It was great to welcome all the children back last week. They have settled into the school routines very quickly and have enjoyed being back with their friends, and possibly making some new ones too.



Opening Doors, Enriching Lives

We have had some decorative and restorative work completed during the holidays. Both classrooms in Reception have been decorated as well as the main entrance corridor and the upper corridor in the Upper School. We've also had new flooring put in the Y5/6 cloakroom area. Both hall floors have been stripped back and varnished. They looked amazing until the middle of last week, when the Upper School Hall floor started to lift. Unfortunately, the floor now needs significant repair work so matting has been put down in the hall to help us manage in this space until we can get it repaired.

I am pleased to say that we can now confirm the main dates for this academic year. I know many of you find it very helpful to have these dates in advance. You'll find them at the end of this newsletter. Please read them through carefully. We have sent a paper copy out too as we know it's useful to keep these dates safe for future reference. This is the only newsletter you will receive in paper form as well as via email. The newsletter will also be saved on the website in the newsletter section.

Please read on for further updates and general information and reminders. I hope you find it useful and informative. Kay Hemmings (Head Teacher)

Staffing

I informed you before the holidays about the new staff we employed ready for the start of the new term but thought it was worth reminding you of these people again, as you may will come into contact with them; your children certainly will.

Miss Keith has joined our teaching staff and has had her first week with her Y3 class. Mrs Howe is with us for two years working as a Higher Level Teaching Assistant, so she will work alongside Miss Gardiner and our Sports Coach, Mr Ashman, covering non-contact time for teachers.

Mrs O'Malley started with us just before the summer, taking up the post of School Business Manager. We also have a new addition to our cleaning team. Mr Morris has started this week. We are very pleased to welcome them all to our team.

School Uniform

We had a significant amount of school uniform left in the porches at the end of term, despite staff's best efforts to get the children to claim this. This includes a number of coats. Last week staff sorted through this. Anything that had a name on has been returned to their owner. Sadly, a lot of the uniform had no name on it (including the coats). We've therefore sorted this all out. Any good quality, school logo uniform has been kept – we will hold some of this in school and the rest will be taken to PACT House in Stanley. The more tired looking items will be bagged up for Bag2School, when we collect for this later in the term.

If you are short of any uniform then please either come in to school, and we'll see if we can help you out, or go directly to PACT House to request any items you need.

Needless to say, the children look extremely smart at the start of this term. If you want your child to ensure they keep bringing their uniform home then I can't reinforce enough that you MUST put a name on all of their clothing. A name ensures that if they leave anything lying around school we can return it to them. If there is no name then it's impossible to return it to its owner.

Regarding the coats, if the weather is fine we will lay them all out on the Upper School yard at the start of the day this Wednesday. Please have a look, you might find the very coat you spent time looking for over the summer holidays. If they remain unclaimed, we will take them to PACT house.



Dropping off and Picking up

It's been lovely to see the vast majority of children arriving at school on time last week. I hope this can be sustained as it's so important for children's well-being, and of course their academic progress, that they are in lessons on time every day. I'd just like to remind you for a few things when dropping off and picking up your child/ren:

Please follow the one-way route by entering through the main entrance and exiting via the Activity Den. A very small number of parents have requested (due to particular needs) not to follow this but for **everyone else** please follow this route as it makes it easier for everyone. There is a barrier blocking direct access to the road if you exit via our route, ensuring the children's safety. It's also a good example to your children if you follow these simple rules.



- Parents should not gather at the top of the steps leading out of the Upper School. Please come and wait on the yard. This avoids congestion in that area. Many parents are pushing buggies or have a few children with them and if there are people gathered there it makes it difficult to pass you.
- When picking up your child at the end of the day, once they are dismissed and in your care, you must supervise them. I know some of you have just a short time to wait if you have children in the upper school. It's nice if the children can go on the log play whilst they wait but they MUST be supervised at all times by you.
- Please keep all younger children away from the Upper School classrooms at pick up time. The older children are still in class and it's very distracting for them if younger children are playing outside their classroom windows. If you are waiting on the Upper School yard please keep your children by your side. Thank you.

