



Dear Parents,

First of all, thank you for your understanding yesterday with regard to the weather conditions. We always make every attempt to remain open and yesterday was no exception. We thought if we could delay the start of the school day, asking you to bring the children for 10:30 a.m., then by that point the conditions would have changed. However, roads

continued to be grid locked and it became clear that there were not enough staff able to get in to school at a reasonable time to be able to open school safely.

If we have any further wintry weather we will continue to try to remain open but will keep you informed, via the Schoolgateway App.

This week we have Parent Meetings – today and tomorrow – so we look forward to seeing you in school at some point. With this newsletter you will have also received our Parent Questionnaire. We look forward to receiving your responses to this to help us celebrate the good things and consider ways we could get even better!

Please read on for more information about events that have happened or upcoming activities.

As ever it's important to save the 'Dates for your Diary' pages as these inform you of the upcoming events. If you lose this, don't forget you can always find a copy on our website.

Kay Hemmings (Head Teacher)



**Tanfield's Got Talent** was held on 5th February and the audience is never disappointed. Once again we had a high quality variety show – dancing, singing, magic, tap, a pianist... it was a great night which was enjoyed by all. This was followed exactly a week later with a performance at the **Gala Theatre in Durham**. All of our Y3 children joined forces with the Y3s from Brandon and Langley Moor primary schools to perform 6 songs. They sang with energy and enthusiasm and delighted the audience. It was also an opportunity to showcase our ukulele ensemble, school choir and two performances from Tanfield's Got Talent. You may have seen accounts of the evening in the Northern Echo and our local Advertiser. Well done to everyone involved – it takes confidence and grit to perform in such a big venue.

**Gareth P Jones – Author and Entertainer – will be visiting us on Monday 2nd March. He'll spend the day in school sharing stories, songs and many more things...**



His books will be the focus for our creative week linked with World Book Day. As in previous years we will not be asking the children to dress up, instead we will be focusing on Gareth's stories to inspire the children in their reading and writing.

The week beginning 2nd March will be our Book Fair as well and the children will all receive a £1 World Book Day Voucher that

they can use to pay towards any Book Fair book. We will also have some of Gareth's books to sell on Monday (prices ranging from £5 to £7) but it will not be possible to use the £1 vouchers to purchase these.

**Tanfield's Got News**

Yes – we now have our own school newspaper thanks to a team of hard working Y6 children assisted by one of our governors – Mrs Robson. It's available on our website. It'd be great if you could find time to take a look. We're also leaving a couple of copies in our entrance way. Keep a look out for them.



Our charity for this term is **Sport Relief** on Friday 13th March. The School Council are meeting this week to decide what activity they would like to do to raise money on this day. More information soon.

**We continue to monitor attendance regularly. You may have received a text, letter or have been invited in for a meeting if we have any concerns regarding your child's attendance. Our attendance % half way through the year is a healthy 96.16%. The children know getting over 96% is our target so we hope we can sustain and even improve on that.**



## Easter Celebration Service



Once again this April our Upper School children will be celebrating Easter through music and poetry at St. Margaret's Church. The service will take place on Thursday 2nd April starting at approximately 1:30 and will last about an hour. All Upper School children, and children in Y2 who are in the choir, will have an early lunch and then walk to the church. 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. We hope we are lucky with the weather, as we have been in previous years and hope you can join us for this service.

The choir, musicians and children who are reciting poetry will go to the church that morning for a rehearsal. As in previous years 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 some of our Easter Celebration with the residents before returning to school for lunch. More information will be given to parents of the children involved nearer the time.

## Preschool Places

Don't forget you can still apply for a Pre-School place at our school. 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 free 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 by the end of May.

 **Don't forget – you can find us on twitter - @TanfieldPrimary – where you can follow many of the things that happen in school on a daily basis.**

**Open Morning** – We are going to hold an Open Morning for all parents who have expressed an interest in their child starting in our Reception in September. An invitation letter will be sent out shortly. This is particularly important for families who are not currently associated with our school and may not have been to look round. We feel it's important that parents should come to visit to see exactly what we have to offer.

## SPORTS COMPETITIONS

If you do follow us on twitter you will have seen that we took part in the Swimming Gala at the Louisa Centre. The children showed real competitive spirit and came a commendable 5th place. Our Y5/6 High Five Team were also successful this half term, beating Brandon and Langley Moor to win the trophy and our After School Golf Club really enjoyed their competition too. Well done to everyone.



