

Dear Parents and Carers,

May 2022



Opening Doors, Enriching Lives

In our April newsletter we told you about the various Easter activities we had prior to breaking up for the holidays. These were very successful and greatly enjoyed by the children. The Easter Egg decorating is always a lovely event and the children really do throw themselves into it. This year was no exception. The Upper School children and Y2 choir members thoroughly enjoyed the Easter Service at St. Margaret's Church. All children were involved in the singing and those who recited poems or performed musical items did so with great confidence and were congratulated for this. Although parents were not able to attend it was lovely to see that we had over 300 views on YouTube for both events. Thanks for your support. The Friends' Easter Raffle was very well supported (thanks to all who provided Easter Eggs and bought raffle tickets). It raised £384 for their funds which will go towards subsidising activities for our children including the Lower School Fun Day and the Upper School Walk.

The summer term will be as busy as ever and there is a lot to look forward to.

This newsletter will share information about some of the events and the 'Dates for your Diary' has been updated. We'll send a paper copy home of the dates page, one for every family, as an easy reference for you over this term, please hold onto this.

As ever, if there is anything you are unsure of or want to ask more about, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Kay Hemmings (Head Teacher)

Transition Days, Visit for current Reception parents and Meet the Teacher evening for all

This term is the term that we start to make plans for September. Y6 will be preparing to move to secondary school. The majority of our children are going to Tanfield School. Tanfield and North Durham Academy have their transition days at the same time – Monday to Wednesday, 4th to 6th July – and we do our transition during that time too.

On Monday 4th July all of our children will meet their new teacher and have a lesson with them, giving them the opportunity to learn more about the coming year and ask any questions they may have.

On Wednesday 6th July we also arrange an additional transition time for the current Reception children so that they can experience an afternoon in Y1 and we invite one parent per child to join them for this.

If you have a child currently in Reception and can arrange to be free for the afternoon of Wednesday 6th July that would be beneficial. We are going to ask parents to come to school for 2:00 p.m. We'll ask you to come to the usual entrance gates and you'll then meet up with your child and spend the afternoon in Y1.

Our Meet the Teacher sessions will be on Monday 4th July at 4 p.m.

We're inviting parents to come into school for this (one parent per child). You'll go to your child's new classroom, meet their teacher and learn more about the year to come – what the children will be learning about, what the expectations are of them, what additional things they will do etc.

Our Questionnaire indicated that parents would find this useful, and it was something we did pre-pandemic so it's important that we resume these now that we can.

There will be a crèche available if you have no-one who can look after your child/ren (children are not invited to this meeting). If you do have to bring your child with you then please take them to the Upper School Hall first, where there will be staff there to offer the crèche. The staff will be there from 3:50 to enable you to drop off and then head to your child's classroom. If you have more than one child and can arrange for an adult to attend each meeting that would be ideal. Otherwise, we will make the presentations available on our website after the event.



Annual Art Exhibition. We will be celebrating the children's artwork on Monday 23rd May. An Art Exhibition will be set up in the Lower School Hall and the Friends of Tanfield will be organising a coffee afternoon for any parents who'd like to come and view the art gallery. The coffee afternoon will run from

2 p.m. Please come to the main gates for then and we'll direct you across the yard. We'll also open the school gates from 2:30 for any parents who would like to view the art before the end of the school day, as well as remaining open for viewing after school for any parents who would like to come then, once they've collected their children. We hope you can take this opportunity to enjoy seeing the children's art.

Platinum Jubilee The Queen's Platinum Jubilee takes place during the half term holiday and you may be celebrating this during this time. As a school the children will receive a souvenir of this remarkable occasion. Each year group are going to focus on



different decades of her reign and a display will be put together to celebrate this. We will also hold a Red, White and Blue day on Tuesday 24th May so that children can acknowledge this significant event. It will be non-uniform and we'll ask the children to wear something red, white and blue.

Sports Week

Our annual Sports Week will take place straight after May half term. Events include:



Active Morning CnS will be arranging this to kick start the week on the Monday. This is for all children from Y1 to Y6.

Sponsored Family Bike Ride

This year this will take place on the Monday night (6th June) straight after school. We encourage families to do this together and it's suitable for children who can confidently ride a bike – generally children from Y3 up to Y6 with some capable cyclists from Y2. We cycle from school, linking with the cycle path opposite Tanfield School, up to Leadgate and back. It's about 13 miles in total.

