

Dear Parents and Carers,

2nd July 2026

The end of term is rapidly approaching and we have a lot planned for the last 2 weeks.

Y6 have had their transition days this week and the rest of our children met their teacher and had their transition lesson as well. We also had our 'Meet the Teacher' information sessions. Thanks to all who were able to attend this. We have uploaded the Powerpoint presentations to the website. They are easiest to find if you search for 'Meet the Teacher' on the site.



The children's end of year reports will go out via email to all parents at the end of the school day tomorrow, 3rd July. For the majority of parents this is enough as it is very detailed.

However, if you have something in particular you would like to discuss with your child's teacher (Reception to Y6) then we do have some appointments available to book on Monday 6th July. We've sent an email out about this with instructions on how to book.

School Meals on Arbor:

We have transitioned from SIMS to Arbor and this has caused an issue with the School Meals software. Previously Cypad had been used which worked alongside SIMS, but this does not link into Arbor and we are using Arbor's own software package for meal choices.

At the moment Arbor is set to not allow parents/carers access to choose their child's meal, however, we have realised that you are unable to see what your child has chosen. Therefore, we have decided that moving forward we will reinstate the function to allow you to choose your child's meal. Please note that it is not necessary for you to do this as your child chooses their meal choice during registration.

Most of the time the child will choose what the parents have chosen. If you do use this facility, you need to be aware that sometimes we have found that your child does not always want what you have chosen for them; they can get upset and sometimes refuse to eat your lunch choice which could result in them feeling hungry for the rest of the day. Although we are happy for you make your child's meal choice at home, if they chose a different option on the day in school, the child's choice will therefore replace the parent's choice.

We will close the option to choose your child's meal at 8.00 am so when the registers are taken at the beginning of the day, it is the final choice that is transferred to the kitchen.

If you have any concerns, please contact the school.



Our OPAL play continues to provide children with the opportunities to experience active, exciting, collaborative and creative play during breaktimes. **This term we have added a toasted marshmallow/fire pit activity on Fridays and extra sports equipment.** If you have any bikes, scooters or other wheeled toys that your children have out grown and no longer use, we would be grateful for any donations. We are also looking

for dolls, action figures and toy cars. Please bring these to the main entrance. Thank you in advance!

Residential Visits to Boggle Hole and Howtown – Autumn 2026

Thanks to all parents in Y4 and Y5 who have booked their children on to the residential visits in the Autumn term. They are both now full.

Parents should now have paid at least half of the total cost for these visits. Full payment for Boggle Hole is to be made by Friday 4th September. For Howtown, full payment should be made by Monday 14th September.

As the Y5 residential has now changed location (to Boggle Hole) and the dates are changed to Tuesday 8th September – Friday 11th September, we will have a meeting about this, on Thursday 9th July at 5pm. Please note this is a new date/time, due to a clash with the Y6 play.

Sporting News: Our Y6 netball team have qualified for the County Finals and will play this Friday (3rd July) in Sunderland. Good luck!

Gifts for staff: As we approach the end of term, I'd like to take this opportunity to remind you that if you are wanting to express your thanks to your child's class teacher at the end of their time in their class, or indeed any other staff members, then please don't buy a present. We would much prefer that you send a card. It's much cheaper and appreciated even more. Thank you.

Please read on to find out more about the last two weeks of term.

Mark Temple
(Head Teacher)

EVENTS COMING UP:

Y3 and Y4 Design Technology Session Thursday 9th July at 2pm

Y3 and Y4 parents have been invited in for a Greenhouse session this Thursday. Please come to the main entrance at 2pm.) We'll open the doors at 2pm. A separate email has been sent about this too.



Year 6 Pizza party – We will hold the Pizza Party on Monday 13th July at 4.15. You will have received an email about this.



Bastille Day - As we study French in school we are celebrating Bastille Day on **Tuesday 14th July**. We are asking the children to come dressed in red, white and blue and they will learn about Bastille Day and complete an activity about France during the day. Thank you.



