

Dear Parents and Carers,

January 2025



Opening Doors, Enriching Lives

A Happy New Year to all our families. We look forward to all that 2025 has in store for our school community.

We had a lovely end to the term. Thanks to you all for coming in to support the children. They all had the opportunity to perform in the lead up to Christmas. Our Early Years children (Pre-School and Reception) delighted their parents with their Christmas songs. For many it was their first time on the stage so they did incredibly well. Y1 and Y2 entertained their parents with their performance of 'Lights Camel Action'; I think all parents left with a smile on their faces after the excellent speaking, dancing and singing. The celebrations culminated with the Upper School children retelling the Christmas story through poetry and music in their Carol Service at St. Margaret's Church. We had some excellent individual performances from our musicians and the choir sang beautifully. All in all, a great celebration of Christmas. The children loved their parties and thoroughly enjoyed their theatre experiences too. Mrs Morning's class won the post theatre quiz with great powers of observation.

Our Christmas Fair was extremely well supported – thanks to all who helped with the stalls, especially our Friends of Tanfield Lea, and we really appreciated how many families came to enjoy all that was on offer. **We made a huge £2048.75.** Of this total, the Friends of Tanfield raffle made £529. The tombola and bottle stalls made £598.65. Thank you SO much for all you donated for these stalls. The children's enterprise stalls made a grand total of £889.60. They created a great variety of Christmas items as well as the many games they encouraged everyone to take part in. Class 1/2B raised the most money with £92.99. The money we raised is used to subsidise some of our annual activities including the theatre visits. It helps us to continue to enrich the children's lives through the additional activities we do.

### **Changes for the Spring Term**

**Monday** – Pre-School will now receive Durham Music Service's 'Little Fingers' programme this term.

**Tuesday** - 3K and Year 4 will now receive Durham Music Service's ukulele lessons with Mr Abbott. (Also starting on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> Jan, Year 6 will get Djembe drumming lessons with Mr Abbott)

**Tuesday** – 4Mc and 3K will have their turn swimming this term. 3/4B will be doing PE so will need to come in their PE kit.

**Wednesday** – Both Reception classes will have SAFC's Little Dribblers programme on Wednesdays so will need to come in PE kit on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

As ever, we have much to look forward to this term.

The winners of the Y5/6 Enterprise project will be visiting KP Snacks on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January.

There are Stay and Play dates for Pre-School parents coming up towards the end of January, Maths being the focus for these. On 28<sup>th</sup> January there is a SATs meeting for our Y6 parents at 5pm.

We have our annual Talent Show on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February and then our Y4 children plus the choir and some of our musicians will be performing at the Gala Theatre on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February.

There are many more things happening too, please check the 'Dates for your Diary' at the end of this newsletter.

## **Tanfield's Got Talent**

Yes – it's that time of year again and I have no doubt the children are already anticipating this and thinking about what they can do. The Talent Show is for Y2 to Y6 and the children will be told more about this within the next couple of weeks as class auditions will be taking place soon.



## **Gala Theatre**

Our Y4 children and our choir will be taking centre stage with children from Brandon Primary on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February at the Gala Theatre in Durham. The Y4 children will be singing as well as playing their ukuleles and the choir will be singing a medley of songs.

The children will travel by bus to the Gala Theatre for the afternoon to rehearse. They will be asked to bring a packed tea and then we invite parents to join us for the performance at 6 p.m. Tickets will be on sale for this performance and the money raised will go towards paying for the buses and the hire of the Gala Theatre. This is the fifth year we have done this. It is a great opportunity for the children and is an important part of our Children's Charter. All the children who have had the opportunity to do this in the past have loved it (even if they found it nerve-wracking) and really benefitted from the experience. It's certainly something for our Y4 and choir parents to look forward to.



**Friday Non-School Uniform** - On Friday 10<sup>th</sup>, we will have our January non-school uniform. Please either send the usual donation or the Friends of Tanfield Lea Primary have asked for a donation of any unwanted Christmas presents, which will be used for future events.

**OPAL Donations** – Thank you for the donations of several bikes and scooters for our OPAL Play during December. There is a box at the Main Entrance for other used items such as toy cars, action figures, soft toys etc. All donations are welcome if you are having a post-Christmas clear out!



