

With the end of half-term approaching I thought I would give you a quick update on some news items ready for coming back to school on Monday 2nd November. We had a lovely harvest festival in October and your child will have completed some assessments in the last couple of weeks.

PE / Swimming Changes

Tuesdays: After half-term, the 2 classes going swimming will be 5M (Mrs Morning's class) and 5/6Mc (Mr McIntosh's class). They will need a swim suit, towel and goggles.

Thursdays: 5M and 5/6Mc will have a gymnastics lesson led by an external coach on a Thursday for 5 weeks. This is an extra lesson for 5M and for 5/6Mc will replace the Monday lesson.

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

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



Children in Need/Children's Cancer North

School have decided that they would like the school to support Children in Need Day this year by wearing something yellow or non-uniform.

This year though we would like to raise funds directly for Children's Cancer North, a charity that has supported a child in Pre-School.

If anyone would like to know more about the charity, here is a link to their website:

<https://childrenscancernorth.org.uk/>

We also plan to do a cake sale on the day to raise further funds.

There is also a non-uniform on Friday 6th November but we will not collect money for this.

Allergy-Aware School

School are working on an Allergy Safety policy.

As a result, we are no longer able to accept any food items into school from children to share with others (for staff or as a class) unless they have the correct allergy advice labelling. This includes birthday cakes and cupcakes. Pre-packaged and labelled cakes make a nice alternative. This is to keep everyone safe.



The 'Turn Up' Value

Our attendance this half-term is 96.5%. This is above our target despite some illness. Thank you for your continued support with this. This half-term, 169 children have had 100% attendance. Amazing! They will receive a success card stamp for 100% attendance this half-term.

'Care' and 'Persevere' Value 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.

Parent Meetings – Monday 9th, Tuesday 10th November (and 16th November for Pre-School)

Please book up to these in the separate email sent at 4pm today.

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

Assemblies

Our Assemblies for Early Years 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
24 th August	Netflix is working with a company called SignUp Media to provide sign language interpretations (in American Sign Language) for around 200 hours of children's and family entertainment.	How can what we watch be made accessible to everyone?	Mutual Respect and Tolerance and Individual Liberty	Disability
31 st August	NASA is preparing to send a powerful new telescope into space to explore some of the universe's biggest mysteries.	Is it important to explore the unknown?	Rule of Law Democracy	Sex
7 th September	This week, more than 100 of the world's best cyclists are competing in the Tour of Britain.	What keeps us going when things get tough?	Individual Liberty and Mutual Respect and Tolerance	Religion or Belief
14 th September	UK Prime Minister Andy Burnham has pledged that, by Christmas, everyone sleeping rough in England will be offered a safe place to stay.	Do we all have a part to play in helping those in need?	Democracy and Mutual Respect and Tolerance	Age
21 st September	Nepal has announced that its wild tiger population has more than tripled, rising from 121 tigers in 2010, to 429 today.	Do wild animals have as much right to the land as we do?	Rule of Law and Mutual Respect and Tolerance	Religion or Belief
28 th September	The Bayeux Tapestry is a nearly 1,000-year-old very long piece of cloth covered with pictures sewn in colourful thread that tells the story of a very famous event called the Norman Conquest of England.	How can we share our stories?	Individual Liberty and Mutual Respect and Tolerance	Sex
5 th October	The UK government has announced plans to make food served in schools across England healthier from September 2027.	Who should decide what we have for school lunch?	Rule of Law and Individual Liberty	Age
12 th October	Meta has created the Muse Charm, a small device that can fit in your pocket or hang from a keyring.	Do we need AI wherever we go?	Individual Liberty and Mutual Respect and Tolerance	Age
19 th October	Eleven-year-old Bodhianna Shivanandan from London has become the youngest person ever to earn the Woman Grandmaster title in chess.	Should age decide what we're allowed to do?	Democracy and Mutual Respect and Tolerance	Sex

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 updated Dates for the Diary for the rest of the year too. We hope that you have a lovely half-term, including Halloween, and we look forward to seeing you back at school on Monday 2nd November!

