

Dear Parents and Carers,

September 2025

It was great to welcome all the children back this week. They have settled into the school routines very quickly and have enjoyed being back with their friends, and possibly making some new ones too. It was also lovely to see the new children, including those in Pre-School, settling in well.



Please read on for further updates and general information and reminders. I hope you find it useful and informative.

Mark Temple (Head Teacher)

Staffing

We welcome Miss Coates (Year 2) and Miss Davis (Year 3 / 4) to our teaching team. They are beginning to get to know the children and the routines and are a welcome addition to the team.

Attached to this newsletter are the Dates for the Diary. They will also be sent out as a paper copy – *please keep this safe*. We are still waiting on some dates to be confirmed, such as the external sports competitions and trips/parental engagement activities. We will inform you of these as the year goes on.

Here are some of the highlights for the next few weeks:

Grinton Meeting

Year 5 parents and children have been invited to a meeting on Tuesday 9th September at 5pm. Please enter via the Main Gate.

Phototronic Photos

On Wednesday 10th September, Phototronics will be in to take photographs of individual children, plus their siblings.

If you would like your child's photo taken with an older / younger sibling who is not at this school, please come to the Main Gate for 8.25. Photos with siblings who do come to our school will be taken through the day, as well as individual photos. Children in Reception and Y6 will also be able to order class photos. For children who have PE that day (Year 3 and 4), can they please come in their school uniform and bring their PE Kits in their bags?



Team Captains

On Friday 12th September, the Year 6 children will be pitching their ideas to the younger children to become Team Captains. I hope their speech preparations are going well.



Instruments

Music tuition will be starting next week. For the first term, Durham Music Service will be delivering music lessons to Year 2 on a Tuesday afternoon. Miss Davis' and Mr Macdonald's classes will be having Ukulele lessons too on a Wednesday morning. Also, individual woodwind (Clarinet/Flute) lessons will be on Mondays with Mrs Milne and individual guitar lessons with Mr Taylor will be on Tuesdays.

School Uniform

Needless to say, the children look extremely smart at the start of this term. If you want your child to ensure they keep bringing their uniform home then I can't reinforce enough that you MUST put a name on all of their clothing. A name ensures that if they leave anything lying around school we can return it to them. If there is no name then it's impossible to return it to its owner.

We have stocks of nearly new uniform in school. If you are short of any uniform then please either come in to school, and we'll see if we can help you out, or go to PACT House in Stanley which also has stock.



Wellies and OPAL

With Autumn on the way, we want the children to be able to enjoy the whole grounds. To do this, they will need wellies. Please check that your child has wellies in school and that they still fit. If you are sending wellies in, please ensure that your child's name is labelled clearly inside.

Hair Cuts

Following the summer holidays, some children have hair cuts which were fun during the holidays but are not appropriate for school. These include dyed hair and shaved patterns.

Dropping off and Picking up

I'd just like to remind you for a few things when dropping off and picking up your child/ren:

- Please follow the one-way route by entering through the main entrance and exiting via the Activity Den. A very small number of parents have requested (due to particular needs) not to follow this but for **everyone else** please follow this route as it makes it easier for everyone. There is a barrier blocking direct access to the road if you exit via the correct exit, ensuring the children's safety. It's also a good example to your children if you follow these simple rules.
- At home-time, parents should not gather at the top of the steps leading out of the Upper School. Please come and wait on the yard. This avoids congestion in that area. Many parents are pushing buggies or have a few children with them and if there are people gathered there it makes it difficult to pass you.
- When picking up your child at the end of the day, once they are dismissed and in your care, please keep all younger children away from the Upper School classrooms at pick up time. The older children are still in class and it's very distracting for them if younger children are playing outside their classroom windows. If you are waiting on the Upper School yard please keep your children by your side. Thank you.

Finally, parking continues to be an issue as many of you have identified in the Parent Questionnaire. At the start and end of the day the road outside school is exceptionally busy. Please ensure you do not compromise the safety of children and adults by parking on the double yellow lines. Thank you.

PE Kits – As stated in the letter I sent out before the start of term, P.E. days are as follows:

Reception	Tuesday
1HB	Monday
1D	Thursday
2B	Friday
2C	Thursday
Year 3 and 4	Wednesday (and Friday this half-term)
Year 5/6Mc	Monday and Tuesday (Tuesday is when they are swimming)
Year 5M	Tuesday
Year 5/6Mc and 6P	Monday and Tuesday (Tuesday is when they are swimming)



In addition to this, Y3 and Y4 will be wearing PE kit on a Friday this half term as they are having additional P.E. for a Multi-Sports festival later in the year. Please dress your children appropriately. School PE kits preferably but if not, then please choose plain clothing and plain T-shirts – no football tops etc. Leggings or tracksuit trousers will be necessary in the cooler months.

