

Dear Parents,

March 2019

We are rapidly approaching the end of this term so I thought it timely to write again, reminding you of some of the events before Easter and an update on other activities that have happened recently.

All the activities in this coming week have already been promoted in previous newsletters.

Thanks to everyone who returned the Parent Questionnaire recently. We are still analysing them and will share a summary at the start of the summer term as well as publishing our responses to all your comments on the website. Our winning questionnaire in the prize draw was Grace's parents (Reception). Well done to them and they have won a £10 Amazon voucher. I hope you find this newsletter useful and informative and I wish you a Happy Easter on behalf of all of our staff.

Kay Hemmings (Head Teacher)



## Preschool Places

If you, or any of your friends and family members, have a child who has just turned 3 years old or will do so before the end of August, then you are eligible to apply for a Pre-School place from September 2019. If you have not submitted an application yet, please request a form from the office and return it before the Easter holidays as we will be confirming places at the end of May.

## Fundraising for Comic Relief

Thank you for your support with our national fundraising for Comic Relief. Through voluntary contributions and the purchase of red noses we raised a massive £311.47 for this charity. That's an amazing amount. Well done everyone.



Our last charity fundraising event for this academic year will be on Friday 7th June and is in aid of **Dementia Friends**. This is a growing concern in many communities and an illness that affects many families. As well as the fundraising (we'll be asking children to wear non-school uniform but this time back to front) Y3 and Y4 are going to be involved directly in some work with the Health and Wellbeing staff from Beamish Museum. This will include a KS2 Assembly to raise general awareness followed by a day of activities for the Y3 and Y4 children. A small group of children will be chosen to visit some adults who are suffering from dementia and work alongside them, at Beamish Museum. This will give them an even greater insight into dementia, what it's like to live with it and how they can turn that understanding into supportive action.

**Football Success** Well done to the Year 5/6 football team who continue to excel. They finished 3rd in the County 5-a-side finals (what an achievement) and are fighting hard to win the league as well!



## Playground use before and after school

Some parents on the questionnaires commented that there is sometimes some play equipment left on the school yard that can be a tripping hazard for parents and younger children coming at pick up time.

We have realised that sometimes children have been accessing equipment during the lower school afternoon break and have left this lying around. As a result of this we have reminded all staff and children that the OPAL equipment is just for lunchtime, then it is tidied away. Not all of it is locked up and when younger siblings are coming at the start of the day or at pick up time they too have been accessing these toys e.g. items from the sand pit, pieces of piping, and have then left some of these lying around. In addition to this I have seen some young children climbing on top of the little houses. Can I ask that when you come to drop off/pick up you ensure that any younger children, and indeed your school age children, do not play on any of the equipment other than the log play - and even then, only when they are supervised by you. Please ensure that they are not playing with any equipment that has been left out in the areas and that they are not climbing on any of the structures. This should help us to ensure that everyone is safe. Thanks.

## Celebrating our school in the community

I am sure you will now all have seen our striking piece of art work on the front of the school. It celebrates some of the many things our school offers – I have no doubt that you'll have spotted among other things the Learning Dip, our sports focus, love of the arts, thirst for learning and the fact that we aim to develop resilient and determined learners. Our thanks to Graeme Hopper – Artist, Designer, Sculptor – for creatively putting into metal some of the many things we offer to our children.



We now have 387 followers on twitter. It really is a great way to keep in touch with what is happening across the school and comment on this. It's a powerful forum to share children's work. We are **@TanfieldPrimary** Some parents have asked on the questionnaire if we could share via other medium. We have found that twitter is quick, very accessible for everyone (it's just a case of downloading the App and signing up) and safe and so this will be the medium we will continue to use.



## Money in School

Please don't send any money in to school unless it is in an envelope clearly marked with your child's name, their class, how much money you have enclosed and what it is for. As you can imagine, we have a lot of money coming in to school on a daily basis and this will ensure we can keep track of it all. Parent Questionnaires indicated resoundingly that parents would like an on-line payment system, so we are now exploring all possibilities to put a system in place as soon as possible.



