

Dear Parents and Carers,

December 2023



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

Please read on to find out about what is happening in the lead up to Christmas.

Non-Christmas News first:

School Crossing Patrol

As you are aware, Mr Caulfield has been absent for a short period of time. I am pleased to inform you that he was back yesterday but appreciate you putting arrangements in place, during his absence, to ensure that your child can cross the road safely. Unfortunately, our staff are not insured to replace the School Crossing Patrol role. On the first day of any absence we will endeavour to have someone out there as we understand it is often too short notice for you to make alternative arrangements. However, from day 2 onwards we will not do this and the responsibility falls to parents. Clearly this is a particular issue for those parents whose children walk home themselves. Thank you for your understanding with this.



Teaching Assistant Appointments

As you are already aware, Mrs Henderson will retire this week. We wish her all the best on her retirement. Mrs Jackson (TA based in Lower School) has also left. She has worked in our school since 2018, working as class support, leading intervention groups as well as supporting individual children. She is moving on to work in a Special School and we wish her all the best.

Interviews took place yesterday to fill these vacancies and once appointments have been confirmed we'll inform you.



Upper School Boilers

The boilers which heat the Upper School need replacing. Work to complete this will start from Wednesday this week. This means that temporary accommodation for the contractors will be placed in the area just to the right of the main entrance. Please bear with us over the next weeks/months while this work takes place. A generator will be installed to ensure that the building continues to be heated at all times.

Teacher Training Days

The staff had two really successful days last week. They worked on making changes to the curriculum plans to ensure that they are up to date. The updated Curriculum Overviews have been uploaded to the website and the progression documents are being finalised before they will be uploaded too. In addition to this the teachers began some online learning through The Great Teaching Toolkit. This is research-based training. Staff choose pathways to follow, they explore the theory and then consider how they will make a small change to their teaching to improve impact. We followed this training last year and found it very beneficial. Our Teaching Assistants completed their paediatric First Aid training. All in all, it was a very productive two days.

Teacher Training Dates for 2024 – 2025 – No Training Days in May 2025

Every year we have to plan our Teacher Training Days. Staff have to complete 5 Teacher Training days and these can be done as either full days or twilights.

In 24-25 we can only take 2 days out of term time, the other 3 days are taken out of the days allocated for school holidays and again, any or all can be completed as twilights.

This is most unusual and means that we will have 2 training days in November 2024 - Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd November.

The BIG change is that we will have NO training days in May 2025. This means that those parents who, in the past, have used this time to book a holiday will not be able to do so. I thought it was important to inform you of this as soon as possible.

The holiday dates for 24-25 are at the end of this newsletter.



Football News

Both the boys' and girls' teams have been competing well in their respective leagues this year. The girls' fixtures are nearly finished, whilst the boys' team have several more fixtures in the New Year. The girls lie in 2nd place overall, whilst the boys are 4th. Thanks again to Lee Ovington of Stanley Locksmiths and Concept IT for sponsoring the new kits.

The Boys' League Table

GW6										
Position	Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Points	
1	St Jos	5	3	2	0	9	2	7	11	
2	Gland	6	3	2	1	10	7	3	11	
3	East Stan	4	3	1	0	11	4	7	10	
4	Tanfield	6	2	1	3	8	8	0	7	
5	Catchgate	5	2	0	3	9	11	-2	6	
	South									
6	Stanley	6	1	2	3	4	7	-3	5	
7	Shield Row	4	0	0	4	0	12	-12	0	

The Girls' League Table

GW7										
Position	Team	Played	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Points	
1	All Saints	9	9	0	0	23	0	23	27	
2	Tanfield	9	6	2	1	8	3	5	20	
3	Catchgate	9	6	1	2	16	6	10	19	
4	Delves	9	5	1	3	11	6	5	16	
5	Greenland	8	4	3	1	6	1	5	15	
6	Leadgate	8	4	2	2	7	5	2	14	
	Lanchester									
7	Ep	10	3	4	3	6	4	2	13	
	Consett									
8	Juniors	8	2	2	4	6	7	-1	8	
9	St Pats	7	2	2	6	3	10	-7	8	
10	Burnopfield	7	1	2	4	1	10	-9	5	
11	Shotley	9	1	2	6	1	17	-16	5	
12	St Marys	8	0	1	7	1	16	-15	1	

School Data

The school is required to publish its school data on an annual basis. This data includes end of Early Years data, Y1 Phonics and KS1 data and end of Key Stage SATs results. We were very pleased with our assessments across the school. Once again, 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'.