At the start of the year **5/6Mc and 6P** are going swimming so require their swimming kit (swim suit, goggles, towel) on Tuesday. They also should wear their PE kit to school that day.

Chester – Le – Street Sports Partnership

This year we are excited to be joining various new competitions and festivals. We have some dates already, but here is a summary of the termly events:

Autumn	Spring	Summer
Y3 – 6 Cross Country Y5 Basketball Festival Y5/6 Football Leagues (Boys and Girls) Y5/6 Sportshall Athletics Comp. Y5/6 Basketball Competition.	Reception - We're Going on a Bear Hunt! Y1 Invasion Games Festival Y3 Multi-Sports Festival Y5/6 Football Leagues (Boys and Girls) Y5/6 Tag Rugby Competition Y6 Rugby Skills Festival Swimming Gala	Y2 Striking and Fielding Festival Durham Dash Y3/4 Cricket Skills Festival Y5/6 Athletics Competition Y5/6 Cricket Competition Y5/6 Netball Competition

Attendance, arriving to school on time and Leave of Absence requests

Attendance is crucial to your child's progress and part of 'Turning Up' value.

Our school aim is always to beat our 96% target. Last year attendance was 96.2% for compulsory school age children. In addition, last year, 57 children achieved 99% attendance or better.

I am so pleased with this week's attendance (97.5%) with 6 classes having every child in. Thank you in supporting us with this.

Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow		
100% Attendance	0 weeks of learning missed	Best chance of success.
96% Attendance	1 week and 2 days of learning missed	Well done.
90% Attendance	3 weeks and 4 days of learning missed	Poor attendance, we are worried.
85% Attendance	5 weeks and 3 days of learning missed	
80% Attendance	7 weeks and 3 days of learning missed	Very poor attendance, we are seriously concerned.
75% Attendance	9 weeks and 1 day of learning missed	

Arriving at school on time is also really important. Lessons start immediately and if your child is late they are missing out on important learning time. Please endeavour to arrive at school on time every day.

Children should arrive in school between 8:40 and 8:50. Registration takes place at 8:50 and registers close at 9:00. Anyone arriving between 8:50 and 9:00 will be marked as late on the register. Any children arriving after 9:00 will be recorded as a U which means that they are late after the register has closed and they lose their attendance mark for that morning.



We reward good attendance weekly, celebrating both class and individual attendance. If we become concerned about your child's attendance, we will speak to you about this. You may also receive a warning letter or be invited in to school to meet with our School Attendance Officer.

Please Note: We encourage parents to take their children on holiday during school holiday times and inform you of our holiday periods well in advance. We also usually try to plan our Teacher Training days to support parents in accessing cheaper holiday options. We have two training days in May. This year they are Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd May. This gives you an opportunity to book to go away, hopefully accessing cheaper holidays.

Schools can only authorise **Leave of Absence** for children in exceptional circumstances and so Leave of Absence is rarely authorised. If you do take your child out of school during school time then it will impact on their success as well as, potentially, their emotional well-being. It could also result in a fine for both parents. Please try to avoid doing this.

Please note, according to DfE guidelines, we are no longer allowed to authorise football tournaments / dance competitions (and other similar activities) unless the children are being directly supervised by school staff. This includes football tournaments at Flamingoland etc.



For more information on our attendance procedures, please see our Attendance Policy which can be found on the school website.

After School Clubs and After School Care

The school offers Child Care at the end of the day which is available for all children from Pre-School upwards. The After-school sports clubs includes the following currently available for Reception upwards:

Dodgeball, cricket, football, handball, benchball, curling, Just Dance and apparatus-based activities

In addition, there are crafts and other activities available.

Mrs Robertson is the point of contact. After Care can be contacted on aftercare@tanfieldleapprimary.co.uk and there is a dedicated phone number: 07880472222 which will be turned on from 3pm each day until After Care closes. Bookings can be made via School Comms – these should be at the start of the week and can be booked in advance until July. If you are late booking on (ie. on the day), please contact the school. More information, including prices, can be found on the school website under **Parents > Childcare Provision**.