The children in Mr Patterson and Mr McIntosh's classes are well into rehearsals now for their end of year performance. This year it is **Peter Pan** and will be performed on Tuesday 15th July and Wednesday 16th July at 6 p.m. in the Upper School Hall. Tickets have gone on sale - £2 for an adult and £1 for a child – maximum of 4 tickets per child. Unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate any additional tickets beyond this limit. Please order your tickets soon. It's not to be missed! Please ensure your child is available to take

part in the performance both nights as each member of Year 6 is crucial to the overall play. Thank you.

NOTE: re WORLD CUP. If England reach the semi-finals of the World Cup, their fixture will be played on Wednesday 15th July and the performance will begin at 5:30pm. However, if

they do not reach this stage, the performance time will remain at 6pm. We will provide additional confirmation of the start time as the tournament progresses.

Y2 Moving On Assembly – Wednesday 15th July

Our Y2 will present their 'Moving On' assembly on Wednesday 16th July.

They will be reflecting on their time in school so far as well as looking forward to what is to come in KS2. We're hoping many of you will be able to join us for this although, due to numbers, we are restricting this to no more than 3 adults per child. It will take place in the Upper School Hall starting as soon as the children are ready – probably between 9 and 9:15. We won't be able to let parents into the hall until we have cleared Breakfast Club away and chairs have been set out. So once you've dropped your child/ren off, please queue up under the covered walkway leading into the Upper School Hall. As soon as we are ready we'll invite you in to the Upper School Hall. We look forward to seeing you then.

Y5 Matilda. In the afternoon of Wednesday 15th July, Y5 will go to North Durham Academy to see their performance of Matilda. More details will follow.

Durham Brass – Wednesday 15th July

Once again, we are going to benefit from a visit through the Durham Brass Festival, which is taking place this month. We are hosting Artistas Del Gremio. They are a Spanish brass group who are humorous and high-energy. They will be performing at our school at 10.30am and I am sure will be a great hit!



Lower School Fun Day – Thursday 16th July

This year for children in Pre-School, Reception and Key Stage 1 the Lower School Fun Day will take place on Thursday 16th July. Children from Pre-School will attend during their usual hours.

The cost of this will be £1 per family. Children do not have to come in their school uniform. More details will be sent out from your child's teacher nearer the time.

Upper School Walk from Craster to Embleton, including beach activities



Our annual Upper School walk on the Northumbrian coast is on Thursday 16th July.

All children from Y3 to Y6 will go on this. There will be no charge to parents for this. Buses will be funded through contributions from the Friends of Tanfield Lea and the school fund.

We'll be leaving promptly, as close to 9 a.m. as possible, and we aim to be back for the end of the school day. Children will have the opportunity to play on the beach and paddle in the sea. They should bring a change of clothes and towel if they intend to get wet. We'll send a further email closer to the day.

Y6 Leavers' Assembly – Friday 17th July

As with the Y2 Moving on Assembly, this will take place in the Upper School Hall. Due to the size of Year 6, we are restricting this to 2 adults per child and we aim to start as soon after 9 a.m. as possible.

Again, we'll have to wait for Breakfast Club to be cleared away and chairs set out so please queue up under the covered walkway leading into the Upper School Hall. As soon as we are ready, we'll invite you in to the Upper School Hall.



SUMMER TERM 2026	
Friday 3 rd 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. This will be via email.
Monday 6 th July	Parent Meetings for those parents who would like an appointment
Thursday 9th July	2PM: Year 3/4 Parental Engagement – Greenhouse building
Thursday 9th July	5pm: Boggle Hole residential meeting for Y4 parents and children.
Monday 13th July	Y6 Quidditch Festival for children who have not represented the school in sport. Sadly cancelled by the organisers.
Monday 13 th July	Y6 Leavers' Pizza party – 4:15 until 5:45
Monday 13 th July	Thank you 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 15 th July	Y2 Moving on Assembly for their parents (9 a.m.)
Wednesday 15th July	10.30am Artista Del Gremio – Brass Performance for the whole school
Wednesday 15th July	PM 5M to watch Matilda at NDA
Wednesday 15 th July	Y6 Performance – evening – 6p.m (5:30 only if England reach the World Cup semi-finals)
Thursday 16 th 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