Those children who are not able to have an adult accompany them can still come as long as we know in advance so that we can arrange our staff to accompany them.

We ask children to get sponsors for this from friends and family. The money goes towards paying for various enrichment activities in school including funding the bus to the theatre, author visits etc.

We will email a letter and sponsor form to all parents soon and give out paper copies to those children who request them.

Sports Day – Tuesday 7th June

I am pleased to say that we will be able to invite parents to attend Sports Day this year. During the pandemic we made changes to the way we did this and felt that this worked well so we will be continuing with this arrangement this year. We will not be holding a parent or toddler race.

If you can join us, please enter via the main gates just before the scheduled time for the Sports Day and join us on the school field. As we are inviting parents we will not be recording this event as well.

SPORTS DAYS for all year groups:

9:15 – Years 5 and 6

10:15 – Years 1 and 2

11:00 – Pre-School (Bumblebees only)

12:45 – Pre-School (Ladybirds and Caterpillars) and Reception

1:30 – Years 3 and 4



Y5 and Y6 Activity Day

This will now take place at our school and involve a variety of activities including a climbing wall. It's always a great day for the children.

There will be other additional activities during the week too, lots of action for the children ☺

Educational Visits this term

Y5 and Y6

Activity Day at our school

Friday 10th June

Y3

In It Together Conference

Wednesday 22nd June

56T

Monozukuri visit at Nissan

Thursday 23rd June

6P

Monozukuri visit at Nissan

Friday 24th June

Pre-School, Reception and Y1

Hall Hill Farm

Wednesday 13th July

More information about these will come out soon.

Residential Visits to Grinton and Howtown – Autumn 2022

Thanks to all parents in Y4 and Y5 who have booked their children on to the residential visits in the autumn term. Payment of half the total cost is due now for Grinton and for Howtown this is due on 4th July.

If you can ensure you keep up with this it makes the payment so much easier.

If you have not booked but your child is now thinking they would like to go, please get in touch and we will see if it is possible to confirm a place. Both are great experiences for the children and not to be missed.

After School Clubs and May Half term Holiday Club

The CnS programme of After School Clubs started last week.

They are offering the following from the end of the day until 4:15 @ £3 per session paid in advance:

Monday – Dodgeball for Reception to Y2

Tuesday - Cricket for Upper School (Y3 – Y6)

Wednesday - Multisports for Reception to Y2

Thursday - Dodgeball for Upper School (Y3 – Y6)

Friday - Golf for Reception to Y6

To book please use the following link:

After School Clubs Booking Link - <https://cns-sports-stars.class4kids.co.uk/term/131>



CnS are also going to offer a Multi Activity Holiday Camp for the three training days we have in May – 25th to 27th May.

To book please use the following link:

Multi Activity Holiday Camp Booking Link for May training days - <https://cns-sports-stars.class4kids.co.uk/camp/66>

Spanish continues to take place on a Tuesday night too – End of the day until 4:15 for children from Y2 upwards. Please contact the office if your child would like to attend.

Staff Training Day

The staff training in May will be focusing on two areas for development. First of all, we'll be continuing with work on the curriculum, continuing to upskill teachers' knowledge of their subjects.

In addition to this we'll be using the 'Great Teaching Toolkit' which is a new approach to professional development. It uses a model based around 4 areas of learning. It's personalised and is evidence based. Its aim is for people to be the best teacher they can be. We'll be using this programme for professional development over the next year.

Head Lice

One of the positives of Covid (and there are not many!) has been that Head Lice have not been as prevalent. Now that we are mixing more, they are returning so can I remind you to check your child's hair regularly for evidence of them and take action, if necessary, as recommended by your local chemist. Thank you.

The Home Walk Project



We are very excited to announce that we have signed up for Years 3, 4 and 5 to take part in 'The Home Walk' project which is being run by The Walk and Talk Trust.

Children in Years 3, 4 and 5 will each receive a Guide Booklet, a Sticker book and some stickers. The project is about getting children and their families walking. Details of the project are fully explained in the Sticker Book and you can access a short video on their website: www.homewalkproject.co.uk We hope your child is able to take part in this.

Academic Mentor

As part of the government Catch Up initiative there is financial support to temporarily employ an Academic Mentor who is trained to support children’s learning. We have employed Mrs Nielsen to carry out this role. Since January she has been working with children using the Lightning Squad programme (supporting reading) and will now take on a Maths support role, working with individuals and small groups to support their learning in Maths. We feel this additional support will be beneficial.