The price structure is as follows:

- End of school – 4.15 pm £4 – this includes the Sports listed above.
- End of school – 5.15 pm £7 (this includes a snack)
- End of school – 6.00 pm £10

Parents/carers should pick up from the Lower School. Access will be through the Staff Car Park. Ideally if you can come by foot, parking on the main road, and collect your child from the fire exit doors into the Lower School Hall. For anyone who has paid for a late pick up (5.15 onwards), please drive in as usual.

Other Clubs and Parental Engagement Activities

We are in the process of organising clubs/parental engagement activities for the rest of the year.

The following clubs will begin for this term:

- Football training – for Year 5 and 6 boys and girls – Wednesday until 4.15pm
- Choir – for children in Upper School – Mondays until 4pm. Beginning after October half-term
- School Council – for elected children from Year 2 to Year 6 – beginning in October- Day to be confirmed

TLCPS Dates for your Diary	
Autumn 2025	
Tuesday 2nd Sept	Back to School
Friday 5th Sept	Last payment to be made for Grinton
Monday 8 th Sept	Pre-School to start their full time allocation this week
Tuesday 9 th Sept	Swimming block 1: 5/6Mc and 6P Children to come in PE kit that day and bring swimming kit
w.b 8 th Sept	Durham Music Service lessons begin Woodwind (Clarinet / Flute) Lessons – Monday afternoon with Mrs Milne Guitar lessons – Tuesday AM with Mr Taylor Little Fingers with Mrs James- Tuesday PM Starting with Y2
Tuesday 9 th Sept	Grinton Meeting for Y5 parents 5 p.m.
Weds 10 th September	Individual photos and sibling photographs, plus class photos for Reception and Year 6
Thursday 11 th Sept	School Council trip to London – Mrs Wilkinson and Mr Mansfield to attend.
Friday 12 th Sept	Voting for Team Captains – do this via video so can be viewed in classrooms.
Week beg 15 th Sept	National Coding Week
Friday 19 th Sept	Voting for School Council – within class
Wednesday 24 th Sept	Stay and Play for Reception – Literacy focus – Butterfly parents invited a.m. (8:50 until 10:30) Dragonfly parents invited in p.m. (1:30 until end of school day) More info later. Parents can learn more about literacy in Reception and spend time with their child in class.
Thurs 25 th September	Flu immunisations
Thurs 25 th September	Y5/6 Boys’ football matches start
Mon 29th September	Full Howtown payment to be made
Monday 29 th September	CLS SSP Cross Country competition Y3 – 6
Tues 30th Sept – Friday 3 rd October	Grinton Residential visit for Y5
Weds 1st October	Stay and Play for Pre-School – Dialogic Reading will be the focus. Bumblebees and Caterpillars – 8:50 until 10:30 AB SENDCo Network meeting 9-12
Thursday 2nd Oct	Stay and Play for Pre-School – Dialogic Reading will be the focus. Caterpillars and Ladybirds – 8:50 until 10:30
Friday 3rd October	Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund – 1 per family This month we will donate the money raised to a charity chosen by School Council.
Monday 6 th October	Puberty talk for Y5 girls
Monday 6 th October	Disability Awareness Morning
Friday 10 th October	Harvest Festival led by Y1 and Y2 – 9:15
Monday 13 th October	ASSESSMENT WEEK for all children
Tuesday 14th October	5 p.m. Howtown meeting for parents
Wednesday 15 th Oct	1pm Alan’s Road Safety Roadshow Rec – Y2

