

Dear Parents/Carers,

October 2018

As we approach the end of October I thought it was worth sending a brief newsletter to update you on a few things. We've had a very successful half term.

If you follow us on twitter you will have seen the great variety of experiences the children have had from Pre-School right through to Y6. These experiences include exploring shadows in Pre-School and autumn in Reception, learning and performing harvest poems and songs in Y1 and Y2, Y3 have been making their own Maman sculptures, Y4 helped weave our willow tree, Y5 have visited Grinton (Y5 parents don't forget the Slide Show this Friday) and Y6 have had the opportunity to learn more about Nissan's 'Monozukuri' or 'the art of making things' through attending an interactive workshop at Nissan. The children discovered what it takes to engineer and build a modern car as well as having the chance to design their own car and learn more about Japanese culture and Nissan's philosophy for constant improvement. This links extremely well with our Growth Mindset ethos and the understanding that we will achieve so much more through hard work and perseverance. Children are undertaking a monthly Growth Mindset challenge to help develop these skills.

The children may have also talked to you about their 'mindful breaths'. As a staff we have attended some Mindfulness training and we are introducing some of the strategies to the children, including the mindful breaths, to help children manage their feelings and responses to situations.

Finally, linked to the commemoration of the end of WW1, we are asking all children to bring in a plastic bottle. We are going to use these after half term to create poppy display. Thank you.

Please read on for more updates.

Kay Hemmings (Head Teacher)



Security and Safeguarding

We are always looking at ways to ensure children's safety when they are in school. Every term we have a Fire Drill so that children know what to expect and how to behave if we ever had cause to evacuate the building. The children always respond extremely well to this.

Next half term we will also do a drill if we ever needed 'lockdown' i.e. if we were made aware of a threat within the community, what we would do to make our school secure.

In addition to this we are going to make the school more secure at the beginning and end of the school day.

Once all children are in school and parents have left the grounds the top gate is locked and therefore the only way anyone can gain access to the school is via the main doors. However, before the gate has been locked adults can gain access to the Upper School building via the Upper School Hall door. I appreciate that this is convenient for parents if they are wanting to call at the office after having seen their child in to school. However, we have no way of monitoring this and so, from today onwards, please do not use this route to access the school office. If you wish to come to the office for any reason, please come to the main entrance.

When visitors come to school to collect children, either for an appointment during the day or to collect at the end of the day for a particular reason, we have allowed parents to come in and wait by the green seats. We have decided that we are going to change this procedure and so, from now onwards, anyone coming to collect children will be asked to wait in the entrance porch and children will be brought to them. We have looked into extending the entrance porch but, due to building constraints, have been unable to do this. We will look into having a canopy put over the entrance to extend the waiting area but, for now, adults will either have to wait in the porch or just wait outside.

Finally, if you do have to come to collect your child during the day, lunchtime can be a difficult time to locate children. Please allow extra time for this. Thank you.

Drop In sessions for Pre-School Parents

You will have received a letter this week for the Drop-In sessions next week – please return your booking slip as soon as possible to get your preferred time.



<https://parentzone.org.uk/advice/parent-guides>

If you are ever unsure about websites your child is accessing then this website could be a useful reference point for you. It gives you information about online games, social media and a lot more. Their mission is to improve outcomes for children in a digital world so:

Children will be safer online.

Children will be resilient enough to cope with the challenges of the online world.

Children will be educated for a digital future.



We now have just over 300 followers on twitter. If you are not one of them then you are missing out on weekly updates and activities in school – to follow us we are @TanfieldPrimary

Art Exhibition

If your children haven't already told you, you'll have seen on twitter that they have been very busy learning about a chosen artist, researching information about plastic pollution and then combining the two pieces of learning into their own art work. This will be exhibited on Thursday 18th October. It's a first for us and planning is going well.

You are invited to come and enjoy their art work from 2 p.m. on Thursday 18th October and the Friends of Tanfield Lea have kindly agreed to serve refreshments too. The children will remain in class as there will not be enough room for everyone in the hall.

Attendance

To date our attendance for this half term is 95.97%. You can see the break down below. 96% is the expected % attendance for all children. Currently we are just below this. Leave of Absence accounts for some of this absence. Please refrain from requesting absence during term time.

Don't forget, the children are off for 3 additional days in May (22nd, 23rd and 24th May) and booking holidays at this time can be cheaper and does not impact on attendance.

We monitor attendance on a half termly basis and where attendance drops below 95%, parents will be contacted, generally by a letter, to inform them of this. If the attendance continues to be of concern then a meeting may be arranged or further action taken.

