

Dear Parents and Carers,

Friday 28th November 2025



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:

Parents Evenings/Autumn Term Data Sheets

Thank you to all who attended the Parents evenings in early November. The summary of the children's autumn term assessments will be sent out with the children in the first week of December. Please check their Personal Organisers for this. (Pre-School children do not receive this.)

Attendance

Currently our attendance sits at 97.4% up to 7th November. That is fantastic and puts us significantly above the local and national average! Thank you for all your support in ensuring your child is in school so they can learn and succeed. Last half-term, 2C won the attendance award and are deciding how to celebrate their win!

OPAL

The children continue to enjoy lunch time even in the snowy weather. Thank you for sending your child in with wellies. We have a selection of spare wellies for the children to use so everyone can enjoy OPAL. The OPAL team would like to request large loose parts such as bread crates, planks, pipes and cable reels. If you or where you work are able to supply these we would be very grateful.

Spare clothing

With the weather getting wetter, we would appreciate if you could provide spare socks for your child. If you have any school clothing and/or socks and underpants that no longer fit your child, the EY and KS1 teachers will happily take them. Also, if you have previously used school's spare clothing, please return it as stocks are running low, especially for the younger children.

2 year old provision

Thank you to the 37 families who completed the 2 year old provision survey. We are currently exploring how we can provide a high quality environment for our youngest children and we will keep you updated with our progress.

Congestion outside of school

Thank you to all of you who continue to follow the one-way system. Even so, outside of school can be very busy. Once you have arrived, please queue within the school grounds. Several adults have told us that they have had to step into the road to get past people chatting at the front of school.

Dogs

A reminder that dogs are not allowed on the school grounds (even in people's arms). This is a health and safety risk. The exception to this is for Assistance dogs.

Nuts

We have people in school with nut allergies. Please do not compromise their health by sending products containing nuts, such as peanut butter sandwiches, Nutella products, Reeses etc.

SEND

Attached to the newsletter is some information from the local Family Hubs. If you have any questions about this, please contact Mrs Brotherston (our SENDCo) at sendco@tanfieldleapprimary.co.uk.

Online Safety – We encourage the children to stay safe online in PSHE and Computing lessons. We also use X to share information about safe internet usage. This week's post is about TikTok.

Children in Need – School raised £240 for good causes. Thank you for your support.

Secondary Transition News

Our 2 local secondaries, Tanfield School and North Durham Academy, have agreed to hold their Transition Days on Tuesday 30th June – Thursday 2nd July. This will mean that our transition lessons and Meet the Teacher evening will be on Tuesday 30th June.

Sports Festivals

This year our sport is through the Chester Le Street sports partnership. There are limited numbers available for each festival but we have ensured every child from Y1-6 will attend one of these.

Below are the terms/dates of the festivals:

Year 5 – Basketball (already past)

3K – Games Festival – January 16th

1D – Invasion Games – March 13th

Y6 – Rugby Skills Festival – March 25th

1HB – Disney Festival – Summer term date tbc.

Y2 – Striking and fielding - Summer term date tbc.

4Mac – Cricket - Summer term date tbc.

3/4D – Mini-Tennis - Summer term date tbc.

Swimming Block - From Tuesday 9th December to Tuesday 27th January, **5M and 5/6Mc** will be doing swimming lessons.

School Football Teams – The boys have played all their matches and won their league. The girls have matches coming up on Thursday 4th December and in the New Year. Good luck to them!

Indoor Athletics – An 18 person team represented the school brilliantly at the Indoor Athletics Competition in Consett on 20th November. They gave their all and came away with gold medals and will represent Derwentside at the County Games. Bravo!

Y5 Grinton Slideshow – This will be held on Friday 5th December at 9am. 2 adults per Y5 child are welcome.

If your child is in Y4 and wondering about going to Grinton, they will get a chance to see the slideshow. If next year's Y5 parents would like to see what Grinton involves, they are also welcome.

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 'Results and Performance Data'.



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/AU33gMfCTad1iJ9W6>

Christmas News next:

Non School Uniform Day – contributions for Tombola and Bottle Stall

Friday 5th 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 16th 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 Clumsiest Christmas Elf' and contributing to the cost for the bus for the visit to the Northern Stage for Y2 to Y6.



Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day is on Wednesday 3rd December. Orders have already been taken for those staying for dinner (and we can't accept any more orders now), but we encourage all children to come in something Christmassy that day, instead of their uniform, to add to the occasion. ☺

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**.