Lining up on the Lower School Yard – to assist with an orderly start and end to the day we encourage children and parents to wait in line. The class names have been chalked on the yard in the following order:

1	Facing	Facing Lower School building – Year 1 and Year 2			
	3B	1/2B	2W	1D	

At the end of the day if you can spread out in these lines it will make it much easier for staff to see you and therefore quicker for everyone to leave.

Finally, parking. It is something I have to remind parents about frequently. At the start and end of the day the road outside school is exceptionally busy. Please ensure you do not compromise the safety of children and adults by parking on the double yellow lines. They are there for a good reason. Please do not park on them. Thank you.

PE Kits – As stated in the letter I sent out before the start of term, P.E. days are as follows:

Reception	Tuesday
1D	Thursday
2W	Thursday
1/2B	Friday
Year 3	Tuesday
Year 4	Thursday
Year 4 Swimming	Tuesday
Year 5	Wednesday
Year 6	Monday



In addition to this, Y3 and Y4 will be wearing PE kit on a Friday this half term as they are having additional P.E. for the Tag Rugby competition at the end of this half term.



Please dress your children appropriately. School PE kits preferably but if not, then please choose plain clothing and plain T-shirts – no football tops etc. Leggings or tracksuit trousers will be necessary in the cooler months.

Attendance, arriving to school on time and Leave of Absence requests

Attendance is crucial to your child's progress.

Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow		
100% Attendance	0 weeks of learning missed	Best chance of success.
95% Attendance	1 week and 4 days of learning missed	Well done.
90% Attendance	3 weeks and 4 days of learning missed	Poor attendance, we are worried.
85% Attendance	5 weeks and 3 days of learning missed	worned.
80% Attendance	7 weeks and 3 days of learning missed	Very poor attendance, we are seriously concerned.
75% Attendance	9 weeks and 1 day of learning missed	

Arriving at school on time is also really important. Lessons start immediately and if your child is late they are missing out on important learning time. Please endeavour to arrive at school on time every day.

Children should arrive in school between 8:40 and 8:50. Registration takes place at 8:50 and registers close at 9:00. Anyone arriving between 8:50 and 9:00 will be marked as late on the register. Any children arriving after 9:00 will be recorded as a U which means that they are late after the register has closed and they lose their attendance mark for that morning.



We reward good attendance weekly, celebrating both class and individual attendance. If we become concerned about your child's attendance, we will speak to you about this. You may also receive a warning letter or be invited in to school to meet with our School Attendance Officer.

We encourage parents to take their children on holiday during school holiday times and inform you of our holiday periods well in advance. We also try to plan our Teacher Training days to support parents in accessing cheaper holiday options. We have two training days in November. This year they are the 23rd and 24th November. We also hold 3 of our Teacher Training days in May, linked with the half term holiday. The children's May half term is from Wednesday 22nd May to Sunday 2nd June inclusive. This gives you a great opportunity to book to go way, hopefully accessing cheaper holidays.

Schools can only authorise **Leave of Absence** for children in exceptional circumstances and so Leave of Absence is rarely authorised. If you do take your child out of school during school time then it will impact on their success as well as, potentially, their emotional well-being. It could also result in a fine for both parents. Please try to avoid doing this.

For more information on our attendance procedures, please see our Attendance Policy which can be found on the school website.



CnS After School Clubs and After School Care

In negotiation with CnS we have changed the timings and cost for the CnS After School Club and Sports Clubs which CnS run at the end of every school day. Child Care at the end of the day is available for all children from Reception upwards. The CnS after-school sports clubs are currently for Y1 upwards. Reception will be able to attend these clubs from January 2024. Please use the links below for more information and to book places.

After-School Childcare Booking Link – https://cns-sports-stars.classforkids.io/camp/121
Half Term 1 – After School Clubs – Booking Link - https://cns-sports-stars.classforkids.io/term/257

CnS Sports Clubs run from the end of the school day and now finish at 4:30 p.m. Cost £3 per session. After School Child Care runs from the end of the day and costs £3 up until 4:30 and £7.50 if a late pick up is required (any time from 4:30 until 5:25).

