

Dear Parents and Carers,

January 2025

A Happy New Year to all our families. We look forward to all that 2026 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 Nativity performance; 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 and Mr Patterson's classes won the post theatre quiz with great powers of observation.

Supporting the School

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 £1952.02. Of this total, the Friends of Tanfield raffle made £563. The tombola and bottle stalls made £530. Thank you SO much for all you donated for these stalls.

The children's enterprise stalls made a grand total of £859.02. They created a great variety of Christmas items as well as the many games they encouraged everyone to take part in. 2C and 2B raised the most money with £91.26 per class. 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.

You may remember that we raised money through ASDA last year. The staff have decided to spend that money on enriching the Science Curriculum with 'Captain Chemistry' working with children in March and through supporting the EY provision with the an outdoor mud kitchen.

The Tesco 'blue tokens' campaign has now ended. We will let you know about this when we hear, but thank you again for supporting the school. The Annfield Plain Tesco had us leading every time I went in!

Changes for the Spring Term

Tuesday – Reception will now receive Durham Music Service's 'Little Fingers' programme for the next 4 weeks. Then Y6 will have Djembe drumming/singing lessons after that beginning on 3rd February.

Tuesday – 5M and 5/6Mc will continue with swimming lessons for the next 4 weeks. The last session is on Tuesday 27th January.

Wednesday - 3K and children in Y4 will now receive Durham Music Service's ukulele lessons with Mr Franey.

Friday – Y1 and Y2 will receive an extra PE session with Mr Ashman in the morning for this half-term, focussing on Invasion Games and Striking and Fielding. They should wear a PE kit for this (except this Friday, which is non-uniform).

Mrs Howe, who is doing her teacher training, will be at a placement school in Newcastle until March. Mrs Stanford, who is doing the same course, will be working in 1HB during this time.

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

There are Stay and Play dates for Pre-School parents coming up towards the end of January, Maths being the focus for these. On Tuesday 20th January there is a SATs meeting for our Y6 parents at 5pm.

We have our annual Talent Show on Wednesday 4th February and then our Y4 children plus the choir and some of our musicians will be performing at the Gala Theatre on Wednesday 11th 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 11th 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. Some instrumentalists will play too.

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 sixth 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 9th, 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 last year. 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!



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:

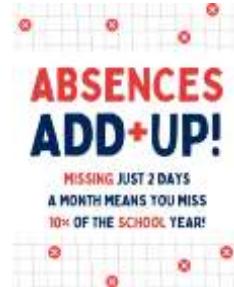
- ⇒ They don't come into school with their friends and miss the social interaction at the start of the day – this can impact on their friendships
- ⇒ They can become anxious – embarrassed by coming into class late when everyone else is settled and has started on their work

⇒ 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 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 they wish. Miss Coates' 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.

Half-termly Attendance Stamps – Children who achieved 100% for the Autumn 2 term (Oct – Dec) will receive a Success Card stamp for their attendance. This recognition is given for 100% attendance in each half-term.

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
(Head Teacher)



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
Tuesday 20th January	5pm Year 6 SATs Meeting in the hall
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	5/6Mc 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 19th 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