Attendance Summary for period from 03 Sep 2018 - 04 Oct 2018

	Year R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	All Years
All	96.29%	96.19%	94.79%	97.38%	93.80%	97.53%	96.61%	95.97%

Parent Governor Vacancy

We have a vacancy for a Parent Governor on our Governing Body. The role of a school governor is to contribute to the work of the full governing body in ensuring high standards of achievement for all children in the school by:

- Setting the school's vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the Head Teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its children; and
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent

School governors provide strategic leadership and accountability in schools. They appoint the Head Teacher and Deputy Head Teacher and hold the responsibility for finance in schools, working with the Head Teacher to make the tough decisions about balancing resources.

Each individual governor is a member of the governing body and some sub committees. Decisions are the joint responsibility of the governing body.

The role of the governing body is a strategic one, its key functions are to:

- Set the aims and objectives for the school
- Set the policies for achieving those aims and objectives
- Set the targets for achieving those aims and objectives
- Monitor and evaluate the progress the school is making towards the achievement of its aims and objectives
- Be a source of challenge and support to the head teacher (a critical friend)

The commitment to this role would include attendance at the Full Governing Body Meeting once a term, attendance at at least one subcommittee meeting once a term for either the Achievement and Data, Teaching and Learning or Health and Safety and Safeguarding Groups in addition to attending Personnel or Finance meetings.

If you think you would like to put yourself forward for this role then please pick up an advert and nomination form from the office. Applications should be made by Wednesday 17th October 2018.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS – Autumn 2

After School Child Care runs every day from the end of the school day until 5:30. Children in Y1 and above can attend the CNS Sports Club as part of this. The CNS Booking Form must be used for this (already sent out)

As well as the CNS daily sports clubs, we do have other clubs on offer. The children will have already received letters for some of the clubs and others will be sent out in the coming weeks once they are ready to begin.

Monday	Choir	Y1 upwards - starting straight after half term	3.15 - 4.00
	CNS Sports Club - Small Ball Games	Lower School (not Reception)	3.15-4.15
Tuesday	CNS Sports Club - Multi-Sports	Lower School (not Reception)	3.15-4.15
Wednesday	CNS Sports Club - Hockey	Lower School (not Reception)	3.15-4.15
	Lingotots-Learn Spanish	Upper School Children	3:15 - 4:15
	French Club	Run by a Sixth Form Student from Durham Sixth Form	3:15 - 4:00
	German Club	For 15 children attending German visit in December	3:15 - 4:15
Thursday	Home Learning Club	By Invitation only - for KS2	3.15-4.15
	CNS Sports Club - Dodgeball	Lower School (not Reception)	3.15-4.15
	Dance/Gym Club	KS2-with view to compete at end of this half term	3:15-4:15
Friday	CNS Sports Club - Apparatus	Lower School (not Reception)	3.15-4.15
Young Leaders Training for Y6 is taking place on a Thursday lunch time			

School Data Summary

All schools have performance data for the end of each Key Stage. We publish this data on our website and the 2018 data will be accessible there by the end of this week. In the meantime I thought you would be interested in seeing a summary here. The four national data collection points are the end of Reception, Y1 Phonics, the end of KS1 and the end of KS2. Our school data is compared with the national data as well as evidence of the progress made from end of Reception to KS1 and then progress from KS1 to KS2.

As a whole cohort (group), our children generally come in to school at a standard below the national average. By the time they leave us at the end of Key Stage 2 the cohort are at or, in some cases, above the national average which indicates good progress. The data below shows attainment (what the children achieved) at the key points in the primary school year. What it doesn't show is the progress made from starting points.

As a general rule, children in our school make at least good progress during their time with us.

Data for 2018 is as follows:-

End of Reception – 67% of our children made a Good Level of Development. National last year was 71%. (There is no verified data for 2018 for any Key Stage yet).

Phonics Test - 88% of our Y1 children reached the required standard (National in 2017 was 81%)

End of Key Stage 1 -

May 2018 % A.R.E. (expected) 39 children	School % @ ARE	National ARE (2017)	School % Working at Greater Depth	National % Working at Greater Depth (2017)
Reading	67%	76%	23%	25%
Writing	67%	68%	21%	16%
Maths	69%	75%	21%	21%

End of Key Stage 2 (National for 2018 in brackets - provisional)

% A.R.E. (expected)	Reading	Writing	Maths	GPS
All 37 children	84% (75%)	73% (78%)	78% (76%)	84% (78%)
% Higher (Greater Depth)				
All 37 children	32% (28%)	24% (20%)	27% (24%)	46% (34%)

Reading, Writing and Maths Combined at the end of KS2

In 2018, 68% of children achieved the expected standard in all three of Reading, Writing and Maths. This is above the National figure of 64%.

