

Dear Parents and Carers,

October 2023



We are rapidly approaching the end of this half term having quickly settled back into the school routine. Our new Pre-School and Reception children have settled well and both the Reception and Pre-School Stay and Play mornings have been well attended. We hope the parents who were able to come found this beneficial.

Y5 were lucky with the weather at Grinton. They only got soaked once and enjoyed exploring the moors, climbing Calver Hill and creating their own Andy Goldsworthy Art Work. They were amazed at all the life they found in the stream, when stream dipping, and thoroughly enjoyed their sessions in the Green Howards Museum and the Georgian Theatre. I will be writing to parents in Y4 soon to invite them to sign their children up for their upcoming visit in September 2024, when they are in Y5.

Y6 are preparing for their residential to the Lake District, straight after half term, when they will take part in a variety of outdoor and adventurous activities.

We informed Y5 and Y6 parents last week that we had been successful in securing funding, through Turing, for a visit for 30 of our Y5 and Y6 children to visit Berlin in June 2024 to enhance the work we do on World War II and life for children since then. This is an exciting enrichment opportunity for our children and those who are interested have been asked to submit an application for this by 24<sup>th</sup> October.

This week the children are completing their first assessments of the academic year and before half term you'll receive your first 'Attitudes to Learning' form for all children from Y1 to Y6. Pre-School and Reception parents will receive an update which includes an opportunity for parents to make a comment on their first half term. This information for parents is useful to have before we hold our parent meetings, it gives you an indication as to how your child is presenting in class and, as stated, their attitude to learning.

We'll be in touch again soon with information on how to book your Parent Meeting appointment which will take place the second week after half term on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November.

Please read on for a few updates from this half term.

## Staffing

Mrs Henderson has announced that she is going to retire and her last day will be Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November. She began her career at our school over 20 years ago. Mrs Henderson started as a parent volunteer and was then appointed as Teaching Assistant. She has been key to the support given to Y6. Mrs Henderson has worked with individuals, groups and whole classes. Hundreds of children have benefitted from her teaching support, encouragement and helping them to believe in themselves. We will miss her but wish her all the best in her retirement.

## After School Clubs

CnS offer a variety of sporting After School Clubs each day of the week for £3 per session. All the clubs run by our staff are free to attend. Mr Temple and Mrs Watson run football for Y5 and Y6 girls on a Wednesday night and Mr McIntosh has involved children in cross country this term. Choir will start for children in Y3 to Y6 on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October and the School Council is well underway on a Thursday night.

In addition to this our Teaching Assistants are going to offer a variety of half term clubs over the year. Y1 and Y2 will be told this week about an Arts and Crafts club which will run after half term by Mrs Burnett and Mrs Howe.

The menu of activities is as follows for the clubs led by Teaching Assistants. There will be no charge for these.

Type of Club	Year Group	When	Evening	Staff offering this
Cookery Club	Y3	Summer 1	Monday	Miss Armin and Mrs Ashcroft
Continent Club	Y3 and Y4	Summer 1	Wednesday	Miss Gardiner and Ms Edgar
Arts & Crafts Club	Y1 and Y2	Autumn 2	Wednesday	Mrs Burnett and Mrs Howe
German Club	Y5/6 selected to go to Germany	From Jan onwards	Wednesday	Mrs Bruce and Mrs Ovington

## Holiday Club for October half term

CNS Sports Stars will be delivering a half term sports camp at our school from Monday October 30th to Wednesday November 1st. This camp is not funded (unfortunately the school's bid for funding was not successful) which means that payment will be required and children will need to bring a packed lunch. Further details and booking information will be emailed to you directly.

## Parent Governor

I emailed all parents two weeks ago regarding the Parent Governor Vacancy we have on our governing body, asking for nominations for this position.

We have had one application so I am very pleased to say that Mr Wilcock (parent of a child in Y4 and Reception) will join our Governing Body. We look forward to working with him.

## Break Time Snack

Children in the Lower School (Pre-School, Reception, Y1 and Y2) can all access free fruit through the government scheme. Our Upper School children are encouraged to bring their own fruit in for break time. This gives them an extra nourishing boost to keep them going until lunchtime.

It is lovely to see them munching away on their fruit over break time, enjoying fruit including apples, grapes, strawberries and kiwi fruit. Thank you for ensuring they have a fruit snack, it really does encourage a good eating habit for life.



## Packed Lunch Policy

Whilst on the subject of healthy snacks, we have updated our Packed Lunch Policy.

We acknowledge that not all children enjoy drinking water. We must still insist that any drinks taken during lessons must be water – this is to keep their brain hydrated. However for lunchtime we have changed our policy to include lightly diluted squash.

We have also emphasised that children should not bring in any nut products in their lunch box as we have children and adults in school who do have a nut allergy.