Weds 15 th October	New Pre-School children visit with parents
Friday 24 th October	Teachers will send out ATTITUDES TO LEARNING SHEETS + the criteria for this Pre-School and Reception to receive an update including voice of child and parent
HALF TERM	Monday 27th Oct to Friday 31st October
Friday 31 st October	Y6 Parents – you must have completed the application for your child’s secondary place by today
Monday 3 rd November	Back to school
Monday 3 rd November	Y6 go to Howtown
Mon 3 rd November	New Pre-School children (Rising 3s) to start
Tuesday 4 th Nov	Swimming block 2 starts: 5M and 6P to start
Tuesday 4 th Nov	Little Fingers Music for Year 1
Wednesday 5 th 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 7 th Nov	Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund (1 per family)
Tuesday 11 th Nov	Minutes silence in KS1/2 classes from 11am.
Monday 10 th Nov	Parent Meetings – after school – times to be confirmed at time of booking
Tuesday 11 th Nov	Parent Meetings – after school – times to be confirmed at time of booking
Thursday 13 th Nov	Y5/6 Girls’ football league starts
Mon 24 th November	CLS SSP Y5/6 Basketball Competition @ Park View
Wed 26 th November	New January Pre-School children (Rising 3s) come for a visit with their parents
Wed 26 th November	CLS SSP Y5 Basketball Festival @ Consett Academy
Thurs 27 th /Fri 28 th Nov	Morning: Parents for Pre-School January starters to be invited to come for visits
Wednesday 3 rd Dec	Christmas Dinner ALL CHILDREN TO COME DRESSED IN THEIR CHRISTMAS JUMPER TODAY or other Christmas clothing.
Friday 5 th Dec	Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund (1 per family)
Friday 5 th Dec	DATA SHEETS TO BE GIVEN OUT TO PARENTS THIS WEEK Rec to Y6
Monday 8 th 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
Tuesday 9 th Dec	Swimming block 3 starts: 5M and 5/6Mc
Tuesday 9 th Dec	Y1/2 Christmas Performance 9:15 a.m.
Wednesday 10 th Dec	Christmas Performance by Pre-School and Reception 9:15 a.m
	Y1/2 Christmas Performance 2p.m.
Thursday 11 th Dec	Christmas Performance by Pre-School and Reception 9:15 a.m Y3 Party – Lower School Hall p.m. – come to school in party clothes Y4 Party Upper School Hall p.m. - come to school in party clothes
Friday 12 th Dec	Pre-School/Reception Party – Lower School Hall p.m. – come to school in party clothes
Monday 15 th Dec	Y1/2 Party – Lower School Hall p.m. – come to school in party clothes Y5 Party (inc 56Mc Y5s) - Upper School Hall p.m. – come to school in party clothes
Tuesday 16 th Dec	Christmas Fair (School to finish at 3pm today) Refreshments in Upper School Hall

	Combination of activities/items for sale in US and LS halls Including a 'quiz'
Wednesday 17 th Dec	Y2 to Y6 to Northern Stage (Beauty and the Beast)
Wednesday 17 th Dec	PS, Rec and Y1 The Clumsiest Christmas Elf PM
Thursday 18th Dec	Choir and readers to go to the church (9:15 until about 11) to rehearse Y6 Party Upper School Hall p.m. – bring party clothes to school
Friday 19th Dec	Upper School Carol Service – 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.
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY	Monday 22nd December until Friday 2nd January

Spring 2026

Monday 5th January	Back to School
	<i>New Pre-School start today</i>
Tuesday 6 th Jan	<i>Little Fingers Music Programme to continue with Reception this term until 27th January</i>
Friday 9 th January	Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund, one per family
Thursday 15 th January	Pre-School Parents – you must have completed the application for your child’s primary place (place in our Reception Class) by today
Weds 21st Jan	Stay and Play for Pre-School – Maths will be the focus. Bumblebees and Caterpillars – 8:50 until 10:30
Thurs 22nd Jan	Stay and Play for Pre-School – Maths will be the focus. Ladybirds and Caterpillars – 8:50 until 10:30
Mon 2 nd February	Y5 Mini-Police sessions to begin
Tuesday 3 rd February	Y3/4 Swimming Block 1 starts: 4Mac and 3/4D
Tuesday 3 rd February	Y6 to start Singing/Djembe drums music programme
Weds 4th February	6 p.m. Tanfield’s Got Talent.
Friday 6 th February	Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund, one per family
Tuesday 10 th Feb	Safer Internet Day
Wednesday 11 th Feb	5/6Mc to go to Nissan Monozukuri (TBC)
Thursday 12 th Feb	6P to go to Nissan Monozukuri (TBC)
9 th Feb – 13 th Feb	ASSESSMENT WEEK for all children
Wednesday 11 th Feb	Gala Theatre 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 13 th Feb	ATTITUDES TO LEARNING SHEETS TO BE SENT OUT THIS WEEK Pre-School and Reception to receive an update including voice of child and parent
HALF TERM	Monday 23rd February to Friday 27th February
Monday 2 nd March	Back to school
Tuesday 3rd March	Parent Meetings – after school – times to be confirmed at time of booking
Wednesday 4th March	Parent Meetings – after school – times to be confirmed at time of booking
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day (We will not be asking children to dress up as book characters.)
Friday 6th March	Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation–We will be collecting Easter Eggs for this.
Week beg 2 th March (To be confirmed)	Book Fair in Monday – Wednesday + Author Visit
Tuesday 10 th March	Swimming block 2 for Y3/4: 3K and 4Mac
Friday 20th March	DATA SHEETS TO BE GIVEN OUT TO PARENTS Rec to Y6
Thursday 26 th March	CLS SSP Football Tournament at Meadowfield
Tuesday 31 st March	Egg Decorating 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. FRIENDS TO DO COFFEE AFTERNOON THIS AFTERNOON IN LOWER SCHOOL HALL
Thursday 2nd April	KS2 Easter Celebration – through music and poetry in St. Margaret’s Church 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.
Friday 3rd April	Start of Easter Holidays
EASTER HOLIDAYS	Friday 3rd April to Friday 17th April

