

Dear Parents/Carers,

December 2019

The term seems to have gone by very quickly and it is now December with all the activities and celebrations this month brings. You'll start hearing carols being sung at home, readings being rehearsed and the children will be looking forward to the additional treats this month brings. We will, of course, also be continuing to ensure that the children continue to work right through to the last week – making the most of all curriculum time.



Our Family Carol Service is on Friday 20th December. We encourage as many families to attend this. Our Key Stage 2 children will lead it along with our choir and other musicians. The church does get full. Last year, for the first time, the congregation were quite noisy with a number of children unsettled or allowed to talk. It is a service and we want the children who are participating to be able to be heard. If you bring younger children please ensure that they do not impact negatively on the service. Thank you for your consideration with this and I know all who are there will appreciate it.

With regard to organisation, ideally all children will meet at the church that morning rather than coming to school – Lower School children to go in to church with their parents (unless in the choir) and Upper School children, instrumentalists and all choir members to meet in the church hall, opposite the church, to assemble before going into church together. After the service children will be able to go home and start their Christmas holidays a little earlier.

If you are not able to attend then we need to know so that we can arrange for your child to be taken to the church. You will receive a letter this week. Please read and return to school as soon as possible.

We look forward to seeing you at our Christmas Fair and our Carol Service and take this opportunity to wish you a very Merry Christmas.

Kay Hemmings (Head Teacher)



74.6% of parents are now using the **Schoolcomms app**. However to ensure we get best value for money we need to have 100% of parents on it. Every text that is **not** sent via this app costs us money – money we'd rather be spending on the children directly. If you have not managed to get on the app it is likely that it is your email address that is causing the problem. If you have not been using the app can I ask you to get in touch with school as soon as you read this to ensure we have an email/the right email address for you so that you can get this activated. Thank you.



Parking outside of school of school continues to be a concern.

We have adults who are parking on the double yellow lines and the zig-zag lines. The road markings are there to ensure that children and adults walking to school are safe. If adults park on these then they are endangering the lives of our school community. Traffic wardens have been monitoring the area and fines have been issued but we need to ensure that every day we do not park in these areas.

In addition to this we have some adults who do a U turn in the road, mounting the kerb on the opposite side of the road. This may save the adult time but, more importantly, it is potentially putting others at risk. Finally, we still have adults accessing the Staff Car Park. This is, as stated, a Staff Car Park and therefore no-one should be driving into the car park – even if just to turn round – unless they have permission, for specific reasons, to do so.

I urge you to consider the above and ensure that you drive safely.



County Durham
Community Foundation

Thanks to the funding from the County Durham Community Foundation, Stanley Community Fund, fifteen children from Y5 and 6 will be visiting Germany from 12th December with five Y11 students from Tanfield School. They will visit a

school in Tübingen and the Christmas Markets there – using their recently learnt German to interact with the local people. They'll also visit the Ritter Sport Factory and attend a Chocoartists Workshop. It's a very exciting opportunity for them and is representative of what our school aims to do in all of its work - 'Opening Doors, Enriching Lives'.

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.



Art Exhibition – The Amazon Rainforest Thanks to all who attended this. The children represented the beauty of the rainforest as well as the environmental concerns extremely well, inspired by a variety of artists.

Parent Governor Vacancy We had two vacancies for Parent Governor and received 2 nominations. I am therefore pleased to say that Mr Vin Johnson (Y6 parent) and Mr Philip Davidge (Y2, Rec and Pre-School parent) will join our Governing Body.

Attendance Policy The Attendance Policy has been updated on the School Website. It states clearly our processes in supporting good attendance. Please read for further information. Lateness is an important part of our attendance procedure. Any child late after registration closes (9:15) is marked as attending but the U coding is used which means that the child loses their attendance mark for that session and this is classed as an unauthorised absence. This reinforces how important it is to be in school on time.



Preschool Places

Just a further reminder regarding next year, if you – or any of your friends or 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 2020. If you have not submitted an application yet, please request a form from the office and return it as soon as possible as we will be confirming places at the end of May.

Non School Uniform Day This Friday (6th Dec) we'd like to request Tombola gifts for the Christmas Fair from all children in the Upper School. Lower School can have this as a 'free' non-school uniform day as we'd like them to bring in a cake on the day of the Christmas Fair (Wednesday 18th December). Thanks in advance.



The following page lists most of the main events in school up until Christmas. It's important that you keep a copy so that you can keep up to date with what is happening in school. You can find the dates for the rest of the year on the September newsletter, which is on the school website.

Dates for your Diary		Autumn 2019
Friday 6th Dec	Non School Uniform Day – Upper School to bring in a tombola gift. Lower School not to bring anything in today as we'd like cakes for the Christmas Fair to be brought in on Weds 18th Dec.	
Sunday 8th Dec 5:30	Choir to sing at Ecumenical Carol Service – Tanfield Club (TBC)	
Week Beg 9th Dec	Enterprise Week for Christmas Fair – all children to take part in this project in classes; planning and making things to sell at the Fair	
Monday 9th Dec	Christmas Performance by Early Years (Pre-School and Reception) for all parents – 9.15	
Tuesday 10th Dec	Y5 Multi Skills Festival @ Tanfield	
Wednesday 11th Dec	Lego Robotics League Tournament – Group of Y5/6 to compete in this Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity Performance for Parents - 9.30 a.m. Christmas Dinner ALL CHILDREN TO COME DRESSED IN THEIR CHRISTMAS JUMPER TODAY or other Christmas clothing. Pre School Bumblebee and Ladybird children are invited to join us for this special lunch today. (Caterpillars will already be staying)	
Thursday 12th 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. Germany Visit to Tübingen Christmas Market – Group of Y5/6 to attend this visit (Thursday 12th December to Sunday 15th December).	
Friday 13th Dec	Y1/2 Hockey Competition, Dance/Gym (KS2) and ABCs meeting @ Tanfield	
Sat/Sunday 14/15th	Visit to Tübingen – children return on Sunday night	
Monday 16th Dec	Y5 and Y6 Party – 1 pm until 3.15 pm in Upper School Hall	
Tuesday 17th 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 Party 1 until 3.05. Y3 and Y4 Party 1 until 3.15pm	
Wednesday 18th Dec	Extra Non School Uniform Day - Children to dress up on a Christmas theme – Lower School please bring cake in for cake stall. Free for Upper School today. All children involved in Carol Service to go to church for a rehearsal this morning Early Years Parties today (Pre-School a.m. and Reception p.m.) Ladybirds need to be in school in the morning today and not the afternoon (just for today) 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.	
Thursday 19th Dec	Northern Stage Production 'The Snow Queen' – Y1 to Y6 to attend a.m. Big Foot Theatre Production for Pre-School and Rec in school this afternoon 'The Littlest Christmas Elf' – 1:30 until 2:15	
Friday 20th 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. NO PRE-SCHOOL today	
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS	Monday 23rd Dec to Friday 3rd January	
Monday 6th January	Back to School	