

Dear Parents and Carers,

3rd May 2024



Opening Doors, Enriching Lives

Parent Questionnaire

Thanks to all who completed our Parent Questionnaire. We value your views and appreciate you taking time to do this. The questionnaire is now closed so that we can compile all views expressed and respond to you in due course. The winner of the prize draw was Nikola, in Reception.



Fundraising for the RSPCA

The School Council were pleased with the support they had for their fundraising day on Friday 19th April. We had some very creative outfits in school and raised £250 for the charity. Thank you for your support.

Staffing Changes - now and for September 2024

Mrs Jackson will sadly be leaving us at the end of next week. She has worked with us both as Play Supervisor and then more recently as an apprentice Teaching Assistant. Many of the children have been supported by Mrs Jackson during her time with us and we wish her all the best as she moves on. Miss Meyer has been appointed as Teaching Assistant and took up the post at the start of this term. We welcome her to our team.

I am sorry to inform you that Miss Renyard will be leaving us at the end of this term. We appointed her just before COVID hit and she began her teaching career in September 2020 in Y4 and, more recently, moved to Y5. She has been a valuable member of staff and as well as her teaching commitment she has been instrumental in further developing our Science and Geography curriculum, as well as working on assessment of the foundation subjects. In addition to this, the children have really enjoyed her Science club. Miss Renyard has decided to take a break from education to enable her to travel. I am sure you will join us in wishing her all the best as she heads off on a new adventure.

This academic year will also be my last one at Tanfield Lea Community Primary School. As many of you know, I have been Head Teacher of our school for a long time; 25 years in total. I secured the Headship in September 1999 following a period of time as Acting Head Teacher. At first it was as Head Teacher of the Junior School and then, following amalgamation, Head Teacher of the Primary School. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here and am very proud of all we have achieved over the years. Some of you are not only parents of children in our school but also attended here as children. You will have seen many changes during this time, and we have gone from strength to strength.

Our motto is 'Opening Doors, Enriching Lives' and everything we do is with this in mind. In 2007 the Infant and Junior schools amalgamated, enabling us to have a vision for the children of Tanfield from 4 years old to 11. We were then delighted when we opened the Pre-School in 2013, starting small and then following the extension in 2017, increasing in size and reputation. During my time here, we have developed a curriculum which offers a wide variety of experiences both within and beyond the classroom, increasing children's confidence as well as giving them enriching experiences. These have included residential visits to both Grinton and Howtown, sporting competitions and multi-sports events, Y3 Conference, Y4 singing at the Gala Theatre, OPAL play at lunchtime, numerous choir performances, two German Christmas Market visits and this year 30 children will benefit from Turing funding to enable them travel to Berlin.

I am proud of what our children achieve, both during their time at primary school and beyond. It's always very exciting to hear what our ex-pupils have gone on to pursue, well beyond secondary school.

I am also proud of our staff. We have a strong, knowledgeable, enthusiastic team who are committed to offering the best possible experiences for our children.

I am leaving as I have been offered a one-year secondment with the Local Authority as a Senior Leadership Advisor. This means I will be supporting Head Teachers in other schools across Durham County.

Following the secondment, I will then retire from education which means I will not be returning to Tanfield.

I am delighted to say that our Deputy Head, Mr Temple, will be Acting Head Teacher during my secondment. Mr Temple and I have worked closely together for many years and is fully invested in Tanfield. He has completed the Head Teacher qualification and is more than ready to take on this role.

The changes clearly have implications for classes next year.

We have also been looking at the budget forecast for the next 3 years. We have quite a wide range of cohort sizes. Our largest is 52 (current Y4) and the smallest is 32 (Y3). Following advice, we are reducing to 13 classes for 2024-2025.

We will have Pre-School plus 2 classes in Reception, Y5 and Y6.

Across Key Stage 1 we will have 3 classes – Y1, Y1/2 and Y2 (the same as this year).

Across Lower Key Stage 2 we will have 3 classes – Y3, Y3/4 and Y4 (we've had this set up in previous years).

Due to Mr Temple coming out of class to be acting Head Teacher, we have appointed a teacher to join our team in September. Mr Richardson is an experienced teacher who has worked across Key Stage 1 and 2 and has spent over half of his time teaching in Y6. He will take up his post with us in September in Y6.

We will not be replacing Miss Renyard. This means the teaching teams for September will be as follows:

Pre-School	Mrs Dunham
Reception	Mrs Geach and Mrs Sparkes
Key Stage 1	Mrs Brown, Mrs Davidge and Mrs Wilkinson
Lower KS2	Mrs Brotherston, Miss Keith and Mr McIntosh
Upper KS2	Mr MacDonald, Mrs Morning, Mr Patterson and Mr Richardson

We will write to you again at the end of June to inform you which class your child will be in.

We hope you enjoy the Bank Holiday weekend.

Next week is assessment week for all children except Y6, then our Y6 will sit their SATs the following week (13th – 17th May).

Kind regards,

Kay Hemmings
Head Teacher

