

With half-term approaching I thought I would give you a quick update on some news items ready for after half-term. We had a lovely harvest festival in October and your child will have completed some assessments in the last couple of weeks. The Halloween disco on Thursday was very well attended and £583.38 was raised! Teachers will have sent home information about your child's attitude to learning/progress either today (Friday) or earlier this week.

PE / Swimming Changes

Tuesdays: After half-term, the 2 classes going swimming will be 5M (Mrs Morning's class) and 6P (Mr Patterson's class). They will need a swim suit, towel and goggles. During Howtown week, the Y6 children who are staying (regardless of class) will have a swimming lesson together with the Y5s from Mr McIntosh's class.

Fridays: Year 3 and 4 have enjoyed a half-term of extra basketball on a Friday. This will now stop, so they should wear their uniform (unless it is non-uniform that day.)

Year 5 and 6 will have a half-term of PE on a Friday so should wear their PE kit on those days.

All other PE days remain the same. Here is a summary for this half-term.

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



Children in Need

School Council have decided that they would like the school to support Children in Need this year.

Children should wear something spotty, something yellow or non-uniform in return for a donation on Friday 14th November 2025. School Council have been busy preparing posters for this.

There is also a non-uniform on Friday 7th November.



The 'Turn Up' value

Our attendance this half-term is 97.1%. This is fantastic and a 1.1% improvement on this half-term last year. This equates to 123 more days learning across all of the children. Thank you for your continued support with this. This half-term, 165 children have had 100% attendance. Amazing! They will receive a success card stamp for 100% attendance this half-term.

'Care' and 'Persevere' certificates

This half-term, we have given out Care certificates to some children. Next half-term, we are encouraging the children to focus on the 'Persevere' value.

Walk to School

Thank you for your support with this. The children are excited to complete the tracker and are asking me about their September badges. It was so successful that the organisation who run it didn't send enough badges so we are waiting for 65 more before we give out the September badges. We hope to give these out after half-term.

A couple of parents have asked if children can register their walks home from school. We have decided that children can log their walks / park and strides home from school and teachers will explain this to the children for after half-term.



Pavement Parking

Several parents have told us that cars are obstructing the footpath, particularly on the pavement down from Tantobie. Please be considerate of this so children and pushchairs do not need to go in the road.

Parent Meetings – Monday 10th – Wednesday 12th November

So far, 72% have booked up for these which is great. The deadline is Friday 7th November 6pm to book. The link is <https://tanfieldleacomunity.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

Parents/carers of children with special educational needs will be emailed documentation from the school in the week after half-term.

Sporting Success

The Y5/6 boys' team were champions of Derwentside and have been entered in the Alan Grimes County Cup! The girls will begin their fixtures after half-term.

Assemblies

Our Assemblies for Y1 to Y6 focus on the British values of democracy, rule of law, mutual respect and tolerance of other faiths using a resource called Picture News, as well as other resources. Below is a summary of some of the topics we have looked at this half-term:

Week	News Story	Focus Question	British Value Link	Protected Characteristics	UN Article
1 st September	In a recent survey, 600 parents and 400 six- and seven-year-olds were asked to name the everyday things around them that they find incredible or awe-inspiring.	What do you think makes something a wonder of the world?	Democracy	Religion or belief	 12 RESPECT FOR CHILDREN'S VIEWS
8 th September	A church in Kiruna, which is one of Sweden's largest wooden buildings, has been carefully moved 5km to a new location.	What makes a building special?	Mutual Respect and Tolerance	Religion or Belief	 3 RESPECT FOR CHILDREN'S VIEWS
15 th September	Schools in the UK will soon need to give more lessons on democracy, how voting works, and how the country is run.	Why do we vote?	Democracy	Age	 12 RESPECT FOR CHILDREN'S VIEWS
22 nd September	Guinness World Records is celebrating its 70th anniversary this year. The book was first published in 1955, and is now sold in over 100 countries.	Can anyone break a record if they try hard enough?	Individual Liberty	Age	 31 RESPECT FOR CHILDREN'S VIEWS
29 th September	Running charity, parkrun, has announced a new project called parkrun primary, which is bringing junior parkrun events closer to primary schools.	Can sport bring people closer together?	Individual Liberty	Disability	 24 RESPECT FOR CHILDREN'S VIEWS
6 th October	Ellie Goldstein, a 23-year-old model from Ilford, has been announced as a contestant on Strictly Come Dancing. She is the first person with Down's syndrome to take part in a full series of the show.	What can we learn from people who prove others wrong?	Mutual Respect and Tolerance	Disability	 2 NO DISCRIMINATION
13 th October	This year marks the 80th anniversary of the United Nations (UN), an international organisation founded after the Second World War in 1945, to help countries work together and prevent future conflicts.	What makes a good peacekeeper?	Rule of Law	Race	 42 EVERYONE MUST KNOW CHILDREN'S RIGHTS
20 th October	The UK government is planning to bring in digital identity cards, which people could keep on their phones or have as a physical card.	Should everyone have an identity card?	Rule of Law	Race	 16 PROTECTION OF PRIVACY

Wellies

With the weather turning wetter, your child will need wellies to go on the field. Please check with your child if they have a pair of wellies in school that fits. If sending wellies in, please ensure they are labelled.

I've attached the Dates for the Diary for the rest of the year too. We hope that you have a lovely half-term and we look forward to seeing you back at school on Monday 3rd November!

Best regards,

Mark Temple

TLCPS Dates for your Diary	
Autumn 2025	
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
Thurs 27 th November – moved by the organisers	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 18 th 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 19 th 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
9 th Feb – 13 th Feb	ASSESSMENT WEEK for all children
Tuesday 10 th Feb	Safer Internet Day
Wednesday 11 th Feb	5/6Mc to go to Nissan Monozukuri (TBC)
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>
Thursday 12 th Feb	6P to go to Nissan Monozukuri (TBC)
Friday 13th Feb	Year 3 and 4 Trip to Beamish Museum
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
Tuesday 18th Feb	2pm – 3pm Y5/6 Parents invited to Anderson Shelter Building activity
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

SUMMER TERM 2026	
Monday 20th April	Back to school
Tuesday 21 st April	Swimming Y3/4 Block 3 starts: 3/4D and 3K
Weds 29th April (now confirmed)	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.
Monday 18th May	Year 1 and 2 parents/carers are invited to a rocket building afternoon
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 26th June	Letters to go out today to all parents re classes for next year
Monday 29th June	Year 1 and 2 trip to Kirkley Hall Zoo

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
Thursday 9th July	PM: Year 3/4 Parental Engagement – Greenhouse building
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