We continue to say that children **should not** bring in crisps, chocolate, chocolate covered biscuits or sweets. It's important that we instil good eating habits from an early age to help to ensure a healthy lifestyle. Please adhere to this when preparing your child's packed lunch. For more information, our Packed Lunch Policy can be found on our website. Thank you.

## Guitar and Woodwind Lessons

We have children in Y4, Y5 and Y6 who are benefitting from additional Music Tuition as they are accessing either Guitar or Clarinet lessons with a teacher from the Durham Music Service.

There is a cost for this (although the school will cover the cost for children who are classed as Pupil Premium). You can find more information on the Durham Music Service website.



# Spelling

Spelling is an important skill. Spelling is taught across the school, with children from Y1 to Y6 receiving weekly spelling lists. We really appreciate the support parents give us by helping their child to learn these. These spellings are printed in the organiser, practised in school and tested weekly.

Sometimes, if your child finds these words a challenge, the teacher will highlight some of the words to focus on or give your child a different list of words.

This year, the teachers will also be focussing on reviewing previously learnt spelling patterns. This will be done in class, and they won't be sent home, but your child will have an extra 1 – 3 spellings at the end of their usual spelling test.



Multiplication tables (times-tables) are essential pieces of knowledge that support children as they learn other mathematical skills as well as preparing them for their adult lives. The times-tables are taught in each class from Years 2 to 6. This learning is chunked, with children learning 3 new times-tables each academic year until the end of Year 4 when they will have been exposed to each times-table 2x to 12x. Years 5 and 6 therefore will revisit all times-tables.

At the end of Year 4, all children nationally take part in a 'multiplication' check with the expectation being that they can recall most times-tables facts quickly.

In school we support the children through daily times tables practice. This includes revisiting tricky facts on a Monday, chanting on a Tuesday and Thursday, a times-tables test on a Wednesday and recalling times-tables facts on a Friday. Some children also take part in small group work with their teacher once a week to support their learning.

In addition to this, children are encouraged to use 'Times Tables Rockstars' which can be accessed both at home and in school.

You can help support your child at home by practising the times-table they are learning at school. This is shown in their organiser. You can also encourage them to access Times Tables Rockstars. Their login details are also in their organiser.



## Cross Country

Children from Y5 and Y6 have been competing in the Derwentside Cross Country competition over the last 4 weeks. They have loved the challenge and the variety of courses they have tackled. All have done extremely well, enjoying running alongside each other and their peers across our area. We are particularly proud that Zara (Y6) has been selected to represent

Derwentside in the county wide competition. Well done ☺

## Girls and Boys football

**We've had both our girls' and boys' football teams competing this half term. Both teams have shown grit and determination and have enjoyed success. Well done and keep up the good work.**

## PACT House – Harvest Gifts

Our Y1 and Y2 children led a delightful Harvest Assembly enjoyed by their parents. They sang autumn songs and recited autumn poetry. It was lovely.

Thank you for your kind gifts from the October non-uniform day. We took all donations up to PACT House on Friday and they were very grateful. I know families in our community will really appreciate your support and kindness. Don't forget, if you are short of uniform and would like to benefit from the supply of second-hand uniform supplied by our parents, which is in good condition, please either come to school or visit PACT House in Stanley.



## Flu Immunisation

The immunising team were in school on Friday. Unfortunately, they misjudged the time it would take to carry out all immunisations and had only planned to be in school with us for the morning. They have informed us that they will return to us on the morning of Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October to do the nasal spray immunisations for Y5 and Y6 and, hopefully, catch up on anyone who was absent on the first day they were with us – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October.

## Bingo Night organised by the Friends of Tanfield Lea

The Friends of Tanfield Lea are starting their fundraising this year with a Bingo Night on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October. Letters have already been sent out about this. It's always a popular event, doors opening at 6 p.m.

Entry tickets cost £3-50 for adults and £3-00 for concessions (OAPs and children) which includes Pie & Pea supper. Bingo cards will be on sale during the night at a cost of £1.00 each or £5.00 for a strip of 6. Ticket orders must be in by Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October to allow for catering numbers. Thank you for your support with this.



## Entering and Leaving the school grounds

Thanks to all those who are keeping to our one-way system when entering and leaving the school grounds. It does help to avoid congestion.

Could I also remind parents not to gather at the top of the Upper School steps – again this can become congested. Please come on to the Upper School yard to meet with your child rather than waiting here.

Gates open at 8:40 in the morning and will be locked at 8:50. If you arrive late then you must go to the main entrance with your child.

We are going to start to open the gates later at the end of the day as the Upper School classes are still working and often still doing P.E. until just after 3 p.m. This being the case from now on the gates will be opened at 3:05.

Could I also remind you that once you do collect your child you **must** keep them with you, under your supervision. Older children are still working and are disturbed when children are approaching the windows where they are working – both in lower and upper school.

Finally, the Early Years children have been to the toilet before they leave the classroom at the end of the day. They should therefore not need to come back in to use the KS1 toilets. This will also enable the KS1 staff to see their children out safely. Thank you.