As the Sports Clubs are now running until 4:30 we are going to trial parents picking up from the Lower School. Access will be through the Staff Car Park. Ideally if you can come by foot, parking on the main road, and collect your child from the fire exit doors into the Lower School Hall. We are going to trial this to see if it's manageable. For anyone who has paid for a late pick up, please drive in as usual.

Any queries regarding either the After-School Childcare or the After-School Sport Clubs, please email Chris Hughes on chris@cnssportsstars.co.uk

	Dates for your Diary
	Autumn 2023
Friday 8 th Sept	Last payment to be made for Grinton by today
Tuesday 12 th Sept	Grinton Meeting for parents 5 p.m. in Upper School Hall – important an adult attends
Wednesday 13 th	Phototronics in to take individual photos today as well as a group Reception photo and a
September	group Y6 photo. All will be made available for parents to buy and the individual ones will
	be used on our internal data system.
Weds 20 th Sept	Football Training to start for Y5 and Y6 girls and boys
Friday 22 nd Sept	Disability Morning – children to learn more about disabilities and gain some understanding
	of these
Friday 22 nd Sept	Voting for School Council
Mon 25 th Sept	Full Howtown payment to be made by today
Mon 25 th Sept	Workshop for Y3 by Sarah Crutwell; poetry and spoken word performance (funded by
	school)
Tuesday 26 th Sept –	Grinton Residential visit for Y5
Friday 29 th Sept	Children to come to school for usual time but meet in Upper School Hall
Wednesday 27 th Sept	Stay and Play for Reception – Literacy focus
	Parents can learn more about literacy in Reception and spend time with their child in class.
	Butterfly parents invited a.m. (8:50 until 10:30)
	Dragonfly parents invited in p.m. (1:30 until end of school day). More info later.
Weds 4 th October	Stay and Play for Pre-School – Dialogic Reading will be the focus.
	Bumblebee and Caterpillar parents to be invited in to join their children – 8:50 until 10:30
Thursday 5 th Oct	Stay and Play for Pre-School – Dialogic Reading will be the focus.
	Caterpillar and Ladybird parents to be invited in to join their children – 8:50 until 10:30
Friday 6 th October	Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund – 1 per family
	Once appointed, our School Council will decide what kind of donation they will request
	and who this will be for. This month it will be linked with the Harvest Festival.
Friday 6 th October	Harvest Festival led by Y1 and Y2 – 9:15
	All parents of children in Y1 and Y2 are invited to join us for this in Lower School Hall
Monday 9 th October	Puberty talk for Y5 girls
Tuesday 10 th Oct	5 p.m. Howtown meeting for parents in Upper School Hall – important an adult attends.

