup>th</sup> May.

All other year groups will be doing assessments in the lead up to half term and then in June Y4 will take a national multiplication test and Y1 will complete their national phonics assessment.

As a school we make all assessments as low key as possible to help to ensure that the children can do their best without feeling under any pressure.

As ever, it's important that children are in school as much as possible. If in doubt, please send them to school.

## **Sponsorship of the Girls' Team**

We are very grateful to Kevin and Catherine Embleton from CONCEPT IT in Tanfield Lea who have kindly sponsored the girls' football team. The girls are so pleased with their purple kit, which looks fantastic. Thanks again!



## **Parent Questionnaire**

Thanks to all who completed the Parent Questionnaire we sent out before Easter. We are now analysing this and will respond to the comments and suggestions in due course. As promised, we entered the names of all parents who returned this into a prize draw. Faye's Mum (Y6) was drawn as the winner so Faye will choose a book as her prize.

## **Staffing**

Finally, we have been busy making appointments.

Following Mr Durham and Mrs Marley moving on to new posts we have appointed two new teachers to our team. Mrs Sparkes is already teaching in Reception and I am pleased to say that she will continue with us in September. In addition to her, Miss Keith will be joining the team. She is currently completing her teaching qualification with Durham University and will graduate in the summer.

I also have to inform you that Mrs Cooke, our School Business Manager, is going to be retiring at the end of May. She has worked with us for 6 years, initially working between our school and Brandon and then, for the last 2 years, for us solely. She will be a great miss to the team. Amongst her many roles, Mrs Cooke has been fundamental in ensuring that the school finances, health and safety, grounds and building are all maintained and managed correctly. Mrs Cooke has established many systems that have ensured the smooth running of our school. We wish her all the best in her retirement. Mrs Dooher has been appointed as her replacement and we look forward to welcoming her when she takes up the post after half term. She is currently a School Business Manager in a school in East Durham.