Commented [MMT1]:

SUMMER TERM 2026	
Monday 20th April	Back to school
Tuesday 21 st April	Swimming Y3/4 Block 3 starts: 3/4D and 3K
Wednesday 29 th April (tbc)	Pre-School Trip to Hall Hill Farm
Friday 1 st May	Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund, one per family
Monday 4th May	May Bank Holiday
Tuesday 5th – 8th May	School Assessment for Early Years to Y5
Mon 11 th – 15 th May	Y6 SATs WEEK It is very important that you do not book a holiday for this week or for the weeks leading up to it. Requests will not be authorised and absence will impact on your child's attainment.
Tuesday 19 th May	Art Exhibition - celebrating the children's artwork
Tuesday 19 th May	Little Fingers Music programme for Pre-School until the end of term. Also Mrs Geach's class to do Little Fingers from 19 th May to 16 th June.
Thursday 21st May	Staff INSET Day– School is closed to children.
Friday 22nd May	Staff INSET Day – School is closed to children.
May Half Term	Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May
Monday 1 st June	Back to school
1st June to 13th June	Y4 Multiplication Tables Check – Test period
Monday 1st June	SPORTS WEEK Skipping Activity Session today
Tuesday 2nd June	Active Morning for all children from Y1 to Y6
Tuesday 2 nd June	Y6 Swimming block restarts
Tuesday 2nd June after school	Sponsored Bike Ride after school for children from Y2 to Y6
Wednesday 3rd June	SPORTS DAYS for all year groups: 9:05 – Years 5 and 6 10:30 – Years 1 and 2 1:00 – Pre-School and Reception. Bumblebees stay for lunch. Ladybirds to start 15 minutes later today. 2:10 – Years 3 and 4 This year we hope to hold adult races too!
Thursday 4 th June	Y1/2 (a.m.) and Y3/4 (p.m.) – Outdoor Activities in the grounds
Thursday 4 th June evening	Sleepover for Y6 – arriving at school between 6:30 and 6:45
Friday 5 th June	Activity Day for Y5 and Y6 (Including Climbing Wall which is booked £500) Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund, one per family
8 th to 12th June	Phonics Screening Check – Test Week – All of Y1 children plus those Y2 children who did not reach the required standard last year.
Wednesday 10 th June tbc	In it Together Conference for Y3 (To be confirmed)
Wednesday 17 th June	Transition Day for Reception (current Pre-School to move into Reception)
Wednesday 17 th June	Alternative Sports Day (if 1 st date rained off)

Wednesday 17 th June	Y6 Boys – Puberty Talk
Tuesday 23 rd June	Mrs Sparkes’ class to do Little Fingers Music programme until the end of the term.
Friday 26 th June	Letters to go out today to all parents re classes for next year
Tuesday 30 th June – Thursday 2 nd July TBC	Transition Days for Tanfield School / NDA
Tuesday 30 th June	Transition lesson for all children at Tanfield Primary (10:20 to 11:20)
Tuesday 30 th June	Meet the Teacher meeting – 4:00 p.m. + Creche
Wednesday 1st 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. (If attending this you do not need to attend the ‘Meet the Teacher’ on Monday night.)
Friday 3rd July	Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund, one per family
Friday 3 rd July	Reports go out to all parents
Monday 6 th July	Parent Meetings for those parents who would like an appointment
Monday 13 th July	Y6 Leavers’ Meal – 4:15 until 5:45
Monday 13 th July	Thankyou tea for all who have helped us this year – 2:30 until 3:30 Y5 to prepare and serve.
Tuesday 14 th July	Bastille Day – all to come in dressed in red, white and blue
Tuesday 14 th July	Y6 Dress Rehearsal to the Upper School and some parents – afternoon Y6 Performance – evening – 6 p.m
Wednesday 15th July	Y2 Moving on Assembly for their parents (9 a.m.)
Wednesday 15 th July	Y6 Performance – evening – 6p.m.
Thursday 16th July	Lower School Fun Day / Craster Upper School Walk
Friday 17 th July	Y6 Leavers’ Assembly for Y6 and their parents (9 a.m.) Last day of term
Tuesday 1 st Sept 2026	Back to School

