



Dear Parents and Carers

March 2021

It's been lovely to have a full school again. The children have clearly been excited to be back and have loved seeing their friends again. I am sure it's been a great relief to you all too to have them back in school and into that daily routine.

It was great to welcome the poet Joshua Seigal to our school virtually on Tuesday. He did a session with all the children - they oohed, they ahhed, they laughed, they guessed the rhyming words and they wrote their own poems. They really enjoyed it.

As we only have 3 weeks before the Easter break we're keen to get the children settled back into a consistent daily routine but we thought they would still enjoy doing our traditional Easter Egg Decorating Competition. We'd like Lower School to decorate their eggs at home and bring them in to school on Thursday 25th March. On the same day we'd like Upper School children to bring in at least two hard boiled eggs along with any resources they'd like to use to decorate their egg. They'll have some time during the morning to decorate these. We'll share all their creations via our YouTube channel and there'll be a winner selected for each year group.

Our Upper School children will be taking part in our Easter Celebration – a combination of poems and hymns with a special message from Rev. Andy Miller. We'll be recording this and then we'll share it on Friday 26th March at 4 p.m. via YouTube.

Educational visits

It had been our plan to take children from Y1 to Y6 to Beamish instead of going to the theatre at Christmas. As you know, this was not possible and the moment has past now.

Currently Educational Visits are not permitted but if they are possible by July we do have some plans.

It is our intention to take the Upper School (Y3 to Y6) to Craster to complete our walk from there to Embleton, via Dunstanburgh Castle on the penultimate day of term.

Y2 are hoping to organise a visit to the beach as part of their Holidays topic towards the end of term too.

Finally Y1 would like to take their classes to Kirkley Hall Zoological Gardens, linking with their Rainforest topic.

There will be a charge for these visits. The cost of transport appears to have increased significantly and this will be the main cost of the visits.

Many of you have paid for Beamish so I would like to ask that you leave that money with us and we will transfer it over for these trips.

Residential Visits

Current Y6 – Sadly it is not going to be possible for our Y6 to have a residential experience.

However we do plan to do something exciting with them before the end of the year. I can't say any more than that at the moment as I am waiting for places to open to be able to make a booking. If all goes to plan, it will involve a bus journey to a place where the children can experience some outdoor and adventurous activities. As soon as I know more I'll contact our Y6 parents directly. So if you are still happy to leave the Howtown money with us, it will fund that experience.



Current Y5 – We have got our booking for Howtown and deposits have been paid. If you can continue to chip away at the total cost, making payments whenever you can, that's the best way to manage this.

Current Y4 – We have a booking for Grinton Youth Hostel for Tuesday 28th September to Friday 1st October 2021. I will be working out costings for this visit and sending parents a letter regarding this very soon. We hope that this visit will be able to take place.

YouTube Channel

We will continue to use our school channel to share events e.g. Easter Celebration for Upper School and whole school Easter Egg Decorating.

After School Clubs

Spanish Club – this will resume the first week back after Easter for children in Y3 – Y6. A letter will follow soon and if your child would like to attend, please book as explained on the letter.

School Council – Our School Council will meet again from the first Thursday back after Easter. Again, a letter will be sent to our School Council members reminding them of the arrangements for this.

Football – Mr Temple is hoping to be able to start some after school football sessions for Y5 and Y6 bubbles during the summer term. We'll give more information after Easter.

eSchools



eSchools has served us well over the last lockdown and we intend to continue to use it on weekly basis for Home Learning. Home Learning is set on a Wednesday and we ask the work to be completed and handed in (or submitted via eSchools) by the following Monday. From now on instructions for the Home Learning will be shared via eSchools. Children will be asked to submit this either via eSchools or in their Home Learning Book – we'll be looking to both ways for submitting home learning. Don't forget, as a parent you have a login to eSchools too so you can see what is on there.



Water Bottles

Please remember to send your child in with at least one full water bottle every day – two if you know they drink a lot. We've had children this week who have not brought one and with no access to the fountain they can get very thirsty. Thank you.

Holidays – this year and next

On the next page you will see that we have planned the dates for the rest of the year. We will try, as far as possible, to keep to these dates.