Best regards,

Mark Temple

Head Teacher

Dates for your Diary	
Autumn 2026	
HALF TERM	Monday 26th Oct to Friday 30th October
Friday 30 th October	Y6 Parents – you must have completed the application for your child’s secondary place by today
Monday 2nd November	Back to school
Tuesday 3 rd Nov	Little Fingers Music for Year 1
Tuesday 3 rd Nov	U11 Girls’ Football Competition at Consett
Weds 4 th Nov	PM: 2B to Sportshall Athletics festival @ Consett Academy
Thursday 5th Nov	Let’s Rocket Special Menu
Thursday 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 6 th Nov	Non School Uniform Day – No money collected for this.
Tuesday 10 th Nov	Girls’ football league for the next 5 weeks.
Weds 11 th Nov	Flu Immunisations
Wednesday 11 th Nov	Remembrance Day: Minute’s silence in KS1/2 classes from 11am.
Monday 9 th Nov	Parent Meetings – after school – times to be confirmed at time of booking (including Pre-School 1 and 2)
Tuesday 10 th Nov	Parent Meetings – after school – times to be confirmed at time of booking (including Pre-School 1 and 2)
Tuesday 10 th Nov	U11 Girls’ Football Competition at Consett (for approximately 5 weeks)
Thursday 12 th Nov (for next 5 weeks)	Gymnastics Coach to work with Y5/6
Friday 13th November	Children in Need/Children’s Cancer North charity day – Please bring a donation. Cakes will be on sale too.
Monday 16 th November	Extra Parent Meetings for Pre-School 1 and 2.
Friday 20th November	KS2 New-Age Kurling and Boccia Competition
Tuesday 24th November	Friends of Quiz Night
Thursday 26th November	INSET Day
Friday 27th November	INSET Day
Wednesday 2nd Dec	Christmas Dinner ALL CHILDREN TO COME DRESSED IN THEIR CHRISTMAS JUMPER TODAY or other Christmas clothing.
Friday 4th Dec	Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund (1 per family)
Friday 4 th Dec	DATA SHEETS TO BE GIVEN OUT THIS WEEK Rec to Y6
Monday 7 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 8 th Dec	Swimming block for 6P and 5M. Every Tuesday. Last session in this block is 19 th January
Tuesday 8 th Dec	Y1/2 Christmas Performance 9:15 a.m.
Wednesday 9th Dec	Christmas Performance by Pre-School and Reception 9:15 a.m Y1/2 Christmas Performance 2p.m.

Thursday 10 th Dec	Christmas Performance by Pre-School and Reception 9:15 a.m
Thursday 10 th Dec	Y5 Party (inc 56Mc Y5s) - Upper School Hall p.m. – come to school in party clothes
Friday 11 th Dec	Pre-School/Reception Party – Lower School Hall a.m. – come to school in party clothes Y1/2 Party– Lower School Hall p.m. – come to school in party clothes
Monday 14 th Dec	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
Tuesday 15 th Dec	Christmas Fair (School to finish at normal time) Refreshments in Upper School Hall Combination of activities/items for sale in US and LS halls Including a 'quiz' and they can win a prize
Wednesday 16 th Dec	Y2 to Y6 The Snow Queen for Northern Stage
Wednesday 16 th Dec	PS, Rec and Y1 The Littlest Christmas Elf 1.10 and 2.10.
Thursday 17 th Dec	Choir and readers to go to the church (9:15 until about 11) to rehearse. If possible perform at Stanley Park Care Home Y6 Party Upper School Hall p.m. – bring party clothes to school
Friday 18 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 21st December until Friday 1st January

Spring 2027

During the term, we will participate in the following festivals (dates tbc):

Rec We're Going on a Bear Hunt, Y1 Invasion Games, Y2 themed festival, Y3 Games, Y4 Team Building, Y6 Rugby Skills as well as a Dance Festival (based on after school club), Y3-6 Swimming Gala, Y5/6 Football Leagues and a Y5/6 Tag Rugby Competition.