### Year 6 Swimming

It is our aim for all children to be able to swim 25 metres by the time they leave primary school. All children get the chance to swim during Y3 and Y4 and until now, they have not had chance to swim again. This year we have booked a slot at the Louisa Centre after May half term to give the Y6 children the opportunity if they can't already swim 25 m, to do so before the time they leave us. All Y6 children will attend the first session to be assessed and then after that a target group will attend every week until the end of term with the aim of reaching the swimming expectations for the end of KS2.

### Race for Life

Tanfield School have invited our Y4 and Y5 children to take part in their 'Race for Life' in aid of Cancer Research UK. It's on Thursday 5th March and will be a sponsored event. A letter and sponsor form will be sent home with the children this week.



*The following pages list most of the main events in school throughout the year. It's important that you keep a copy so that you can keep up to date with what is happening in school. Don't forget, you can also find all our newsletters on the school website.*

*We have added some dates – where there are changes the date has been highlighted in grey.*

## Dates for your Diary

Tues&Weds 25/26th Feb	<b>Parent Meetings – 3:15 until 5:30</b>
Monday 2nd March	BOOK FAIR this week <b>Author Visit – Gareth P. Jones –will be visiting us today</b> <b>Special Stimulus Week</b> –Theme to be decided linked with World Book Day.
Tuesday 3rd March	Mrs Morning’s Class to attend robotics session at Tanfield School – today and 17th March p.m.
Thursday 5th March	World Book Day (We will <b>not</b> be asking children to dress up as book characters. Our whole week will have a reading focus) Y4 and Y5 to take part in the Race for Life event at Tanfield School – 9:15 until 11:55
Friday 6th March	Non School Uniform Day – <b>this will be a free one because of Sport Relief next week</b>
Tuesday 10th March	Stay and Play for Reception – afternoon session (1:30 until 3:10) SATs meeting for all parents of children in Y6 – 5 p.m.
Wednesday 11th March	Stay and Play for Reception – morning (9:00 until 10:30) and afternoon session (1:30 until 3:10) Football Matches for boys tonight @ Delves Lane
Friday 13th March	Fundraising Event for Sport Relief organised by the School Council
Wednesday 18th March	Football Matches for boys tonight @ St. Pats
Thursday 19th March	Slideshow for children who went on the visit to Tübingen, Germany – 9 a.m. – Parents welcome
Late March - date TBC	Y5 and 6 are hoping to book a trip to Durham for late March related to the Vikings–date to be confirmed
Friday 20th March	<b>CNS Healthy Living Morning</b> – children doing activities all morning Non School Uniform Day – Easter Egg Donation for the Easter Raffle
Monday 23rd March	<b>Half of Grinton payment to be made by today please</b>
Tuesday 24th March	Y3 and Y4 to visit Beamish Museum
Friday 27th March	Opening Morning for prospective parents of children due to start Reception in September – 9:30 – 11:00
Tuesday 31st March	Y3 Multi Sports Festival @ Brandon All Star Cricket Roadshow for Y1, Y2 and Y3 children during the day Mr Temple’s Class to attend 3 robotics session at Tanfield School–31st Mar/28th April/12th May p.m.
Wednesday 1st 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 a.m. <b>Y3/4 parents to be invited to stay after this for a cup of tea and a Tommy Armstrong sing song.</b> <b>Friends Coffee Afternoon 2 p.m.</b> –School Choir to sing, plus viewing of all decorated eggs
Thursday 2nd April	Rehearsal for main children involved in the 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.
Friday 3rd April	Non School Uniform Day – this will be a free one due to Easter Egg Donation. Y1/2 Football Competition, KS2 Dodgeball and ABCs @ Brandon. <b>Break up for the Easter Holidays</b>
<b>EASTER HOLIDAYS</b>	<b>Monday 6th April to Friday 17th April</b>
Monday 20th April	<b>Back to School</b>
Wednesday 22nd April	Pre-School visit to Hall Hill Farm
Thursday 23rd April	Howtown Slideshow for Y6 children and parents – please come for a 9 am. start
Thursday 30th April	Y4 to attend sample lessons at Tanfield School – 9:15 until 11:30
Friday 1st May	Non School Uniform Day–please send in a donation for school fund (one per family) Reception to visit the Great North Museum
Monday 4th May	KS1 SATs to start this week Y5 to attend sample lessons at Tanfield School – 9:15 until 11:30
Wednesday 6th May	Pre-School Stay & Play a.m. and p.m. for parents of children who joined us in Jan or April 2020 only.
<b>Friday 8th May</b>	<b>BANK HOLIDAY FRIDAY</b>
Monday 11th May	<b>Y6 SATs WEEK and School Assessment for the rest of the school</b> It is very important that you <b>do not</b> book a holiday for this week or for the weeks leading up to it. <b>Requests will not be authorised and absence will impact on your child’s attainment.</b>
Monday 11th May	<b>Half of Howtown payment to be made by today please</b>
Friday 15th May	Y3/4 Cricket Competition, Y1/2 Athletics and ABCs @ Brandon Mini Miner’s Gala @ St. Margaret’s Church – Y4 to be involved in this 1:30 until 3:15
Tuesday 19th May	Y1 Multi Skills Festival @ Langley Moor