With regard to holidays, we know that everyone is keen to be able to get away when they can. However, although the children have been working remotely, they have missed a lot of time in school, it is therefore really important that holidays are not requested during term time. We do have the 3 training days in May (26th, 27th and 28th) which come just before the May half term week so that's an ideal week to get away if we can at that point.

We're also sending you the holiday dates for 2021-2022.

Again, we have tried to select these to support you with holiday bookings as well as them being key dates in the year for us to use them for teacher training.

The days next year are Thursday 18th and Friday 19th November 2021 and then the 3 days before May half term – 25th, 26th and 27th May 2022.

Please retain the following page and the holiday document for future reference.

Plan of dates for the rest of the year

Tuesday 23 rd March	Y3 Multi-Skills Morning
Thursday 25 th March	Egg Decorating 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. It won't be possible to have parents in so please get the children to design something they can do themselves. We will share the eggs via social media or our YouTube channel
Friday 26 th March	Y1 and Y2 Football Competitions and Anti Bullying Champions to meet with Langley Moor and Brandon ABCs virtually Easter Celebration to be shared with the children via YouTube at Friday Assembly and then for all parents from 4 p.m.
EASTER HOLIDAYS	Monday 29th March to Friday 9th April
Week Beginning	Summer 1
12 th April	Children back in school
17 th May	21 st May - Y3 and Y4 Cricket Competition and Anti Bullying Champions (ABCs) to meet with Langley Moor and Brandon ABCs virtually via Teams
Monday 24 th & 25 th May	Art Exhibition on display today. This exhibition will celebrate the art work the children have done over the last two half terms. Children to tour this in their bubbles
Tuesday 25 th May	Y1 Multi Skills Festival Fundraising for a charity – our friends in Tibet. School Council to agree the activity. Art Exhibition to be shared with parents via YouTube from 4 p.m. today
26 th /27 th /28 th May	Teacher Training Days (28 th Y6 No More Marking results published) TEACHER TRAINING DAYS – no children in school for these 3 days. This may be your chance to book a cheaper holiday before the rest of the schools break up on Friday 28th May.
Week Beginning	Summer 2
7 th June	Brochures to be given out to the children who will start Reception in September 2021 (our current Pre-School). Those who don't currently attend our Pre-School will be offered a visit. Video link to be sent to all those going into Pre-School and Reception in Sept. 2021, giving all children an introduction to the Reception classroom and staff.
21 st June	Assessment Week This week all children will be assessed. It's later this year due to the January lockdown. Although there are no statutory assessments the children will complete similar assessments to those we would usually do. Reception will be assessed through play and short tasks. Y1 (and those in Y2 who did not meet the required standard previously) will complete a phonics test. All Y1 through to Y5 will complete assessments in Reading, Writing and Maths. Y4 will do a tables test in addition this. Y6 will complete old SATs test in Reading and Maths.
Wednesday 23 rd June	Children who will start Reception in 2021 to spend the day in Reception Mrs Dunham to hold meetings for parents whose children will start Pre-School in 2021
Friday 25 th June	Letters to go out to all parents re the class their children will be in next year
Week Beg. 28 th June	Sports Week and Science Catch Up Week
Monday 28 th June	Active Morning – Rec to Y6 involved in active activities all morning Afternoon - Skittles Challenge (linked with Science Catch Up Week)
Tuesday 29 th June	Y2 Multi Sports Festival End of school onwards: Sponsored Bike Ride for children from Y2 through to Y6
Wednesday 30 th June	SPORTS DAY – Races done in Year Groups (Alternative date Thursday 8 th July) – sadly no parents
Thursday 1 st July	Possible day away for Y6 –We're hoping to book a visit as consolation for not going to Howtown
Friday 2 nd July	Y5 and Y6 Athletics Competition
5 th , 6 th & 7 th July	Transition Days for Tanfield School
Tuesday 6 th July	Transition lesson for all children – moving up to their new class – 9 until 10 a.m.
Monday 12 th July	Y6 Leaver's Meal at the Hill Top (if this is permitted)
Thursday 15 th July	Y2 Moving on Performance – we'll decide how this can be shared nearer the time
Friday 16 th July	Friday - Leavers' Celebration Assembly-we'll decide how this can be shared nearer the time
Monday 19 th July	Individual School Reports to go out today Lower School Fun Day Upper School Walk from Craster to Embleton
Tuesday 20 th July	Last day of term

