

Dear Parents and Carers,

October 2024



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 had a great experience at Grinton. They only got soaked once and enjoyed exploring the moors, climbing Calver Hill and creating their own Andy Goldsworthy Art Work. I will be writing to parents in Y4 soon to invite them to sign their children up for their upcoming visit in September 2025, 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.

Last week the children completed the 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 later this week with information on how to book your Parent Meeting appointment which will take place the second week after half term on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November (with Pre-School having an extra date on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November as well).

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

**Halloween Party at the Den** - I have attached a flyer from the Den about their Halloween Party on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October, 5-7pm.

### **Parental Engagement / Enrichment Activities**

Thank you to the Year 1 and 2 parents who attended the Puppet making workshop last week.

The staff have organised some additional dates that were not on the original Dates for the Diary:

- Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2pm – 3pm Y5/6 Parents invited to Anderson Shelter Building activity
- Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March Year 3 and 4 Trip to Segedunum
- Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April Pre-School Trip to Hall Hill Farm
- Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July Year 3 and 4 Parents invited to a Sewing activity.

### **Little Dribblers**

We have had Little Dribblers football coaching in working children in Lower School. Each of the Reception to Year 2 classes will get 2 half-terms of this and Pre-School will have 1 half-term. They are working with Mrs Davidge's and Mrs Brown's classes on a Wednesday this half-term. Next half-term they will be working with Mrs Davidge's and Mrs Wilkinson's classes. The children are really enjoying the sessions.



### **After School Clubs**

CnS offer a variety of sporting After School Clubs each day of the week for a modest charge. All the clubs run by our staff are free to attend. Mrs Watson and I run football for Y5 and Y6 girls on a Wednesday night and Mr McIntosh has involved children in cross country this first half-term. Choir will start for children in Y3 to Y6 on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 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. 18 children will attend the club in Autumn and there are 14 on a waiting list for the same club, beginning in Spring.

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

| Type of Club       | Year Group  | When                 | Evening   | Staff offering this   |
|--------------------|-------------|----------------------|-----------|---|
| Football Training  | 5 and 6     | Autumn 1,<br>Summer  | Wednesday | Mr Temple<br>Mrs Watson   |
| Choir              | 3-6         | Autumn 2<br>Spring   | Monday    | Mrs Morning   |
| Lego Robotics Club | 6           | Autumn 2<br>Spring 1 | Wednesday | Mr McIntosh (Children invited following Coding Privilege Time club) |
| School Council     | Years 1 – 6 | All year             | Thursday  | Mrs Wilkinson   |
| Arts & Crafts Club | 1 and 2     | Autumn 2<br>Spring 2 | Wednesday | Mrs Burnett, Mrs Edgar and Mrs Howe                                 |
| Spanish Club       | 3 and 4     | Spring 2             | Wednesday | Mrs Bruce   |
| Continent Club     | 3 and 4     | Spring 1             | Thursday  | Miss Gardiner and Mrs Heslop  |
| Cookery Club       | 3           | Summer 1             | Monday    | Miss Armin and Mrs Ashcroft   |

## OPAL

OPAL play at our school continues to develop. This term, in Key Stage 1 we have opened a Craft Zone where children can draw and colour during lunchtime. The children have been enjoying creating some wonderful drawings. After half term we are going to introduce a Water Zone to both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. The Key Stage 1 Water Zone will consist of water trays and a water wall where children can stand while engaging in their play. The Key Stage 2 zone will consist of a water wall where children can explore the flow of water.



**Request:** As Christmas approaches and children continue to grow, can we ask that if you have any bikes, scooters or other wheeled toys that your children no longer use please bring these to the school office. We would really appreciate any donations. Thank you.

## 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

We have a packed lunch policy available on the school website. Please can we remind you that children should not bring crisps, chocolate-coated products or nuts, including products such as Nutella.

## 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, Flute 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.



## Cross Country



Children from Y5 and Y6 have been competing in the Derwentside Cross Country competition this half-term. 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 our boys' team and Zara T(Y6) have been selected to represent Derwentside in the county-wide competition. Well done 😊

## Requests from the Office

The Office have asked that if you change phone number or move house, please let them know the new details. In case of emergency, it is vital we have up-to-date information.

Also, please note that the Office need 2 weeks notice if your child wants to change from packed lunch to school dinners or vice versa. This helps the kitchen to order correct quantities.

## 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 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.



## Poppies



Poppies and other products from the Royal British Legion will be on sale from tomorrow (Wednesday) during lunch-time and will be sold by the School Council. The prices range from 50p to £2.50.

## Online Safety

It is important that your children stay safe online. In school, we have half-termly e-safety lessons in Computing and use a filtering system to block any unwanted content. We also share safety information via the school's X handle @tanfieldprimary . Please follow us there.

## Asda Rewards Update

Currently, you have raised £650 through the Asda app. Thank you so much. There are 40 days to raise some more!

## Bingo Night organised by the Friends of Tanfield Lea

The Friends of Tanfield Lea will be starting their fundraising this year with a Bingo Night later in Autumn term. Further details will follow.



## 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. Your Y3 / 4 child will only be dismissed on the Upper School yard to keep them safe.