Monday 4th January	Back to School
	<i>New Pre-School start today</i>
Tuesday 5 th Jan	<i>Little Fingers Music Programme to continue with Reception this term until 27th January</i>
Friday 8 th January	Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund, one per family
Friday 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
Tuesday 19th Jan	AM: KS2 Swimming Gala @ Louisa Centre.
Weds 20 th Jan	Stay and Play for Pre-School – Maths will be the focus. -This is for Pre-school 2 only Bumblebees and Caterpillars – 8:50 until 10:30
Friday 22 nd Jan	Stay and Play for Pre-School – Maths will be the focus. This is for Pre-school 2 only Ladybirds and Caterpillars – 8:50 until 10:30
Tuesday 26 th January	Swimming for 4Mac and 3/4D - Every Tuesday – The last session in this block is 2 nd March
1 st Feb – 5 th Feb	ASSESSMENT WEEK for all children
Monday 1st Feb	3/4D at Games Festival @Louisa Centre.
Tuesday 2 nd February	Y6 to start Singing/Djembe drums music programme
Weds 3rd February	PM: Y5/6 Tag Rugby Competition @ Consett RFC.
Weds 3 rd February	6 p.m. Tanfield's Got Talent.
Friday 5th February	KS2 Dance Festival at Consett Empire Theatre.
Friday 5 th February	Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund, one per family
Tuesday 9 th Feb	Safer Internet Day
Monday 8th Feb	Year 5/6 Parental Engagement – Anderson Shelter building (approx. 2pm – 3pm)
Tuesday 9th Feb	Y5/6 Netball Competition at Maiden Castle.
Wednesday 10 th Feb	Gala Theatre 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>
Friday 12 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 15th February to Friday 19th February
Monday 22 nd February	Back to school All data to be input into iTrack by this morning. Matt and Mark to do data in the afternoon
Tuesday 23 rd Feb	Boys' football league for the next 5 weeks.
Weds 24 th Feb	Adam Bushnell (Author) booked for World Book Day
Thursday 25th Feb	Boys' football team at Cup/Shield @ Meadowfield
Thursday 25th Feb	Y5/6 Trip to Beamish
	Parent/Children questionnaire to go out this half term
w.b. 1 st March	National Careers Week
Tuesday 2 nd March	Parent Meetings – after school – times to be confirmed at time of booking
Wednesday 3 rd March	Parent Meetings – after school – times to be confirmed at time of booking
Thursday 4th March	1B at Disney Festival @ Louisa Centre.
Thursday 4 th March	World Book Day (We will not be asking children to dress up as book characters.)
Friday 5 th March	Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund, one per family – Easter eggs.
Monday 8th March	Reception to attend We're Going on a Bear Hunt festival @ Louisa Centre
Tuesday 9 th March	Swimming for 3K and 4Mac – Every Tuesday – last session is 20 th April
Weds 10th March	Y5 from both classes at Rugby Skills Festival @ Consett Rugby Club

Thursday 11 th – Monday 15 th March	Book Fair Sales
Monday 15 th March	2C at Invasion Games Festival @ Louisa Centre
Friday 19th March	DATA SHEETS TO BE GIVEN OUT TO PARENTS Rec to Y6
Tuesday 23 rd 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 24th March	Children to take eggs home
Wednesday 24 th March	AM: Colour Run with Chester-Le-Street SPP – for Y1 - 6
Thursday 25 th March	TBC 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.
Thursday 25 th March	CLS SSP Football Tournament at Meadowfield
EASTER HOLIDAYS	Friday 26th March to Friday 9th April