Autumn Term Data Sheets – the summary of the children's autumn term assessments will be sent out with the children this Friday. Please check their Personal Organisers for this. (Pre-School children do not receive this.)



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.

Christmas News next:

Non School Uniform Day – contributions for Tombola and Bottle Stall

This coming Friday – 1st December – is **Non School Uniform Day**. Instead of a monetary donation this month we'd like to ask for a contribution for the Christmas Fair for our tombola stall (anything – chocolates, games, toys, books, stationery etc.) and bottle stall (any bottle – wine, shower gel, squash, bubble bath etc.) Thanks in advance for this. The Christmas Fair is on Monday 18th December.



The money we raise through the Christmas Fair will be used to subsidise costs for all children throughout the year. This includes paying for the Early Years and Y1 Christmas Show 'The Littlest Christmas Elf' and contributing to the cost for the bus for the visit to the Northern Stage for Y2 to Y6.

Early Years and Key Stage 1 Christmas Performances

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 3 adults attend per family**.

Early Years Christmas Performance (Reception and Pre-School)

You can choose from: **Wednesday 6th December** 9:15 p.m.
OR **Friday 8th December** 9:15 a.m.



Key Stage 1 Nativity (Year 1 and 2)

You can choose from: **Tuesday 5th December** 2:00 p.m.
OR **Thursday 7th December** 9:15 a.m.

As last year, we are not going to do tickets for the performances. Please keep to our request of **3 adults per family attending only one performance**. We have increased the number from last year but if everyone uses their 3 spaces then we will be at capacity. All performances will take place in the Lower School Hall. For the 9:15 performance, once you have dropped your child off at their class entrance, please come to the main entrance to the lower school hall. Any adults attending the performance need to have arrived by 9:00 as the main gates will be locked at this time.

For the 2:00 p.m. performance entrance will be from 1:45 via the main gates and the gates will be locked again just after 2 p.m. Thank you.



Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day is on Wednesday 6th 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 😊

Ecumenical Carol Service organised by Tanfield Lea Partnership

Our choir will be performing at the Tanfield Lea Partnership Ecumenical Carol Service on Sunday 10th December at Tanfield Lea Workingmen's Club. The service starts at 5:30 p.m. so we'll be asking the choir to arrive for 5:20. The service usually lasts about 30 minutes. We ask that parents of children in the choir stay for the service but anyone is welcome. It's a lovely opportunity to sing some carols with others in our community.

Christmas Parties

These will take place the week beginning 11th December. See the 'Dates for your Diary' for the dates for each year group. On the children's party day all children except Y6 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.

Year 6 children are asked to bring their party clothes so they can get changed at the end of lunchtime.



Theatre at Christmas on Thursday 14th December

The theatre is coming to us for our Early Years and Y1 children. 'The Littlest Christmas Elf' will be arriving to entertain them in our Lower School Hall. The



Bumblebee children (accompanied by one adult) would be welcome to join us for the 9:30

performance. They should just come to the main entrance for 9:25.

Meanwhile the rest of the school will be heading to the Northern Stage in Newcastle to see 'Cinderella – a Fairytale'. It should be an exciting morning for everyone.



Christmas Fair

Our Christmas Fair is on Monday 18th 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.

The set up will be the same as last year with refreshments in the Upper School Hall and then stalls in both halls to help avoid areas being too crowded. We hope you'll be able to visit both halls. **We have reviewed the**

time for the end of the school day on Christmas Fair day. For Pre-School, Reception and Y1 and 2 the children will finish at their usual time. All children in Upper School will finish at 3:10 just for today to enable staff to get set up ready for the doors to open at 3:30 p.m.