## Easter Celebration Service

On Wednesday all children from Y3 to Y6, plus the choir members in Y1 and Y2, will be taking part in an Easter Celebration Service at St. Margaret's Church.

Our first service like this was last year and as it was so successful we thought it should become one of our many Tanfield traditions. As stated in our last newsletter we hope that many parents will be able to join us for this. We are anticipating beginning the service as close to 1:30 p.m. as possible. We

will be having an early lunch for KS2 children. All children will then walk to the church and the service will begin once we are all in position – hence the approximate start time. Once the service is finished children whose parents are in attendance will be able to go home with them. The rest of the children will walk back to school for the end of the school day.

If you are not able to attend the service then please make the usual arrangements for your child at the end of the day.

We will endeavour to be back to school for 3:10. Please bear with us if we are little late.

The choir, musicians and children who are reciting poetry will go to the church that morning for a rehearsal. We are then going to take the opportunity to share our children's talent in the community by taking some of the performers to Stanley Park Care Home to share our Easter Celebration with the residents before returning to school for lunch.

We will text the parents of the children who will be taking part in this next week.

## Egg Decorating

It's our annual Egg Decorating Competition next Thursday.

Lower School children are to bring their pre-decorated egg into school that morning.

The Upper School children will bring their undecorated boiled eggs (always worth bringing some spare ones) in to school that day, plus any resources they would like to use to assist them in their decorating.

Parents of the Upper School children are welcome to come in to school first thing that morning and assist with the egg decorating in class.

Don't forget about the competition for parents – you are very welcome to decorate your own egg and enter the parent competition – all eggs to be submitted on the Thursday morning too. Thank you.

The Friends are holding their Easter Coffee Afternoon that afternoon – Thursday 4th April – giving all parents the chance to view the decorated eggs, hear the school choir sing again, draw the Easter Raffle and enjoy a chat with friends. The Coffee Afternoon will start at 2 p.m. and will finish in time for the end of the school day. Children do not attend this one, other than the choir members to sing.



### Additional Dates for your Diary to those already listed on previous newsletters:-

23<sup>rd</sup> April – Y5 from Mr Temple's to attend Robotics sessions (5 weeks every Tuesday afternoon) then 5E to attend from 4<sup>th</sup> June (more information to go out to Mr Temple's Y5 children before Easter).

24th April – Pre-School to all visit Hall Hill Farm

10th May (afternoon) – Mini Miners' Gala at St. Margaret's Church for Y4 children

20th May – House of Cards Growth Mindset Activity for parents and children – approx. 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. All welcome

13th June – Y6 Leavers' Assembly at Durham Cathedral

13th June – Reception Visit to the Great North Museum

5th July – Possible Family Camping Night on school grounds – more information after Easter.

### The rest of the dates for this term are:-

Monday 1st April	All Stars Cricket Roadshow today for Y1, Y2 and Y3 <i>At least half of money for Grinton to be paid by today</i>
Tuesday 2nd April	Y3 Multi Sports Festival @ Brandon
Tuesday 2nd April	Hot Chocolate Reward – for all children in KS2 who have lost no privilege time this half term.
Wednesday 3rd April	Rehearsal for main children involved in Easter service to take place from about 9:30 and then some of the children to go to Stanley Park Care Home to perform too. <b>KS2 Easter Celebration – through music and poetry in St. Margaret's Church</b> We hope all parents of children involved will be able to join us for this special service – starting between 1:30 and 1:45. <i>Children will walk to the church after lunch.</i>
Thursday 4th April	<b>Egg Decorating</b> Lower School children to bring decorated egg in to 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 morning – from 8:50 a.m. <b>Friends Coffee Afternoon 2 p.m.</b> –School Choir to sing, plus viewing of all decorated eggs, raffle draw etc.
Friday 5th April	Non School Uniform Day – <b>this is a free one this month</b> Y1/2 Football Competition, KS2 Dodgeball and ABCs @ Brandon
<b>EASTER HOLIDAYS</b>	<b>Monday 8th April to Monday 22nd April inclusive.</b> <b>Everyone back to school on Tuesday 23rd April.</b>