Early Years Christmas Performance (Reception and Pre-School)

You can choose from: **Wednesday 10th December** 9:15 p.m.
OR **Thursday 11th December** 9:15 a.m.



Key Stage 1 Nativity (Year 1 and 2)

You can choose from: **Tuesday 9th December** 9:15 a.m.
OR **Wednesday 10th 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.

Den Nativity

Please find attached a flyer about an 'Aladdin' panto at the Den on 6th / 7th December. Please see their website for more details.

Ecumenical Carol Service organised by Tanfield Lea Partnership

Our choir will be performing at the Tanfield Lea Partnership Ecumenical Carol Service on Sunday 14th December at Tanfield Lea 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 11th December PM – Y3/4

Friday 12th December PM – Pre-School and Reception

Monday 15th December PM – Y1/2 and Y5

Thursday 18th December – 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 16th 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. All classes will finish at their usual time. Doors to the fair will 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 at Christmas on Wednesday 17th December

The theatre is coming to us for our Early Years and Y1 children. 'The Clumsiest 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 the 1.10 performance. They should just come to the main entrance for 1pm.



Meanwhile the rest of the school will be heading to the Northern Stage in Newcastle to see 'Beauty and the Beast'. It should be an exciting morning for everyone.



Key Stage 2 Carol Service on the last day of term

Friday 19th 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. Joining the service counts towards their attendance for that day.



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.

For children in Key Stage 1 and Early Years who are not going to the church, this is a normal school day and will count towards their attendance.



Christmas Tree Festival

Don't forget, St. Margaret's will be holding their Christmas Tree Festival on Saturday 6th and then Sunday 7th December followed by a Christmas Carol Service at 4 p.m. School is participating by providing a tree. They would love you to visit the church and enjoy the different trees on display.

Finally, as usual we've included the current dates for the rest of this academic year. Any changes or confirmations are marked in green.

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

Mark Temple
Head Teacher



TLCPS Dates for your Diary

Autumn 2025

Wednesday 3rd Dec	Christmas Dinner ALL CHILDREN TO COME DRESSED IN THEIR CHRISTMAS JUMPER TODAY or other Christmas clothing.
Thursday 4 th Dec	Y5/6 Girls' football fixtures at Conssett AFC
Friday 5 th Dec	Non School Uniform Day – please a donation for the Tombola/Bottle Stall (1 per family)
Friday 5 th Dec	9am Y5 Grinton Slideshow – Y5 parents and interested parents of Y4s
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
Sunday 14 th Dec	5.30 Ecumenical Carol Service at Tanfield Lea Club. Choir to perform.
Monday 15 th Dec	Y1/2 Party– Lower School Hall p.m. – come to school in party clothes Y5 Party (inc 5/6Mc 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. Please note: this is a normal school day for Y1 and 2, unless attending the Carol Service. Your child's attendance is taken.
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY	Monday 22nd December until Friday 2 nd 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
Friday 16th January	3K to attend Games Festival 12:30 pm - 2:15 pm
Monday 19th January	Y5 and 6 to go to the Discovery Museum Newcastle
Tuesday 20th January	Swimming Gala - 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
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	Y5/6 Tag Rugby Competition - 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm
Weds 4th February	6 p.m. Tanfield’s Got Talent.
Thursday 5th February	1.30pm Y5/6 Parental Engagement – Making Swag Bags
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	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 12th Feb	5Mc and 6P to go to Nissan Monozukuri (confirmed – please note the change of date)
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
HALF TERM	Monday 23rd February to Friday 27th February
Monday 2 nd March	Back to school
Monday 2nd March	Author James Harris coming in for WBD
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 tbc	Book Fair in Monday – Wednesday + Author Visit
Tuesday 10 th March	Swimming block 2 for Y3/4: 3K and 4Mac
Friday 13th March	1D to attend Invasion Games Festival PM 12:30 pm - 2:15 pm
Friday 20th March	DATA SHEETS TO BE GIVEN OUT TO PARENTS Rec to Y6
Wednesday 25th March	Y6 Rugby Skills Festival 12:30 pm - 2:15 pm
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	
	Sporting Festivals to take place in Summer term (dates tbc): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 1 (1HB) Disney Festival Y2 striking and fielding Y4 Cricket 3/4D Mini Tennis
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 30th June – Thursday 2nd July	Transition Days for Tanfield School / NDA (now confirmed)
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