## **After School Clubs**

Our CnS After School Club programme will be continuing as usual this term.

You can book a place for your child by following this link:

[Tanfield Lea Community Primary School - After Care \(4 - 11yrs\) at Tanfield Lea Primary School, Durham | CNS Sports Stars | Powered by ClassForKids](#)

The link is also accessible via our website – as is the link to book After School Child Care.

**Reception children are now able to attend the After School sports clubs, as listed below.**

Monday – Reception to Y6 – Multi Skills

Tuesday – Y3/4 – Multisports

Wednesday – Reception to Y3 – Dodgeball

Thursday – Y4 to Y6 – Dodgeball

Friday – Reception to Y6 – Just Dance

**Chartwells** Thank you from Chartwells for those who expressed interest in the kitchen position. This has now been filled.

## **Attendance**

Good attendance and punctuality is key to your child being happy, confident and well educated.

### **Lateness**

If your child arrives late to school, it can have a big impact on their emotional well-being as well as the fact that they are losing learning time. Our lessons start promptly. Children are expected to arrive at school between 8:40 and 8:50. Registration takes place at 8:50 and then lessons begin. If your child arrives late it impacts on them in the following ways:

- ⇒ They don't come into school with their friends and miss the social interaction at the start of the day – this can impact on their friendships
- ⇒ They can become anxious – embarrassed by coming into class late when everyone else is settled and has started on their work
- ⇒ They miss valuable teaching time, time that they can't get back. If they arrive 10 minutes late each day they lose 50 minutes teaching in a week, 4 hours 20 minutes in 4 weeks. It's a lot of learning time to lose and will impact on their attainment.

## Absence

Being absent from school can cause children anxiety. If they are not well enough to attend then they should stay at home and we ask that you ring us first thing in the morning to explain why they are absent and if they continue to be off, that you keep us informed. We do not expect children to be well enough to work when they are absent and so will not provide any work. If you are unsure if your child is well enough to attend school, this link from the NHS provides further guidance: [https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) As soon as you feel they are well enough to return, they should do so. The longer they are absent, the harder it is for them to return.



We closely monitor children's attendance. Mrs Sabourn, our Attendance Officer, monitors children's attendance on a weekly basis. As soon as their attendance dips, she will explore the reasons for this. Children whose attendance dips below 90% are classed as being persistently absent and this is a concern. She may ring you to discuss their attendance or you may receive a letter advising you of their attendance percentage. You could also be invited in to meet with her so she can share her concerns and explore if there is any support we could give.

We also promote good attendance with the children. We share attendance totals on a weekly basis, tracking the attendance of each class. Children who have 100% attendance for the week are entered into a class spinner, with a chance of winning a small prize. We also reward the class with the best attendance for the half term with a £20 prize to spend as their wish. Mrs Morning's class won in Autumn 1. The children will find out on Friday which class has won for Autumn 2.

We also link attendance with our half-termly Privilege Time reward. Children from Y1 upwards are rewarded if they have not lost any Privilege Time over the half-term. They enjoy their chocolate biscuit (Y1 and Y2) or hot chocolate (Y3 to Y6) treat. To achieve this, they require attendance above 90% (unless they have an exceptional medical reason). We feel this is another way to encourage good attendance and could help you on those days when maybe your child is well enough for work but feeling a little reluctant to come.

**New for Autumn 2 term** – Children from Reception to Y6 who achieved 100% for the Autumn 2 term (Oct – Dec) will receive a Success Card stamp for their attendance. This will be a half-termly recognition given for 100% attendance.

See below for the updated Dates for the Diary for Spring and Summer term. Any changes and additions since September are marked in green.

