

Dear Parents and Carers,

March 2024



It was lovely to see so many parents in school for the Parent Meetings at the end of February. I know parents commented to me on how good it was to see the children's work and how much they had progressed.

Following assessments before February half term, the teachers will share this assessment information with you this Friday via the assessment record sheet. This is for all children except Pre-School. The children will bring these home in their Personal Organisers.

Thanks to all who are sending their children in wearing plain **P.E. clothing**, ideally in their team colour. We have noticed the difference. Please ensure you continue to follow the P.E. uniform so that they are always wearing plain, non-branded clothing.

Thanks to all who supported our **School Book Fair**. We sold a large number of books so there will be lots of reading going on and the commission we will receive from this (almost £500) will be used to supplement our books in both Lower and Upper School libraries. The author Dan Smith visited us last week. The children in Y5 and Y6 have been reading some of his books prior to his visit so it was great to hear from him first hand and be inspired by his enthusiasm for reading and writing.

Victoria Downes was going to work with our Lower School children this week. Unfortunately, she was ill so we have rearranged this for Tuesday 19th March. We hope that the author visits inspire children to read and write more.



This week and next week we are having some special science sessions. Simon Woolly from Beamish Museum led sessions for our Key Stage 2 children on Monday. He led an 'explosive' session showing how scientists came up with ways to give light to the mines safely.

'As Creatives' will be coming in on Thursday 21st March to lead workshops throughout the school. I am sure the children will be excited by this and will learn some new things too.

Our thanks to Reggie T Landscapes Ltd.

If you walk over to the Lower School yard with your child you will have seen what a difference **Reggie T Landscapes Ltd.** have made to what was originally a covered sandpit. Over the years this has become flooded and so was not a usable space. Reggie (the Director of the company and father of a child in Y5) offered to improve this area free of charge. He has decked it out so it's now a great covered space to play in. Our thanks to his company for supporting us in this way.



Pre-School Places – you need to act now

We are in the process of offering Pre-School places for 2024-2025. If you, or anyone you know locally, have a child who will turn 4 between 1st September 2024 and 31st August 2025 then you can apply for a place at our Pre-School for September 2024. Application forms can be found on the website, or you can collect one from the office.

Please do this as soon as possible as the places are filling up.

Non School Uniform Day

We are having an extra non-school uniform day a week on Friday (22nd March) and are asking for a donation of one Easter Egg per family for the Friends of Tanfield Easter Raffle. Many thanks in advance for your support with this.

Y1 and Y2 Football Competition



A team will be selected from Y1 and Y2 following their training this term. They will be competing in a competition at our school next Friday (22nd). You will receive an email if your child has been selected.

Y4 Multi Sports

Our Y4 will be going to Brandon on Tuesday 26th March for the Multi-Sports event.

If your child can come in their P.E. kit that day but ensure they are warmly dressed as most of the activities will take place outside.

Litter Pick

Every year our school, led by the School Council, supports LitterFree Durham's litter pick campaign, a popular community litter-pick operation.

Litter not only blights the environment and makes areas look untidy, it also affects natural habitats and wildlife. Big Spring Clean encourages and supports residents, businesses and volunteers to organise litter pick activities or events to help tidy their village or town.

This year, the children in our school will support the litter-pick campaign on **Thursday 21st March 3.15-4.30pm**. We will focus on working our way through Tanfield Park. (Woods adjacent to our school grounds).

Everyone is welcome and those wishing to come along and help, please meet in upper school hall at home time after you have picked your child/ren up. Litter pick equipment will be available but please wear appropriate clothing and footwear.



Change to Holiday Clubs

CNS Sports Stars will be hosting a holiday club at school during the Easter holidays. The dates available to book onto the holiday club are Tuesday 2 April to Friday 12 April 2024. **This year the booking system has changed as the Department for Education are only funding holiday clubs for families whose children are entitled to free school meals (FSM).** If your child is eligible, you will have already received an email from the school with a link to book onto the holiday club. Unfortunately, this means that for the Easter Holiday Club, if your child is not eligible for FSM then they will not be able to attend. We apologise to those families who are regular attenders at our Holiday Clubs and aren't able to access it this time. I think this is something we will need to discuss with CnS in the future as it's a change that has happened quickly and although it is a great opportunity for those families who can access it, it does impact on other families.