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.

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.

## 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 that families can use to go away as a family and there are teacher training days on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> and Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November. As we have previously said, unfortunately there are no Teacher Training days in May this year, due to the way County Durham have organised the year. 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 5 days or over 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. As part of focus on attendance, in the Autumn 2 half term, we will be giving success card stamps out for 100% or significant attendance improvements.

## 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. It is part of our **Parental Code of Conduct** which we have attached for your information.

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.

Mark Temple (Acting Headteacher)

| <b>Autumn 2024</b>                    |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Tuesday 22nd Oct                      | Y5 Multi Skills Festival + ABCs – at Tanfield  |
| Friday 25th October                   | Attitudes to Learning Sheets are sent out  |
| Friday 25th October                   | Y3 and 4 Tag Rugby Meeting @ Brandon   |
| <b>HALF TERM</b>                      | <b>Monday 28th Oct to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> Nov</b>  |
| Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> October     | Y6 Parents – you must have completed the application for your child's secondary place by today |
| <b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>      | Back to school   |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> Nov | Y6 go to Howtown   |

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| Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup><br>Nov                       | Stay and Play for Reception – Maths focus – 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. Parents can learn more about maths in Reception and spend time with their child in class.  |
| Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> Nov                             | <b>Non School Uniform Day</b> – please send in a donation for school fund (1 per family)   |
| Monday 11 <sup>th</sup><br>Nov                         | Minutes silence in KS1/2 classes from 11am.  |
| Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> Nov                               | <b>Parent Meetings – after school – times to be confirmed at time of booking</b>   |
| Tues 12 <sup>th</sup> Nov                              | <b>Parent Meetings – after school – times to be confirmed at time of booking</b>   |
| Wed 13 <sup>th</sup> Nov                               | Full Governing Body Meeting  |
| <b>Thurs 21st Nov</b>                                  | <b>INSET Day – Children are not in School</b>  |
| <b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov</b>                      | <b>INSET Day – Children are not in School</b>  |
| Thurs 28 <sup>th</sup><br>Nov/Fri 29 <sup>th</sup> Nov | Morning: Parents for Pre-School January starters to be invited to come for visits  |
| Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec                            | Y6 Multi Skills Festival + ABCs @ Burnopfield  |
| Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup><br>Dec                       | <b>Christmas Dinner</b><br><b>ALL CHILDREN TO COME DRESSED IN THEIR CHRISTMAS JUMPER TODAY or other Christmas clothing.</b>  |
| Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> Dec                             | <b>Non School Uniform Day</b> – please send in a donation for school fund (1 per family)   |
| Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> Dec                             | Y1 and Y2 Hockey Competition @ Burnopfield   |
| Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> Dec                             | <b>DATA SHEETS TO BE GIVEN OUT TO PARENTS THIS WEEK Rec to Y6</b>  |
| Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec                             | Santa hoping to visit children in Lower School a.m. - if he can fit us into his busy schedule.<br>The Pre School Ladybirds are invited to join us from 9 until 10  |
| Tues 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec                              | <b>Y1/2 Christmas Performance 9:15 a.m.</b>  |
| Wednesday<br>11th Dec                                  | <b>Christmas Performance by Pre-School and Reception 9:15 a.m</b><br><b>Y1/2 Christmas Performance 2p.m.</b>   |
| Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup><br>Dec                       | <b>Christmas Performance by Pre-School and Reception 9:15 a.m</b><br><b>Y3 Party</b> – Upper School Hall p.m. – come to school in party clothes (1 hour each)<br><b>Y4 Party</b> Upper School Hall p.m. - come to school in party clothes (1 hour each)<br><b>Reception Party</b> – Lower School Hall p.m. – come to school in party clothes |
| Monday 16 <sup>th</sup><br>Dec                         | <b>Y1/2 Party</b> – Lower School Hall p.m. – come to school in party clothes<br><b>Y5 Party</b> - Upper School Hall p.m. – come to school in party clothes   |
| Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup><br>Dec                        | <b>Christmas Fair (School to finish at 3pm today)</b><br>Refreshments in Upper School Hall<br>Combination of activities/items for sale in US and LS halls<br>Including a 'quiz' and they can win a prize   |
| Weds 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec                              | <b>Y2 to Y6 to Northern Stage Theatre (A Christmas Carol)</b>  |
| Weds 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec                              | <b>Pre- School Party</b> – a.m. and p.m. Lower School Hall – come to school in party clothes   |
| Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup><br>Dec                       | Choir and readers to go to the church (9:15 until about 11) to rehearse<br><b>Y6 Party</b> Upper School Hall p.m. – bring party clothes to school  |
| Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec                             | <b>PS, Rec and Y1</b> watching The Greediest Christmas Elf 1.10 and 2.10.  |
| Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec                            | <b>Upper School Carol Service</b> – parents of US children invited to attend with siblings<br>Children can go home following the service. Those with no parents attending will come back to school.  |
| <b>CHRISTMAS HOLS</b>                                  | <b>Monday 23rd December until Friday 3rd January</b>   |
| <b>Spring 2025</b>                                     |  |
| Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan                             | <b>Back to School</b><br>   |