

Dear Parents and Carers,

20th March



It was lovely to see so many parents in school for the Parent Meetings at the start of March. I know parents commented to me on how good it was to see the children's work and how much they had progressed.

Today, teachers sent home assessment information via the assessment record sheet. This is for all children except Pre-School.

Thanks to all who supported our **School Book Fair**. We sold a large number of books so there will be lots of reading going on and the commission we will receive from this (more than £700) will be used to supplement our books in both Lower and Upper School libraries. The author James Harris also visited us and we enjoyed making illustrations on a monster theme. We hope that the author visits inspire children to read and write more.



RSPCA non-uniform – This charity was chosen by the School Council. This will be held on Friday 1st May in place of the normal non-uniform. Children will be encouraged to dress as animals if they would like.

Questionnaire – The questionnaire went out earlier this week. If you have not completed this, here is the link: <https://forms.gle/cyu64YZ67Vog9EmXA> We appreciate the time taken to give feedback and will report on the results once we have discussed them as a staff. If you complete it before the end of term, you have a chance to win an Amazon voucher.

Tesco Funding – Thank you for your support before Christmas with the blue tokens. We are pleased to say that we finished 1st and so will receive £1500 to purchase resources to support children with additional needs.

Safer Streets – School Council's petition to get a 20 mph speed limit outside the school currently has 297 signatures, which is a great start given we have 326 children here. The link is here to share with the wider community: <https://c.org/rXYWnJKxKq>

Attendance - Our school aim is to reach at least 96% over the year. Currently our attendance is 96.3% so we are above our target. Thank you for supporting us with this. Last half-term, 158 children had 100% attendance and 55 children are currently on track for 100% attendance and 50 on track for 99%+ this year. That is incredible! We have our weekly spinner reward for attending every day in a week and continue to reward 100% attendance in each half-term.



Holiday forms – If you are taking holidays in term-time, please complete the [Holiday form from the website](#).

OPAL and Green Glass Recycling Tubs– Thank you for your continued donations, and to Peter from Tyres2U for extra tyres.

As the council have asked that from 31st March we place all glass in the blue-lidded recycling bin and no longer require us to place this in the separate green box, school would love to help you recycle your glass box to be used as part of our OPAL provision.

These green boxes will be very useful in school for construction, den building, planting and I am sure the children will have some creative ideas of their own.

If you wish to donate your green recycling box please leave in the school entrance.



Pre-School Places – you need to act now

We are in the process of offering Pre-School places for 2026-2027. If you, or anyone you know locally, have a child who will turn 4 between 1st September 2026 and 31st August 2027 then you can apply for a place at our Pre-School for September 2026. Application forms can be found on the website, or you can collect one from the office.

Please do this as soon as possible as the places are filling up.

We previously wrote to you about our bid for an extension so we could offer more 2 year old places and several parents have asked me about this. We hope to hear about this in the next month and will let you know as soon as that is announced.

Captain Chemistry – We are excited that Captain Chemistry will be in next week to enhance our Science Curriculum. He will be working with Y1 – Y6 over 3 days. This was made possible by the Asda funding you supported last year.



Sporting News

The boys’ football team have just finished their league of stronger teams in Derwentside. They finished first very narrowly:

Pos		Team	Pld	W	T	L	Pts
1	•	Tanfield Lea	7	4	2	1	14
2	•	St Patricks Consett	7	4	2	1	14
3	•	Burnopfield	7	4	1	2	13
4	•	Lanchester	7	3	2	2	11
5	•	Shotley Bridge	7	2	4	1	10
6	•	Catchgate	7	2	3	2	9
7	•	Consett Juniors	7	1	2	4	5
8	•	Shield Row	7	0	0	7	0

They are in the next round of the County Cup, which will take place on Monday 30th March.

The girls’ football team got into the Upper League and finished 3rd overall. A terrific result!

Pos		Team	Pld	W	T	L	Pts
1	•	St Patricks	5	4	0	1	12
2	•	Burnopfield	5	3	2	0	11
3	•	Tanfield Lea	5	1	3	1	6
4	•	Consett Juniors	5	1	2	2	5
4	•	Catchgate	5	1	2	2	5
6	•	Shotley Bridge	5	0	1	4	1

The Sports-hall athletics team finished 4th overall in the whole county and the swimming team finished 10th in the county too. Well done to all athletes that took part.

As more events are planned, they are added to the Dates for the Diary below and marked in green.

PE Changes after Easter:

After Easter, there will be additional PE lessons on a Friday for 4Mac and 5M.

After Easter, 3K and 3/4D will have a block of 5 weeks of swimming. However, 3K won't go swimming on Tuesday 21st April as they have a Multi-Sports festival.

Below is a summary of when children need PE kits after Easter:

Class	PE Day
Reception (Mrs Sparkes/Geach)	Tuesday – wear PE kit to school
1D (Mrs Davidge's) and 2C (Miss Coates')	Thursday – wear PE kit to school
1H/B (Mrs Howe/Brotherston)	Monday – wear PE kit to school
2B (Mrs Brown's)	Friday – wear PE kit to school
3K (Miss Keith's)	Swimming Tuesday – wear PE kit to school and bring your swimming kit as well (Except 21 st March)
3/4D (Miss Davis')	Swimming Tuesday – wear PE kit to school and bring your swimming kit as well.
4Mac (Mr Macdonald's)	Tuesday – wear PE kit to school Friday – wear PE kit to school.
5M (Mrs Morning's)	Wednesday – wear PE kit to school Friday – wear PE kit to school
5/6Mc and 6P (Mr McIntosh's and Mr Patterson's)	Monday – wear PE kit to school Wednesday – wear PE kit to school.