Best regards,  
 Mark Temple  
 (Acting Headteacher)



## Dates for your Diary : Spring 2025

<b>Monday 6th Jan</b>	<b>Back to School</b>
	<i>Tuesday afternoons – Each Y6 class to have an hour of Djembe drumming music from Durham Music Service</i>
<b>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>KP Snack Enterprise project winners to go to KP Snacks</b>
<b>Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund, one per family or send in an unwanted Christmas gift for future Friends of Tanfield Lea events.</b>
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 23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	Stay and Play for Pre-School – Maths will be the focus. Ladybirds and Caterpillars – 8:50 until 10:30
<b>Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> January</b>	<b>Boys’ 5 a side Cup at Greenland 3.30 – 5pm</b>
<b>Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	<b>Y6 SATs Meeting 5pm.</b>
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Non School Uniform Day</b> – please send in a donation for school fund, one per family
10 <sup>th</sup> Feb to 14 <sup>th</sup> Feb	<b>ASSESSMENT WEEK for all children</b>
Weds 12 <sup>th</sup> February	Tanfield’s Got Talent. 6 p.m.
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> Feb	<b>ATTITUDES TO LEARNING SHEETS TO BE SENT OUT THIS WEEK</b>
Tuesday 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 28th February</b>
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	<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> March	<b>World Book Day</b> (We will <b>not</b> be asking children to dress up as book characters.) <i>Liz Million, an author/illustrator, will visit the school this week.</i>
Friday 7th March	<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> March	Full Governing Body meeting
Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup> March	6P – Monokuzuri Caravan
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	6R – Monokuzuri Caravan
<b>Tues / Weds 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Boys’ football team qualifiers</b>
Friday 21st March	<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>

## SUMMER TERM

	<i>Music Programme to continue with Y1D in Summer 1 and PS/Rec in Summer 2 Swimming for 3K and 3/4B</i>
<b>Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Back to school</b>

Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> April	Pre-School Trip to Hall Hill Farm
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund, one per family
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	May Bank Holiday
During May	Optional Y2 SATs testing window starts today
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup> May	School Assessment for the rest of the school
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Y6 SATS WEEK</b> It is very important that you <b>do not</b> book a holiday for this week or for the weeks leading up to it. <b>Requests will not be authorised and absence will impact on your child’s attainment.</b>
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	Boys’ and girls’ football team day
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Y1 Multi Skills Festival + ABCs @ Brandon
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Art Exhibition - celebrating the children’s artwork
AFTER SATS	Year 6 to go swimming (Date TBC)
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Y3 and Y4 Cricket Competition @ Burnside
	<b>PARENTS: PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THERE ARE NO TEACHER TRAINING DAYS IN MAY THIS YEAR DUE TO THE HOLIDAY DATES GIVEN BY THE COUNCIL.</b>
May Half Term	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> May to Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> May
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Back to school
2 <sup>nd</sup> June to 13 <sup>th</sup> June	Multiplication Tables Check – Test period
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	SPORTS WEEK
Tues 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	After School Sponsored Bike Ride after school for children from Y2 to Y6
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>SPORTS DAYS for all year groups:</b> 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.    2:10 – Years 3 and 4
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	Sleepover for Y6 – arriving at school between 6:30 and 6:45
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> 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
9 <sup>th</sup> to 13 <sup>th</sup> June	Phonics Screening Check – Test Week – All of Y1 children plus those Y2 children who did not reach the required standard last year.
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	Full Governing Body Meeting
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	In it Together Conference in Durham for Y3
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> June	Transition Day for Reception (current Pre-School to move into Reception)
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> – Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Transition Days for Tanfield School / NDA
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Transition lesson for all children at Tanfield Primary (10:20 to 11:20)
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Meet the Teacher meeting – 4:00 p.m. + Creche
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Y3/4 Parental Engagement Sewing DT
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	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 Tuesday night.)
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund, one per family
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Reports go out to all parents
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	Parent Meetings for those parents who would like an appointment
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> July	Y2 Multi Skills Festival + ABCs @ Tanfield
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	Y1 and 2 Visit to St Mary’s Lighthouse
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Y5 and Y6 girls v girls/boys v boys Athletics Competition @ Brandon
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	Y6 Leavers’ Meal – 4:15 until 5:45
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	Bastille Day – all to come in dressed in red, white and blue
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	Thankyou tea for all who have helped us this year – 2:30 until 3:30 Y5 to prepare and serve.
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> July	Y6 Dress Rehearsal to the Upper School and some parents – afternoon Y6 Performance – evening – 6 p.m.
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Upper School visit to Craster/Embleton Beach
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Lower School Fun Day
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Y2 Moving on Assembly for their parents (9 a.m.)
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	Y6 Leavers’ Assembly for Y6 and their parents (9 a.m.) Last day of term
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept 2025	Back to School