Please wait on the yard for entry. If it's wet, please wait under the covered walkway. Entrance to both halls will only be via the covered walkway.



Key Stage 2 Carol Service on the last day of term

19th December (Y3 to Y6)

All children in Key Stage 2 will be taking part in this and we hope that their parents and younger siblings will be able to join us.

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 Tree Festival

Don't forget, St. Margaret's will be holding their Christmas Tree Festival on Saturday 9th December 10 until 4 and then Sunday 10th December, 10 until 3 p.m. followed by a Christmas Carol Service at 3 p.m.



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

Finally, as usual I've included the current dates for the rest of this term and for January 2024. The full year's dates are on the September newsletter, a copy of which is on our website.

Please also take careful note of the holiday dates for 2024-2025, particularly if you are starting to plan holidays. We will not be able to authorise any absences during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances and these are extremely rare.

We look forward to seeing you at some of our events over the next 3 weeks.

Kay Hemmings
Head Teacher

 Dates for your Diary 	
Autumn 2023	
Friday 1st Dec	Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for either the tombola or bottle stall (1 per family)
Tuesday 5 th December	Y6 Multi Skills Festival and ABCs (Anti-Bullying Champions) @ Burnopfield Y1/2 Christmas Performance 2:00 p.m. Parents welcome
Wednesday 6 th 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 th 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 th Dec	Assessment information to be shared with parents of children from Reception through to Y6
Sunday 10 th Dec	Ecumenical Carol Service outside Tanfield Lea Club – 5:30 p.m. – Choir to be involved

Monday 11 th 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 th 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 bring party clothes to school to change into
Wednesday 13 th 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 th 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 th Dec	Reception Party – Lower School Hall p.m. – children to come to school in party clothes
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 20th 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
<p>A free holiday club is being offered by CnS for 3 days over Christmas on Wednesday 20th, Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd December. An email will be sent to you about this. Places are limited and will be filled on a first come first served basis.</p>	



Holiday Dates

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 2024 / 2025



Tanfield Lea Primary School will re-assemble on Wednesday 4th September 2024 for the commencement of the Autumn Term. Thereafter holidays for the 2024 / 2025 academic year are shown below – **please note that these may differ from other schools in the area due to Teacher Training days.**

Holiday	Closing Date	Date Re-open for Teaching Purposes
Summer 2024	Tuesday, 23rd July 2024	<u>Wednesday, 4th September 2024</u>
Autumn Half-Term 2024 (1 week)	Friday, 25th October 2024	<u>Monday, 4th November 2024</u>
<i>Teacher Training Day</i> (2 days)	Wednesday, 20 th November 2024	<u>Monday, 25th November 2024</u>
Christmas 2024 (2 weeks)	Friday, 20th December 2024	<u>Monday 6th January 2025</u>
Spring Half-Term 2025 (1 week)	Friday, 21st February 2025	<u>Monday, 3rd March 2025</u>
Easter 2025 (2 weeks)	Friday 11th April 2025	<u>Monday, 28th April 2025</u>
May Day 2025 (1 day)	Friday, 2nd May 2025	<u>Tuesday, 6th May 2025</u>
Summer Half-Term 2025 (1week)	Friday, 23rd May 2025	<u>Monday, 2nd June 2025</u>
Summer 2025	Friday, 18th July 2025	<u>To Be Confirmed</u>

N.B. Due to the changes in amendments to School Attendance Regulations Head Teachers may not grant ANY leave of absence during term-time unless there are exceptional circumstances. From September 2015 each adult with parental responsibility will be fined £60 per child if they choose to take their child out of school for more than 14 sessions/7 school days unauthorised absence over a rolling 12 week period. *Exceptional circumstances will be extremely rare.*

TEACHER TRAINING DAYS – SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS :- 21st November 2024 and 22nd November 2024 (Please note, this year there are only 2 days from term time for Teacher Training – there are NO days in May 2025)



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