Tanfield Lea Toddler Group – See attached flyer about the Tanfield Lea toddler group.

With our Easter activities approaching I thought it would be helpful to remind you of the things we have planned in the lead up to Easter.

Easter Egg Decorating

Judging by our entries, year on year, the children love the challenge of decorating an egg. They are incredibly creative and show great imagination with the ideas they come up with. Our Easter Egg decorating competition will take place on Tuesday 31st March. We ask Lower School children (Pre-School to Y2) to decorate their egg at home and bring it in that morning ready for judging.

Upper School children should come into school with a plan for their egg. They'll need to bring some hard-boiled eggs and resources to decorate their egg. As usual we welcome parents to come in and help with this – the children love having you in school. If you have more than one child then just mention that to one of the teachers and you should be able to work together in one class – whichever has more space! You'll be able to leave by about 10 a.m. as hopefully they'll be done by then.

The children will be able to bring their decorated egg back home on Wednesday 1st April.

Good luck everyone 😊



Friends of Tanfield Lea Community Primary School

The Friends of Tanfield have organised a Coffee Afternoon in the Lower School Hall from 2 p.m. until the end of the school day on Tuesday 31st March. The choir will sing at this event and the Easter Raffle will be drawn. The children's Easter egg entries will also be on display. It would be lovely if you can attend and support the Friends of Tanfield in raising money for school enrichment. Please enter via the main entrance gates. **These will be open from 2 until 2:15 p.m. and then locked again so please ensure you arrive within this time.** The choir will be singing shortly after 2:15.

DON'T FORGET, IF YOU'D LIKE TO HELP WITH THE FRIENDS OF TANFIELD LEA THEY ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS. They are a group of parents and friends of the school who work together to provide additional opportunities for our children. These include discos, funding for fun days, transport for school trips and leavers' hoodies. Without their help these wouldn't be possible. If you have a few hours to spare and can help with fundraising, please contact the school office. Thank you.

Save the Date: The Friends will be holding a Bingo Night on Wednesday 6th May at 6pm!

Easter Celebration Service for Key Stage 2

The children in KS2 will be holding their Easter Celebration Service on Thursday 2nd April for parents of children in KS2 and the congregation of St. Margaret's Church.

This will be a combination of the Easter story, poems and music. The children will lead it.

KS2 children will be walking to the church for this service. The children who are taking part in this will have an early lunch so that they can walk to the church to get there earlier to rehearse before the rest of KS2 arrive (this saves us over £250 for the cost of a bus).

We are aiming to start the service at about 1:30 and are encouraging parents and St. Margaret's congregation to join us for this. If parents/carers can aim to arrive for about 1:20/1:25. If you are there any earlier then we hope you understand that we will still be rehearsing.

Children will be able to go home with parents attending the service afterwards. Those who do not have parents there will walk back to school with staff, arriving back at school for the end of the day. *If you have arranged for your child to go home with a family member or friends, you **must** inform*



us by email on tanfieldlea@durhamlearning.net before lunchtime on Monday 30th March. Please title your email **Easter Service**.

If we do not have this information then we will not allow children to go with another adult on the day. Thank you for your understanding.

Finally, Thursday 2nd April is our last day of term. We hope the children enjoy their Easter break and look forward to them all returning on Monday 20th April.

Happy Easter!

Mark Temple
Head Teacher

Spring 2026	
Wednesday 25th March	Y6 Rugby Skills Festival 12:30 pm - 2:15 pm
Wednesday 25th – 27th March	Captain Chemistry coming in to work with different classes.
Thursday 26 th March	CLS SSP Football Tournament at Meadowfield
Monday 30th March	Next round of the Y5/6 football County Cup (After school)
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
Wednesday 1st April	PM: Y4 Football Tournament at Meadowfield
Thursday 2 nd 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
Tuesday 21st April	PM: 3K Multi-Sports Festival (Rearranged date)
Thursday 23rd April	PM: 3/4D Mini Tennis Festival
Weds 29th April	Pre-School Trip to Hall Hill Farm
Wednesday 29th April	Y5/6 Football Tournament at Meadowfield
Friday 1st May	Charity Non School Uniform Day – RSPCA chosen by the School Council– please send in a donation
Monday 4th May	May Bank Holiday
Tuesday 5th – 8th May	School Assessment for Early Years to Y5
Wednesday 6th May	6pm Friends of Bingo Night
Mon 11th – 15th 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.
Thursday 15th May	PM: 1HB to Year 1 Disney Festival
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.
Wednesday 20th May	PM: Year 2 Striking and Fielding Festival
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 2nd June	Y5/6 Athletics Competition
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 4th June	Y5/6 Countdown Cricket Competition
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
Friday 5th June	Y5/6 Girls’ Cricket Competition
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.
Tuesday 9th June	PM: 4Mac Cricket Festival
Wednesday 10 th June tbc	In it Together Conference for Y3 (To be confirmed)
Friday 12th June	Y5/6 Stingers Netball Competition
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
Wednesday 17th June	After school: Durham Dash competition
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
Monday 29th June	Reception Superhero Festival

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, followed by Meet the Headteacher
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 13th July	Y6 Quidditch Festival for children who have not represented the school in sport.
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