Friday 13 th October	Flu vaccination in form of a nasal spray. All children from Reception to Y6 are offered this
	and it is hoped that there will be a good take up of this. More info later
Monday 16 th Oct	ASSESSMENT WEEK for all children
Friday 20 th October	Y5 and Y6 visit to the Discovery Museum
Tuesday 24 th Oct	Y5 Multi Skills Festival and ABCs (Anti-Bullying Champions) – at Tanfield
Friday 27th October	Attitudes to Learning sheets plus criteria to go out to all parents from Y1 to Y6
	Pre-School and Reception to receive an update including voice of child and parent
Friday 27 st October	Y3 and 4 Tag Rugby Competition @ Brandon
HALF TERM	Monday 30th October to Friday 3 rd November
Monday 31 st October	Y6 Parents – you must have completed the application for your child's secondary place by today
Monday 6 th	Back to school
November	Y6 go to Howtown until Friday 10 th November
Wednesday 8 th Nov	Stay and Play for Reception – Maths focus
	Parents can learn more about maths in Reception and spend time with their child in class.
	Dragonfly parents invited a.m. (8:50 until 10:30)
	Butterfly parents invited in p.m. (1:30 until end of school day) More info later.
Friday 10 th Nov	Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund (1 per family)
Friday 10 th Nov	Remembrance Day - One minute silence in KS1/2 classes from 11am.
Sunday 12 th Nov	Remembrance Sunday Service at Tanfield Lea Club. Team Captains to be involved – 1 p.m.
Monday 13 th Nov	Parent Meetings – after school – 3:30 until 5:30
Tuesday 14 th Nov	Parent Meetings – after school – 3:30 until 5:30
Weds 15th Nov	Full Governing Body Meeting
Thursday 16 th Nov	Bags 2 School to be collected today. Friends of Tanfield will send out more info about this
Thursday 23rd Nov School Closed today – Staff Training Day	
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Friday 24th Nov	School Closed today – Staff Training Day
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Monday 18 th Dec	Choir and readers to go to the church (9:15 until about 11) to rehearse this morning
,	Christmas Fair (School to finish at 3pm today) – all parents and children welcome
	Refreshments in Upper School Hall
	Combination of activities and items for sale in Upper School and Lower School halls,
	including a quiz where children can win a prize
Tuesday 19 th Dec	Upper School Carol Service – parents of Upper School children and siblings are invited to
	attend. Children attending can go home following the service. Those with no parents
	attending will come back to school.
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS	Wednesday 20 th December until Tuesday 2nd January
	Spring 2024
Wednesday 3rd Jan	Back to School
Friday 5 th January	Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund, one per family
Tuesday 9 th January	6T to go to Nissan Monozukuri Workshop
Thursday 11 th Jan	6P to go to Nissan Monozukuri Workshop
Monday 15 th January	Pre-School Parents – you must have completed the application for your child's primary
, ,	place (place in our Reception Classes) by today
Weds 24 th Jan	Stay and Play for Pre-School – Maths will be the focus
	Parents of Bumblebee and Caterpillar children to be invited in – 8:50 until 10:30
Thurs 25 th Jan	Stay and Play for Pre-School – Maths will be the focus.
	Parents of Ladybird and Caterpillar children to be invited in – 8:50 until 10:30
Tuesday 30 th Jan	Y6 SATs Meeting for Y6 parents and children
Friday 2 nd February	Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund, one per family
5 th Feb to 9 th Feb	ASSESSMENT WEEK for all children
Weds 7 th Feb	Tanfield's Got Talent 6 p.m.
Wednesday 7 th Feb	Nissan Lego Robotics for Y6 team (TBC)
Friday 9 th Feb	ATTITUDES TO LEARNING SHEETS SENT OUT THIS WEEK
l mady 5 Tes	Pre-School and Reception to receive an update including voice of child and parent
Tuesday 13 th Feb	Y3 Multi Skills Festival and ABCs (Anti-Bullying Champions) @ Burnopfield
Tuesday 13 th Feb	Last swimming session for Y4
Wednesday 14 th Feb	All of our Y4 children and our choir to perform at the Gala Theatre. Rehearsal in the
Treamesday 11 100	afternoon and then performance at night. All parents of children involved are invited to
	attend. This is a joint concert with Brandon Primary School
Friday 16 th February	Y5 and Y6 girls v girls/boys v boys High 5 competition @ Brandon
HALF TERM	Monday 19 th February to Friday 23 rd February
Monday 26 th Feb	Back to school
Tuesday 27 th Feb	Y3 to start swimming this week
Tuesday 27 th Feb	Parent Meetings – after school – 3:30 until 5:30
Wednesday 28 th Feb	Parent Meetings – after school – 3:30 until 5:30
Friday 1st March	Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund, one per family
Week beg 4 th March	Book Fair in Monday through to Wednesday
Weds 6 th March	Y3 and Y4 to have an educational visit to Beamish Museum
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day (We will not be asking children to dress up as book characters)
11 th to 15 th March	Science Week – more info to come nearer the time
Weds 13 th March	Full Governing Body meeting
Friday 22 nd March	Assessment information to be shared with parents of children from Reception through to Y6
Friday 22 nd March	Non-School Uniform Day – please donate an Easter Egg – one per family
Friday 22 nd March	Y1 and Y2 Football Competition @ Tanfield
Friday 22 nd March	Ladybirds to bring their decorated eggs to school today ready for the competition on Monday
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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. (until about 10 a.m.) FRIENDS TO DO COFFEE AFTERNOON THIS AFTERNOON IN LOWER SCHOOL HALL Tuesday 28 th March Ya Multi Skillis Festival and Anti Bullying Champions (ABCS) @ Brandon Ya Multi Skillis Festival and Anti Bullying Champions (ABCS) @ Brandon Thursday 28 th March Kasetacer Celebration - through music and poetry in St. Margaret's Church This is for children in Y3 to Y6 only. Parents of Children in Y3 to Y6 only. Sand Y4 Parents to R6 children all Y1 Pre-School to attend for the whole day Priday 3 th May Monday 6th May May Bank Holiday Ya May Parents to be invited in during the afternoon to make Rockets with their children We will start this at 2 p.m. but would like to invite parents of children in Y1 in for a meeting before this so they can find out more about the Phonics Assessment. Therefore, 1:30 p.m. V1 parents invited in to rocket building session with their children in Y1 in for a meeting before this so they can find out more about the Phonics Assessment. Therefore, 2 p.m. V2 parents invited in to rocket building session with their children in Y1 in for a meeting before this so they can find out more about the Phonics Assessment. Therefore, 2 p.m. V2 parents invited in to rocket building session with their children in Y	Monday 25 th March	Egg Decorating: Lower School children to bring decorated egg into school today for
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		later today.
Thursday 6 th June Y1/2 (a.m.) and Y3/4 (p.m.) – Outdoor Activities in the grounds		2:00 – Years 3 and 4
<u> </u>	Thursday 6 th June	Y1/2 (a.m.) and Y3/4 (p.m.) – Outdoor Activities in the grounds

