

Dear Parents and Carers,

December 2024



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

Mr Caulfield's supervisor from Durham County Council recently attended the school and would like to give parents and children the following advice:

#### Pedestrians

👉 Wait on the pavement

👉 The Patrol will use the Stop sign to instruct traffic to stop. The Patrol may need to wait for a safe gap in the traffic. **DO NOT FOLLOW THE PATROL INTO THE ROAD**

👉 Once the traffic has stopped, and the Patrol is in the middle of the road, they will call you to cross over.

👉 Please walk in front of the Patrol so he or she can see you.



**Parents Evenings** – Thank you for attending these. It was great to see staff and parents working together to support the children's education.

### Staff News

In October, Mr Richardson left his Y6 post and we are very pleased to welcome Mr Rudge, his replacement, to the Year 6 team. He has settled in very quickly. In November, Mrs Heslop left to take up a new Teaching Assistant post elsewhere. We are currently recruiting for her replacement.

**Children in Need** – School raised £227 for good causes. Thank you for your support.

**ASDA Rewards** – Thank you for all of your support with ASDA Rewards. This has raised £1178 for the school via the Friends of Tanfield Lea Primary. Fabulous!

**OPAL Plea** - Our Outdoor Play and Learning resources need replenishing. We are looking for the following:

- Wheeled toys (e.g. bikes, scooters etc.)
- Dressing up outfits
- Small world toys (cars, action figures, dinosaurs etc.)

The toys need some life left in them. If you are having a clear out, please think of us. Please drop them off at the Main Entrance in the box provided. The box will be there until 13th December and then from 6th January - 17th January. If you have items out of these times, please give to the class teacher.

### Teacher Training Days

The staff had two really successful days in November. They worked on developing the teaching of Writing throughout the school, which is part of our School Enhancement Plan. Each Key Stage discussed what the process would look like in each year from Pre-School through to Year 6. All in all, it was a very productive two days.

### Secondary Transition News

Our 2 local secondaries, Tanfield School and North Durham Academy, have agreed to hold their Transition Days on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July – Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July. This will mean that our transition lessons and Meet the Teacher evening will move to Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July.

**School Football Teams** - Boys' matches will begin in the New Year on the following dates: 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> March and 19<sup>th</sup> May.

**Indoor Athletics** – An 18 person team represented the school well at the Indoor Athletics Competition in Consett on 13<sup>th</sup> November. They gave their all and came away with bronze medals. Bravo!

**Grinton Slideshow** – This will be held on 6<sup>th</sup> December at 9am. 2 adults per Y5 child are welcome.

### **Tooth Brushing**

The children in Reception have had a successful start to daily toothbrushing sessions, this will also begin in Pre-School in the New Year. As a school we aim to promote good oral hygiene to all children. It is important that children brush their teeth at least twice a day ensuring that fluoride toothpaste is used. Not only is brushing important for your children's teeth but also the sugar intake. We have noticed an increase in sugary drinks in water bottles, can we please ensure that your child only brings water/diluted sugar-free juice to school. This will have a great impact on their oral health.

### **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 well with other schools nationally. All data is now uploaded to our website. You'll find it in the 'Key Information' section under 'School Performance'.

**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.

**Careers** – Year 5 and 6 will be doing some work on future careers in the New Year. If you are willing to come in and talk to a class, please complete the following Google form: <https://forms.gle/1BiWtpA8zzHt5MbW7> .

**Bingo Night** – The Bingo Night on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> was a big success. Thank you to the Friends for organising that. They raised £467!

## **Christmas News next:**

### **Non School Uniform Day – contributions for Tombola and Bottle Stall**

This coming Friday – 6<sup>th</sup> 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 Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> 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 Greediest 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 2 adults attend per family**. This is due to larger numbers of children in each class this year.

### Early Years Christmas Performance (Reception and Pre-School)

You can choose from: **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December** 9:15 p.m.  
OR **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December** 9:15 a.m.



### Key Stage 1 Nativity (Year 1 and 2)

You can choose from: **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December** 9:15 a.m.  
OR **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December** 2.00pm.

As last year, we are not going to do tickets for the performances. Please keep to our request of **2 adults per family attending only one performance**. 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 on the following dates:

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December PM – Y3/4

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December PM – Y1/2 and Y5

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December AM/PM – Pre-School and Reception (**note Reception's is a change of date from the original Dates for the Diary**)

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December PM – Y6



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.

## Christmas Fair

Our Christmas Fair is on Tuesday 17th 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.**

## Theatre Visit (Y2 – Y6) – Weds 18<sup>th</sup> Dec

Year 2 to Year 6 will be heading to the Northern Stage in Newcastle to see 'A Christmas Carol' on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December. It should be an exciting morning for everyone. If you haven't yet, please pay for this on SchoolComms.



## Theatre Performance (Early Years and Y1) – Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> Dec

The theatre is coming to us for our Early Years and Y1 children. 'The Greediest 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 a 1.10 performance. They should just come to the main entrance for 1.00.

## Key Stage 2 Carol Service on the last day of term

### Friday 20<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> December 12 until 6 and then Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December, 10 until 5 p.m. followed by a Christmas Carol Service at 5 p.m. There will be a chance to draw Christmas decorations too, or if you bring your artwork down there, they hope to use it in next year's display.