## Covid Guidance

I thought it worth just reminding everyone about guidance around Covid.

There is no requirement for anyone to take a test. If your child is ill then please don't send them to school and ring the office to inform of their absence. Once they are feeling better and have no temperature then they can return to school as normal.



## Leave of Absence in term time

Time in school is valuable and it is important children miss as little school as possible.

We have regular school holidays as well as the teacher training days that families can use to go away as a family.

Schools can only authorise absence in exceptional circumstances and this is very rare.

Holiday requests in term time will not be authorised and if they are over 6 days then fines will be issued. Please refer to the 'Dates for your Diary' to see when our school holidays are and book to go away during these times. Thank you.

## Parking outside of school

If you have to arrive at school by car, whether it is for Breakfast Club or the start of the school day, can you please respect the safety measures in place outside of school. Unless you have a Blue Badge and are walking your child in to school you should not be parking or stopping on the double yellow or zig-zag lines. Neither should you be pulling up on the kerb or turning in the road or the school entrances. We must ensure the safety of the children at all times and drivers who are not adhering to the Highway Code are putting our children in danger. Please make sure you park and manoeuvre sensibly. Thank you.

Finally, 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.

Many thanks.

Kay Hemmings (Head Teacher)

Dates for your Diary	
Autumn 2023 (Dates added since last shared are highlighted in green)	
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> Oct	<b>ASSESSMENT WEEK for all children</b>
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Y5 and Y6 visit to the Discovery Museum
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Y5 Multi Skills Festival and ABCs (Anti-Bullying Champions) – at Tanfield
<b>Weds 25<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	<b>Bingo Night organised by the Friends of Tanfield</b>
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> October	Y3 and 4 Tag Rugby Competition @ Brandon
<b>HALF TERM</b>	<b>Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November</b>
<i>Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October</i>	<i>Y6 Parents – you must have completed the application for your child's secondary place by today</i>
<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Back to school</b> Y6 go to Howtown until Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> November
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund (1 per family)
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Remembrance Day - One minute silence in KS1/2 classes from 11am.
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Remembrance Sunday Service at Tanfield Lea Club. Team Captains to be involved – 1 p.m.
<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	<b>Parent Meetings – after school – 3:30 until 5:30</b>
<b>Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	<b>Parent Meetings – after school – 3:30 until 5:30</b>
Weds 15 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Full Governing Body Meeting

Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Bags 2 School to be collected today. Friends of Tanfield will send out more info about this
<b>Thursday 23rd Nov</b>	<b>School Closed today – Staff Training Day</b>
<b>Friday 24th Nov</b>	<b>School Closed today – Staff Training Day</b>
Friday 1st Dec	Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund (1 per family)
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	Y6 Multi Skills Festival and ABCs (Anti-Bullying Champions) @ Burnopfield Y1/2 Christmas Performance 2:00 p.m. Parents welcome
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Performance by Pre-School and Reception 9:15 a.m. Parents welcome Christmas Dinner Day - ALL CHILDREN TO COME DRESSED IN THEIR CHRISTMAS JUMPER TODAY or other Christmas clothing.
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Y1 and Y2 Christmas Performance 9:15 a.m. Parents welcome
Friday 8th Dec	Christmas Performance by Pre-School and Reception 9:15 a.m. Parents welcome Y1 and Y2 Hockey Competition @ Burnopfield
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Assessment information to be shared with parents of children from Reception through to Y6
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Ecumenical Carol Service outside Tanfield Lea Club – 5:30 p.m. – Choir to be involved
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Santa hoping to visit children in Lower School a.m. - if he can fit us into his busy schedule. The Pre-School Ladybirds are invited to join us from 9 until 10 Y3 Party – Lower School Hall p.m. – children to come to school in party clothes Y5 Party - Upper School Hall p.m. – children to come to school in party clothes
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Y1 and Y2 Party– Lower School Hall p.m. – children to come to school in party clothes Y6 Party Upper School Hall p.m. – children to <b>bring</b> party clothes to school to change into
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Pre- School Party a.m. and p.m. Lower School Hall. Children to come to school in party clothes Y4 Party Upper School Hall p.m. – children to come to school in party clothes
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	All children from Y2 to Y6 to visit the Northern Stage to see ‘Cinderella: A Fairy Tale’ All children in PS (Bumblebees will be invited in for the 9:30 performance), Rec and Y1 to see The Littlest Christmas Elf
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Reception Party – Lower School Hall p.m. – children to come to school in party clothes
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Choir and readers to go to the church (9:15 until about 11) to rehearse this morning <b>Christmas Fair (School to finish at 3pm today) – all parents and children welcome</b> 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 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>Upper School Carol Service</b> – 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.
<b>CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS</b>	<b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December until Tuesday 2nd January</b>
<b>Spring 2024</b>	
<b>Weds 3rd Jan</b>	<b>Back to School</b>



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