Thursday 6 th June	Sleepover for Y6 – arriving at school between 6:30 and 6:45
Friday 7 th June	Activity Day for Y5 and Y6 (Including Climbing Wall)
	Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund, one per family
10 th to 14 th June	Phonics Screening Check – Test Week – All of Y1 children plus those Y2 children who did
	not reach the required standard last year.
Weds 12 th June	Full Governing Body Meeting
	In it Together Conference for Y3 (no cost for this visit – school will fund it)
Weds 19 th June	Transition Day for Reception (current Pre-School to move into Reception)
Weds 26 th June	Y1 and Y2 to visit Northumberland College Zoo (this visit is still to be confirmed)
Friday 28th June	Letters to go out today to all parents re classes for next year
Mon 1 st – 3rd July	Transition Days for Tanfield School
Monday 1 st July	Transition lesson for all children at our school (10:20 to 11:20)
Monday 1 st July	Meet the Teacher meeting – 4:00 p.m. + Creche. All parents to be invited to these meetings
Wednesday 3 rd July	Transition afternoon for children and parents of Pre-School and Reception to learn more
	about how things work in the new year groups and support their children with this
	progression.
	Reception to move to Y1 – Parents to be invited to join us at 1:45 p.m.
	Pre-School to move to Reception – Parents to be invited to join us at 2 p.m.
	(If attending this you do not need to attend the 'Meet the Teacher' on Monday night.)
Friday 5 th July	Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund, one per family
Friday 5 th July	Reports go out to all parents
Monday 8 th July	Parent Meetings for those parents who would like an appointment
Tuesday 9 th July	Y2 Multi Skills Festival and ABCs (Anti-Bullying Champions) @ Tanfield
Friday 12th July	Y5 and Y6 girls v girls/boys v boys Athletics Competition @ Brandon
	Bastille Day – all to come in dressed in red, white and blue
Monday 15 th July	Y6 Leavers' Meal – 4:15 until 5:45
Tuesday 16 th July	Thankyou tea for all who have helped us this year – 2:30 until 3:30
	Y5 to prepare, serve and take part
Wednesday 17 th July	Lower School Fun Day
	Y6 Dress Rehearsal for the Upper School and some parents – afternoon
	Y6 Performance – evening – 6 p.m.
Thursday 18 th July	Y6 Performance – evening – 6 p.m.
Friday 19 th July	Y2 Moving on Assembly for their parents starting as soon after 9 a.m. as possible
Monday 22 nd July	Upper School visit to Craster/Embleton Beach
Tuesday 23 rd July	Y6 Leavers' Assembly for Y6 and their parents starting as soon after 9 a.m. as possible
	Last day of term
Wednesday 4 th Sept	Back to School