Fundraise and Recycle Clothes Bank

Many of you will have noticed when you drop your children off at school that we have a clothes bank situated in the grounds of the school. The clothes bank gets emptied once every two weeks and this brings in valuable income for the Friends of Tanfield Lea Community Primary School. Can we please encourage you to bring in as much of your unwanted clothing as possible to help us out. The items which you can donate are adult and children's clothes, shoes, bags and accessories. They do not accept damaged clothing, bedding, curtains, bric-a-brac, branded school uniforms. The Friends of Tanfield receive cash for the clothes collected and Fundraise and Recycle support two charities – 'The Coastguard Association' and 'The Dragonfly Cancer Trust'.

Many thanks for your continued support.

With our Easter activities approaching I thought it would be helpful to remind you of the things we have planned in the lead up to Easter.



Easter Egg Decorating

Judging by our entries, year on year, the children love the challenge of decorating an egg.

They are incredibly creative and show great imagination with the ideas they come up with.

Our Easter Egg decorating competition will take place on Monday 25th March.

We ask Lower School children (Pre-School to Y2) to decorate their egg at home and bring it in that morning ready for judging. **We'd like the ladybirds in Pre-School to bring their decorated eggs on Friday 22nd March ready for the Monday, so they don't miss out.**

Upper School children should come into school with a plan for their egg. They'll need to bring some hard-boiled eggs and resources to decorate their egg. As usual we welcome parents to come in and help with this – the children love having you in school. If you have more than one child then just mention that to one of the teachers and you should be able to work together in one class – whichever has more space! You'll be able to leave by about 10 a.m. as hopefully they'll be done by then.

The children will be able to bring their decorated egg back home on Tuesday 26th March.

Good luck everyone 😊

Friends of Tanfield Lea Community Primary School

The Friends of Tanfield have organised a Coffee Afternoon in the Lower School Hall from 2 p.m. until the end of the school day on Monday 25th March. The choir will sing at this event and the Easter Raffle will be drawn. It would be lovely if you can attend and support the Friends of Tanfield in raising money for school enrichment. Please enter via the main entrance gates. **These will be open from 2 until 2:15 p.m. and then locked again so please ensure you arrive within this time.** The choir will be singing shortly after 2:15.

DON'T FORGET, IF YOU'D LIKE TO HELP WITH THE FRIENDS OF TANFIELD LEA THEY ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS. They are a group of parents and friends of the school who work together to provide additional opportunities for our children. These include discos, funding for fun days, transport for school trips and leavers' hoodies. Without their help these wouldn't be possible. If you have a few hours to spare and can help with fundraising, please contact the school office. Thank you.

Success of past pupils

We always love to hear about the successes of our ex-pupils. It's great when we find out what they have gone on to do. We have shop assistants, air hostesses, genetic scientists, hairdressers, police officers, forensic scientists, cricket coaches, teachers, nurses, teaching assistants, administrators, engineers, estate agents... I could go on!



Currently we have enjoyed following the success of the Miley family and Jamie and Lewis in particular. They started their footballing careers in Stanley – both at Beamish and at our school. Both boys now have contracts with Newcastle United and Lewis is a regular selection for the first team. We are very grateful to him for donating a signed shirt, which was raffled on Monday by the Friends of Tanfield. This, along with some Wor Flags donated by another supporter of our school, raised £940 for the Friends of Tanfield. The money will go to fund reading books across the school which are vital in supporting and developing future generations of valued citizens. Thanks to all who supported this, and we look forward to continuing to hear of the successes of our past pupils. We love to hear from them.

Easter Celebration Service for Key Stage 2

The children in KS2 will be holding their Easter Celebration Service on Thursday 28th March for parents of children in KS2 and the congregation of St. Margaret's Church.



This will be a combination of the Easter story, poems and music. The children will lead it.

KS2 children will be walking to the church for this service. The children who are taking part in this will have an early lunch so that they can walk to the church to get there earlier to rehearse before the rest of KS2 arrive (this worked last year and saved us over £250 for the cost of a bus).

We are aiming to start the service at about 1:30 and are encouraging parents and St. Margaret's congregation to join us for this. If you can aim to arrive for about 1:20/1:25. If you are there any earlier then we hope you understand that we will still be rehearsing.

Children will be able to go home with parents afterwards. Those who do not have parents there will walk back to school with staff, arriving back at school for the end of the day.

