

Dear Parents and Carers,

July 2024



The end of term is rapidly approaching and we have a lot planned for the last 3 weeks. Y6 are having their transition days this week and the rest of our children met their teacher and had their transition lesson yesterday. We also had our 'Meet the Teacher' information sessions last night. Thanks to all who were able to attend this. We will be sharing the presentations via our website and we'll let you know as soon as these are uploaded.

In addition to this, parents of children in Pre-School and Reception are invited to come into school this Wednesday afternoon – one parent per family.

Reception parents should come to the main gates for 1:45. Pre-School parents please come for 2 p.m.

You'll be directed to your child's classroom where you will spend some time with them doing activities and then the children will go into the Lower School Hall for the last part of the afternoon so that you can attend the 'Meet the Teacher' session for your child's class.

The children's end of year reports will go out via email to all parents at the end of the school day this Friday, 5th July. For the majority of parents this is enough as it is very detailed.

However, if you have something in particular you would like to discuss with your child's teacher (Reception to Y6) then we do have some appointments available to book on Monday 8th July. We've sent an email out about this with instructions on how to book.

Following on from the confirmation that Mr Temple will be Acting Head Teacher next year, I can now confirm that Mr Patterson will be the Acting Deputy Head Teacher. Both staff are really looking forward to taking up their new roles in school.

As we approach the end of term I'd like to take this opportunity to remind you that if you are wanting to express your thanks to your child's class teacher at the end of their time in their class, or indeed any other staff members, then please don't buy a present. We would much prefer that you send a card. It's much cheaper and appreciated even more. Thank you.

Please read on to find out more about the last three weeks and other general updates.

Kay Hemmings (Head Teacher)

Suntan Lotion



Don't forget that on sunny days it's important that your child comes to school having applied some suntan lotion. If you know it's going to be a particularly hot day then please feel free to send them in with their lotion on the understanding that they will need to apply this themselves. A hat is also a useful thing to wear on the particularly warm days.

Y3 and Y4 Design Technology Session this Thursday at 1:45 p.m.

Y3 and Y4 parents have been invited in to make mini-greenhouses this Thursday.

Please come with your resources to the main entrance (or main gate if your child is in 3B). We'll invite you in at 1:45 so that you can get making your greenhouse.



Our OPAL play continues to provide children with the opportunities to experience active, exciting, collaborative and creative play during breaktimes. If you have any bikes, scooters or other wheeled toys that your children have out grown and no longer use, we would be grateful for any donations. Please bring these to the school office. Thank you in advance!



Water Slide. This is possibly one of the children's favourite activities of the year. I'm hoping we might have some sunny weather before the end of term as we like to keep this activity until nearer the end of term.

A large plastic sheet is set up on the hillside just below the tree houses. That, together with a water hose and some washing up liquid, creates a fantastic water slide and hours of fun. This activity is going to be offered to all children from Reception through to Y6.

We are hoping to do it on Friday 19th July. We will look at the weather forecast at the start of that week and if that is not looking possible then our alternative date is on the Monday of the same week, 15th July. On the water slide day the children will need a complete change of clothes including underwear and footwear. They will also need a towel. They get very wet and pretty muddy too so make sure it's some old clothes you provide them with for this activity.

We'll confirm via email when we are going to go ahead.

Durham Brass

Once again we are going to benefit from a visit through the Durham Brass Festival, which is taking place once again this month. We are hosting Oompah Brass. They are a five-piece brass group who specialise in virtuosic and high-energy performances of rock and pop classics. Their music is diverse – Abba, Queen, Taylor Swift, The Beatles and Katy Perry to name just a few. They will be performing at our school on Thursday 11th July and I am sure will be a great hit!



Bastille Day - As we study French in school we are celebrating Bastille Day on **Friday 12th July**. This will coincide with the special lunch we are also doing that day, linked with the Olympics which will be in Paris. We are asking the children to come dressed in red, white and blue and they will learn about Bastille Day and complete an activity about France during the day.

Regarding the lunch, you will have received an email about this today and orders must be placed by Monday 8th July. Thank you.



The children in Mr Patterson and Mr Temple's classes are well into rehearsals now for their end of year performance. This year it is **Aladdin Trouble** and will be performed on Wednesday 17th and Thursday 18th July at 6 p.m. in the Upper

School Hall. Tickets will go on sale on Thursday - £2 for an adult and £1 for a child – maximum of 3 tickets per child initially. Please order your tickets soon. It's not to be missed!

Lower School Fun Day – Wednesday 17th July

This year for children in Pre-School, Reception and Key Stage 1 the lower school Fun Day will take place on Wednesday 17th July. Children from Pre-School will attend during their usual hours. The cost of this will be £1 per family. Children do not have to come in their school uniform. More details will be sent out from your child's teacher nearer the time.

Y2 Moving On Assembly – Friday 19th July

Our Y2 will present their 'Moving On' assembly on Friday 19th July.

They will be reflecting on their time in school so far as well as looking forward to what is to come in KS2. We're hoping many of you will be able to join us for this although, due to numbers, we are restricting this to no more than 3 adults per child. It will take place in the Upper School Hall starting as soon as the children are ready – probably between 9 and 9:15. We won't be able to let parents into the hall until we have cleared Breakfast Club away and chairs have been set out so once you've dropped your child/ren off please queue up under the covered walkway leading into the Upper School Hall. As soon as we are ready we'll invite you in to the Upper School Hall. We look forward to seeing you then.



Upper School Walk from Craster to Embleton, including beach activities

Our annual Upper School walk on the Northumbrian coast is on Monday 22nd July.

All children from Y3 to Y6 will go on this. There will be no charge to parents for this. Buses will be funded through contributions

from the Friends of Tanfield Lea and the school fund.

We'll be leaving promptly, as close to 9 a.m. as possible, and we aim to be back for the end of the school day. Children will have the opportunity to play on the beach and paddle in the sea. They should bring a change of clothes and towel if they intend to get wet. We'll send a further email closer to the day.

Y6 Leavers' Assembly – Tuesday 23rd July

As with the Y2 Moving on Assembly, this will take place in the Upper School Hall. We are restricting this to 2 adults per child and we aim to start as soon after 9 a.m. as possible.

Again, we'll have to wait for Breakfast Club to be cleared away and chairs set out so please queue up under the covered walkway leading into the Upper School Hall. As soon as we are ready we'll invite you in to the Upper School Hall.

Residential Visits to Grinton and Howtown – Autumn 2024

Thanks to all parents in Y4 and Y5 who have booked their children on to the residential visits in the Autumn term. Parents should now have paid at least half of the total cost for these visits and full payment for Grinton is to be made by Friday 6th September and for Howtown, full payment should be made by Monday 23rd September.

Howtown is full now but there are still spaces for Grinton.

If you have not booked but your child is now thinking they would like to go to Grinton, please get in touch and we will see if it is possible to confirm a place. It's a great experience for the children and not to be missed.

Finally, we have a vacancy for a cleaner. If you know of anyone who might be interested in this post, please direct them to our website under About Us/Job Vacancies.

Dates for your Diary

Summer 2024

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. 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.)</i>
Thursday 4th July	Parents of children in Y3 and Y4 to be invited in this afternoon from 1:30 to make mini greenhouses. This links with their Design and Technology curriculum
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 via email
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
Weds 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 – 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