They would love you to visit the church and enjoy the different trees on display, **including a tree decorated by our Reception children!**

Finally, as usual we've included the current dates for the rest of this term and for Spring 2025. The full year's dates are on the September newsletter, a copy of which is on our website.

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

Mark Temple (Acting Headteacher)

## Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	Y6 Multi Skills Festival + ABCs @ Burnopfield
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>Christmas Dinner</b> <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	<b>Grinton Slideshow for Y5 parents</b>
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	<b>Deposit for Grinton 2025 to be paid by today please.</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. The Pre School Ladybirds are invited to join us from 9 until 10
Tues 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>Please email school if your Y5 child wants to go to Howtown 2025</b>
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>Y1/2 Christmas Performance 9:15 a.m.</b>
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>Christmas Performance by Pre-School and Reception 9:15 a.m</b> <b>Y1/2 Christmas Performance 2p.m.</b>
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>Christmas Performance by Pre-School and Reception 9:15 a.m</b> <b>Y3 Party</b> – Upper School Hall p.m. – come to school in party clothes (1 hour each) <b>Y4 Party</b> Upper School Hall p.m. - come to school in party clothes (1 hour each)
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>Y1/2 Party</b> – Lower School Hall p.m. – come to school in party clothes <b>Y5 Party</b> - Upper School Hall p.m. – come to school in party clothes
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>Christmas Fair (School to finish at 3pm today)</b> Refreshments in Upper School Hall Combination of activities/items for sale in US and LS halls Including a 'quiz' and they can win a prize
Weds 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>Y2 to Y6 to Northern Stage Theatre</b> (A Christmas Carol)
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 <b>Reception Party</b> – Lower School Hall p.m. – come to school in party clothes
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Choir and readers to go to the church (9:15 until about 11) to rehearse <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 - 2.10.
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>Upper School Carol Service</b> – parents of US children invited to attend with siblings Children can go home following the service. Those with no parents attending will come back to school.
<b>CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY</b>	<b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December until Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January</b>
<b>Spring 2025</b>	
<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	<b>Back to School</b>
	<i>Music Programme to continue with Rec and Pre-School this term</i> <b>Swimming for 4M / 3K this term</b>
	<i>Tuesday afternoons – Each Y6 class to have an hour of music from Durham Music Service</i>
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund, one per family
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> January	Pre-School Parents – you must have completed the application for your child's primary place (place in our Reception Class) by today
Weds 22 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	Stay and Play for Pre-School – Maths will be the focus. Bumblebees and Caterpillars – 8:50 until 10:30

Thurs 23rd Jan	Stay and Play for Pre-School – Maths will be the focus. Ladybirds and Caterpillars – 8:50 until 10:30
<b>Thur 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan</b>	<b>Boys' 5 a side Cup at Greenland 3.30 – 5pm</b>
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb	<b>Non School Uniform Day</b> – please send in a donation for school fund, one per family
10 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> Feb	<b>ASSESSMENT WEEK for all children</b>
Weds 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb 6 p.m.	Tanfield's Got Talent.
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> Feb	<b>ATTITUDES TO LEARNING SHEETS TO BE SENT OUT THIS WEEK</b>
Tues 18 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Y3 Multi Skills Festival + ABCs @ Burnopfield
<b>Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<b>2 – 3pm Parental engagement - Y5/6 parents invited in for Anderson shelter building</b>
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Gala Theatre, Durham booked for Y4 performance – all children to take part. Rehearse in the afternoon and then perform at night. <i>Y4 to be central to this plus our musicians and choir.</i>
Friday 21st Feb	Y5 and Y6 girls v girls/boys v boys High 5 competition @ Brandon
<b>HALF TERM</b>	<b>Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February</b>
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mar	<b>Back to school</b>
	<b>Parent/Children questionnaire to go out this half term</b>
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Parent Meetings – after school – times to be confirmed at time of booking</b>
Weds 5 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Parent Meetings – after school – times to be confirmed at time of booking</b>
Early March	<b>Book fair</b>
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> Mar	<b>World Book Day</b> (We will <b>not</b> be asking children to dress up as book characters.) An author will visit the school this week.
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> Mar	<b>Non School Uniform Day</b> – please send in a donation for school fund, one per family
<b>Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Y3/4 Trip to Segedunum Fort</b>
Weds 12 <sup>th</sup> Ma	Full Governing Body meeting
Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup> Mar	6P – Monokuzuri Caravan
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> Mar	6R – Monokuzuri Caravan
<b>Tues / Weds 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Boys' football team qualifiers</b>
Friday 21st Mar	<b>DATA SHEETS TO BE GIVEN OUT TO PARENTS Rec to Y6</b>
<b>Tues 25<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Possible boys' football finals</b>
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Non-School Uniform Day – please donate an Easter Egg – one per family</b>
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April	Y1 and Y2 Football Competition @ Tanfield
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> April	Y4 Multi Skills Festival (no ABCs) @ Brandon
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Egg Decorating</b> 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.
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>KS2 Easter Celebration – through music and poetry in St. Margaret's Church</b> Parents of children involved are invited to join us for this special service – starting between 1:30 and 1:45. Children able to go home with parents afterwards.
<b>Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Start of Easter Holidays</b>
<b>EASTER HOLIDAYS</b>	<b>Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April</b>