	SUMMER TERM Reception trip to the Great North Museum at some point this term, date and details to be confirmed in Spring term
Monday 12th April	Back to school
Wednesday 21 st April	Pre-School trip to Hall Hill Farm for Pre-School. This is for Pre-School 2 only. There will be no Pre-School 1 today.
Tuesday 27 th April	Swimming for 3/4D and 3K – Every Tuesday – Last session is 25 th May
Wednesday 28 th April	Energy Futures Education working with Y3/4 on Hydrogen Cars
Friday 30th April	Y3 and 4 trip to the Oriental Museum
Monday 3rd May	May Bank Holiday
During May	Optional Y2 SATs testing window starts today
Tuesday 4th – 7th May	School Assessment for the everyone except Y6.
Friday 7 th May	Non-School Uniform Day
Mon 10 th – 14 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.
Wednesday 12th May	PM: Year 3 and 4 Parental Engagement - Sewing
Tuesday 18 th May	Art Exhibition - celebrating the children's artwork
Wednesday 26th May	INSET Day
Thursday 27th / Friday 28th May	INSET Days
May Half Term	Wednesday 26th May to Friday 4th June
Monday 7th June	Back to school
7 th June to 18 th June	Multiplication Tables Check – Test period
Monday 7th June	SPORTS WEEK Skipping Activity Session today – booked
Tuesday 8th June	Active Morning for all children from Y1 to Y6
Tuesday 8 th June	Swimming for 5M and Year 6 Catch-Up children (Y6 parents will be emailed if their child is part of the group) - Every Tuesday – the last session is 13 th July
Tuesday 8th June after school	Sponsored Bike Ride after school for children from Y2 to Y6
Wednesday 9th June	SPORTS DAYS for all year groups: 9:05 – Years 5 and 6 10:30 – Years 3 and 4 1:00 – Pre-School and Reception. Bumblebees stay for lunch. Ladybirds to start 15 minutes later today. 2:10 – Years 1 and 2 This year we hope to hold parents' races too!
Thursday 10 th June	Y1/2 (a.m.) and Y3/4 (p.m.) – Outdoor Activities in the grounds
Thursday 10 th June evening	Sleepover for Y6 – arriving at school between 6:30 and 6:45
Friday 11 th June	Activity Day for Y5 and Y6 (Including Climbing Wall) Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund, one per family
14 th to 18 th June	Phonics Screening Check – Test Week – All of Y1 children plus those Y2 children who did not reach the required standard last year
Wednesday 16 th June	Alternative Sports Day (if 1 st date rained off)
Wednesday 16 th June	Y6 Boys – Puberty Talk
Sunday 20th June – Friday 25th June	5 staff to take 30 Y5 and 6s to Potsdam / Berlin, Germany (Turing Scheme) – more information will be given to parents/children about this in late September.
Wednesday 23 rd June	Transition Day for Reception (current Pre-School to move into Reception)

	Joanne to meet with new Pre-School families during the day – Preschool 1 to operate as normal.
Friday 25th June	Letters to go out today to all parents re classes for next year
Tuesday 29 th June – Thursday 1st July	Transition Days for Tanfield School / NDA (If changed that will affect our Transition)
Tuesday 29 th June	Transition lesson for all children at Tanfield Primary (10:20 to 11:20)
Tuesday 29th June	Meet the Teacher meeting – 4:00 p.m. + Creche Meet the Head Teacher meeting – 4:30 – 5 – topic to be confirmed
Wednesday 30 th June	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. Reception to move to Y1 – Parents to be invited to join us at 2 p.m. Pre-School to move to Reception – Parents to be invited to join us at 2 p.m. (If attending this you do not need to attend the 'Meet the Teacher' on Monday night.)
Friday 2nd July	Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund, one per family
Friday 2nd July	Reports go out to all parents
Monday 5 th July	Y2 trip to Souter Lighthouse
Monday 5 th July	Parent Meetings for those parents who would like an appointment
Tuesday 6th July	Y1 trip to Souter Lighthouse
Wednesday 14 th July	Bastille Day – all to come in dressed in red, white and blue
Wednesday 14th July	Y6 Dress Rehearsal to Y1 – 6 and some parents (on request) – afternoon
Thursday 15 th July	Y6 Performance – evening – 6p.m.
Monday 19 th July	Thankyou tea for all who have helped us this year – 2:30 until 3:30 Y5 to prepare and serve.
Monday 19 th July	Y2 Moving on Assembly for their parents (9 a.m.)
Monday 19 th July	Leavers' Meal – 4:15 until 5:45
Tuesday 20th July	Lower School Fun Day / Craster Upper School Walk
Wed 21 st July	Y6 Leavers' Assembly for Y6 and their parents (9 a.m.) Last day of term
Wednesday 1 st Sept	Back to School