	School Council to organise a fundraising for a charity today	
Wednesday 20th May	<b>TEACHER TRAINING DAY – no children in school today</b>	
<b>HALF TERM</b>	<b>Wednesday 20th May to Friday 29th May</b>	
Monday 1st June	<b>Back to School. SPORTS WEEK – various activities encouraging healthy, active living.</b>	
Tuesday 2nd June	Sponsored Bike Ride – 3:15 until 6 p.m. From Tanfield to Leadgate and back.	
Wednesday 3rd June	Upper School Sports Day – from about 9:15 onwards PS and Rec Sports Day – 1 until about 1:30 KS1 Sports Day – 1:45 onwards. (Alternative date in case of bad weather – Thursday 4th June)	
Thursday 4th June	All of Y6 to go to the Louise Centre for swimming assessment – 1:30 until 3:15 (Lesson 2:00-2:45)	
Friday 5th June	Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund <b>CNS Active Morning – Y1 to Y6 involved in active activities all morning</b>	
Monday 8th June	<b>Phonics Testing Week – Y1 &amp; those Y2 children who did not reach the required standard last year.</b> <b>Multiplication Test Window opens for 3 weeks for Y4 children</b>	
Tuesday 9th June	Y6 to attend Leavers' Service at Durham Cathedral	
Wednesday 10th June	Full Governing Body Meeting – 9:15 a.m.	
Thursday 11th June	Meeting for new parents (new Reception children) 4 p.m. in Lower School Hall – no children to attend this Y6 targeted children to attend swimming lesson for next 6 weeks at this time (Lesson 2:00 – 2:45) Sleepover with Brandon for Y6 – starting at 7 p.m.	
Friday 12th June	Activity Day at Brandon Primary for Y5 and Y6 <b>In It Together Conference for Y4 children at Spennymoor Leadership Centre.</b> Joint event with Y4 children from Brandon Primary School	
Tuesday 16th June	New Reception children and their parents to visit – 3:30 until 4:30	
Wednesday 17th June	New Reception children visits (children starting in September 2020) Pre-School Transition Visits	
Wednesday 24th June	New Reception children visits (children starting in September 2020) Pre-School Transition Visits	
Friday 26th June	Letters to go out to all children re classes for next year	
Monday 29th June	Transition Day for Tanfield School	Children move to new class second lesson today <b>MEET YOUR CHILD'S NEW TEACHER MEETINGS</b> Choice of two meetings - 3:30 or 4:45
Tuesday 30th June	Transition Day for Tanfield School	
Wednesday 1st July	Transition Day for Tanfield School	Transition afternoon for Rec children moving to Y1 and their parents (parent invited to attend from 1 p.m.)
Weds 1st July @5:15	<b>Grinton Meeting</b> for all parents of children in Y4 who are going on the residential in September	
Friday 3rd July	Non School Uniform Day–please send in a donation for school fund (1 per family) <b>Reports go out to parents</b>	
Monday 6th July	<b>Drop in Session</b> for all parents to look at children's work as well as opportunity for informal chat with teacher if desired – 3:30 to 4:30	
Tuesday 7th July	Y2 Multi Sports Festival @ Langley Moor	
Friday 10th July	Y5/6 Athletics Competition, Y3 Maths Challenge Team and ABCs @ Brandon – all day	
Monday 13th July	Dress Rehearsal for Y6 Performance this afternoon – approx. 1:30 3:30 p.m. Thank you tea for all who have helped and supported the school this year Y6 Leavers' Meal – 4:45 until 5:45 at local venue	
Tuesday 14th July	6 p.m. Y6 Evening Performance	
Thursday 16th July	Y2 Moving on Assembly – Parents welcome – approx. 9:15 start	
Friday 17th July	Y6 Leavers' Celebration Assembly approx. 9 a.m. start – Parents welcome Upper School to go to Oakies Park following Assembly	
Monday 20th July	Lower School Fun Day	Upper School Walk from Craster to Embleton <b>3:15 - Summer Holidays begin</b>
<b>Tuesday 1st September</b>	<b>Back to school</b>	
<b>INSET DAYS 2020-2021</b>	<b>Teacher Training Days next year (when the children are not in) are 19th and 20th November 2020 and 26th, 27th and 28th May 2021.</b>	