*Any children whose parents are attending the service will be able to take their child home from the church. If you have arranged for your child to go home with a family member or friends, you **must** inform us by email on tanfieldlea@durhamlearning.net before lunchtime on Monday 25th March. Please title your email **Easter Service**.*

If we do not have this information then we will not allow children to go with another adult on the day. Thank you for your understanding.

Finally, Thursday 28th March is our last day of term. We hope the children enjoy their Easter break and look forward to them all returning on Monday 15th April.

Happy Easter

Dates for your Diary

Spring 2024

Weds 20th March	German Club
Thursday 21st March	Science Day – ‘As Creatives’ coming in to do Science workshops across school
Thursday 21st March	Litter Pick at the end of the school day organised by the School Council
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
Monday 25 th March	Egg Decorating: Lower School children to bring decorated egg into school today for 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 – 2PM
Tuesday 26 th March	Y4 Multi Skills Festival and Anti Bullying Champions (ABCs) @ Brandon
Thursday 28 th March	KS2 Easter Celebration – through music and poetry in St. Margaret’s Church This is for children in Y3 to Y6 only. Parents of children involved are invited to join us for this special service – starting as soon after 1:30 as possible . Children able to go home with parents afterwards.
Friday 29th March	Start of Easter Holidays
EASTER HOLIDAYS	Friday 29th March to Friday 12th April
Summer 2024	
Monday 15th April	Back to school
Monday 15th April	Half of Howtown Payment to be made by today
Weds 17th April	German Club
Weds 24 th April	Pre-School visit to Hall Hill Farm – all Pre-School to attend for the whole day
Weds 1st May	Vision Tests for Reception Children
Weds 1st May	German Club
Friday 3 rd May	Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund, one per family
Friday 3rd May	Half of Grinton Payment to be made by today
Monday 6th May	May Bank Holiday
Tues 7th–10th May	School Assessment for whole school except Y6
Wednesday 8 th May	Y1 and Y2 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. Y1 parents invited in for Phonics meeting followed by rocket building with children 2 p.m. Y2 parents invited in to rocket building session with their children
Mon 13th – 16th May	Y6 SATs WEEK It is very important that you do not book a holiday for this week or for the weeks leading up to it. Requests will not be authorised and absence will impact on your child’s attainment.
Weds 15th May	German Club
Friday 17 th May	Y3 and Y4 Cricket Competition @ Burnside
Monday 20 th May	Art Exhibition - celebrating the children’s artwork. Parents will be invited in during the afternoon to see this
Tuesday 21 st May	Y1 Multi Skills Festival and ABCs (Anti-Bullying Champions) @ Brandon
Wednesday 22 nd May	School closed today – Teacher Training Day
Thursday 23 rd May	School closed today – Teacher Training Day
Friday 24 th May	School closed today – Teacher Training Day
May Half Term	Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May
Monday 3 rd June	Back to school
3 rd June to 21 st June	Multiplication Tables Check – Test period for all children in Y4
Monday 3 rd June	SPORTS WEEK Skipping Activity Session today for all children from Y1 to Y6
Tuesday 4 th June	CnS Active Morning for all children from Y1 to Y6
Tuesday 4 th June	After school - Sponsored Bike Ride after school for children from Y2 to Y6
Wednesday 5 th June	SPORTS DAYS for all year groups – parents invited to join us for this: 9:15 – Years 5 and 6 10:30 – Years 1 and 2 11:15 – Pre-School (Bumblebees only) 1:00 – Pre-School (Ladybirds and Caterpillars) and Reception. Ladybirds to start 15 minutes later today. 2:00 – Years 3 and 4
Wednesday 5th June	German Club

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 12th June	German Club
Weds 12 th June	Full Governing Body Meeting
Weds 12 th June	In it Together Conference for Y3 (no cost for this visit – school will fund it)
Sat 15th June	Group of 30 Y5/6 children to visit Berlin – learning more about Germany, its people, their childhood experiences. They will visit a primary school and see some of the main historical sites in Berlin.
Weds 19 th June	Transition Day for Reception (current Pre-School to move into Reception)
Sat 22nd June	Group of 30 Y5/6 children return from Berlin
Tues 25th June	Y1 and Y2 to visit Northumberland College Zoo - Note the change of date
Friday 28 th June	Letters to go out today to all parents re classes for next year
Mon 1 st – 3 rd 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	<i>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.</i> 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
Wednesday 10th July	Reception to visit the Great North Museum
Friday 12 th 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 4th Sept	Back to School