14% of children achieved a high score (a scaled score of 110+) in all three of Reading, Writing and Maths. This is above the National figure of 10%.



Don't forget – if you are clearing any toys, games etc. out prior to Christmas, if you have any that you think may be useful for OPAL, please let us know and bring them in.

Tanfield Lea Toddler Group

This is a small, friendly group who meet on Wednesday mornings during term time, 9:30 a.m. until 11 a.m. at our local Community Centre. It's £1.50 per child and includes a drink and snack. Parents, Carers, Grandparents - all are welcome.

Dates for your Diary	
Autumn 2018	
Monday 15th October	Football Matches – Girls - @ home Drop in Session for Pre-School Parents – 3:10 until 5:10
Tuesday 16th Oct	Y6 Multi Skills Festival @ Tanfield
Wednesday 17th Oct	Football Matches – Boys - @ home Drop in Session for Pre-School Parents – 3:10 until 5:10
Thursday 18th Oct	2 p.m. onwards – Art Exhibition in Lower School Hall – All parents invited to attend to view the children's art work. Friends to provide refreshments.
Friday 19th Oct	Tag Rugby Competition (YEAR 3/4), Cross Country & ABCs (Year 4s) @ Brandon
HALF TERM	Monday 22nd Oct to Friday 26th Oct

Monday 29th Oct	Y6 away at Howtown all week
Friday 2nd Nov	Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund – one per family
Thursday 8th Nov	Flu Vaccine for Reception, Y1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 to take place today – more information later
Friday 9th Nov	Commemorative Event led by Councillors re end of WW1 – more info later CNS Sports – Recognising Disabilities – Sports Activities for whole school
Tuesday 13th Nov	Stay and Play for Reception – p.m. session (1:10-3:10) to be offered - Curriculum and, in particular, Maths focus this time.
Wednesday 14th Nov	Stay and Play for Reception–a.m. (9-11) and p.m. (1:10-3:10) session to be offered
Friday 16th Nov	Fundraising Event organised by the School Council
Wednesday 21st Nov	Class Photos
Monday 3rd Dec	PARENT MEETINGS (Whole School) – 3.15pm until 5.30pm
Tuesday 4th Dec	PARENT MEETINGS (Whole School) – 3.15pm until 5.30pm
Friday 7th Dec	Non School Uniform Day – FREE DAY as asking for cakes in 2 weeks
Sunday 9th Dec	Choir to sing at Ecumenical Carol Service – Tanfield Club
Week Beg 10th Dec	Enterprise Week for Christmas Fair – all classes to take part in this enterprise week: planning, designing and making items/activitie for the Fair
Monday 10th Dec	Christmas Performance by Early Years (Pre-School and Reception) for parents – 9.15
Tuesday 11th Dec	Y5 Multi Skills Festival @ Tanfield
Wednesday 12th Dec	Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity Performance for Parents - 9.30 a.m. Christmas Dinner All children to come dressed in their Christmas Jumper/Christmas themed clothing. Pre School Bumblebee and Ladybird children are invited to join us for this special lunch today. (Caterpillars will already be staying)
Thurs 13th–16th Dec	Groups of Y5 and Y6 children to visit Germany – UK/German Connection Project
Thursday 13th Dec	Christmas Performance by Early Years (Pre-School and Reception) for parents – 9.15 a.m. Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity Performance for parents – 1.30 p.m.
Friday 14th Dec	Y1/2 Hockey Competition, Dance/Gym (KS2) and ABCs meeting @ Tanfield
Monday 17th Dec	Y3 and Y4 Class Party – 1 pm until 3.15 pm in Upper School Hall
Tuesday 18th Dec	Northern Stage Production ‘A Christmas Carol’ – Y1 to Y6 to attend a.m. Big Foot Theatre Production for PS and Rec in school this morning ‘The Clumsiest Christmas Elf’ – 9:45 until 10:30
Wednesday 19th Dec	Santa 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 Y1 and Y2 Class Party 1 until 3.05 Y5 and Y6 Class Party 1 until 3.15pm
Thursday 20th Dec	Extra Non School Uniform Day - Children to dress up on a Christmas theme – please bring cake in for cake stall All children involved in Carol Service to go to church for a rehearsal this morning Early Years Class Parties today (a.m and p.m.) – Due to numbers the children will either be at the party in the morning or the afternoon. Christmas Fair – 3.15pm until 4.30pm in Upper School All children to finish school at 3.00pm today to allow Fair to start at 3.15pm.
Friday 21st Dec	FAMILY CAROL SERVICE – a.m. for all children and parents at St. Margaret’s Church, Tanfield Village. Children able to go home following this. Christmas holidays start at the end of today.
BACK TO SCHOOL	Monday 7th January 2019