Questionnaire and Ofsted

We are currently working through all your responses to our Parent Questionnaire and as soon as we have done this, we will feedback to you and share any changes we will make as a result of this.

Thanks to all who completed online Parent View as part of this process.

The data shows that parents are very happy with the education we are providing. Thank you for your feedback. If there is anything you are ever concerned about then please make sure you talk to us about it. We can’t do anything if we don’t know.

As you know we have had an Ofsted Inspection this week. It will be a number of weeks before the report is published. We will share this with you when it is. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for the positive comments and words of encouragement we received from many of our parents. They were greatly appreciated. I’d also like to say that the children played an important role in the process. They behaved extremely well, showed how much they love learning and were keen to share their views with the inspector. This was all taking place when our Y6 were busy taking their SATs. It’s a tough week for them but they really did show great focus and concentration, giving it their best. We’ve been particularly proud of the children this week.

May 2022 71 responses (as of 12 th May 2022) 1 response = approx. 1.408%					
Question		Strongly Agree+Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don’t Know
My child is happy at this school		100%	0%	0%	0%
My child feels safe at this school		100%	0%	0%	0%
The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved.		96%	4%	0%	0%
My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively.	NOT BEEN	Strongly Agree+Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don’t Know
	73%	14%	4%	1%	7%
The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year.		84%	10%	1%	4%
When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly.	NOT Raised any	Strongly Agree+Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don’t Know
	41%	58%	1%	0%	0%
Does your child have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)? (yes or no)		<i>Figures for SEND based on 14 responses</i>			
If yes, ‘My child has SEND, and the school gives them the support they need to succeed.’		86%	14%	0%	0%
The school has high expectations for my child.		93%	4%	0%	3%
My child does well at this school.		98%	0%	0%	1%
The school lets me know how my child is doing.		95%	4%	0%	0%
There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school.		97%	1%	0%	1%
My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school.		83%	10%	4%	3%
The school supports my child’s wider personal development.		93%	3%	3%	1%
I would recommend this school to another parent.		97%	3%		

Dates for Summer Term. Please throw out your old ‘Dates for the Diary’ and replace it with this. We have made some changes and additions so please read through carefully. We have also sent a paper copy of this page home with your child. Thank you.

Mon 16 th – 20 th May	Assessment Week for all except Y6
Wednesday 18 th May	Y6 to go to Louisa Centre for swimming assessment
Friday 20 th May	Y3 and Y4 Cricket Competition
Friday 20 th May	Showing of the Howtown Slideshow to Y6 parents – Upper School Hall 9 a.m.
Monday 23 rd May	Annual Art Exhibition - celebrating the children's artwork Parents will be invited to attend this. We'll have a coffee afternoon from 2 p.m. and those who just want to look at the artwork can come in from 2:30 or after pick up.
Monday 23 rd May	Girls' Five-a-side final at Greenland Primary
Tuesday 24 th May	Y1 Multi Skills Festival
25 th May 26 th May and 27 th May	TEACHER TRAINING DAYS – no children in school for these 3 days. This is your chance to book a cheaper holiday before the rest of the schools break up on Friday 27th May.
May Half Term	Monday 30th May to Friday 3rd June
Monday 6 th June	Back to school
6 th to 10 th June	Phonics Screening Check – Test Week – All of Y1 children plus those Y2 children who did not reach the required standard last year.
Monday 6 th June	Post SAT treat for Y6 this afternoon, Vision Education paying for an ice-cream van
6 th June to 24 th June	Multiplication Tables Check – Test period for all in Y4
Monday 6 th June PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE	SPORTS WEEK CnS Active Morning for all children from Y1 to Y6 Sponsored Bike Ride after school for children from Y2 to Y6
Tuesday 7 th June PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE	SPORTS DAYS for all year groups: 9:15 – Years 5 and 6 10:15 – Years 1 and 2 11:00 – Pre-School (Bumblebees only) 12:45 – Pre-School (Ladybirds and Caterpillars) and Reception 1:30 – Years 3 and 4 Parents will be invited to attend Sports Day. Please meet on the school field at the time stated, entering by the main gates. There will be no parent or toddler race this year. As we are inviting parents, we will not be recording this as well.
Thursday 9 th June	Sleepover for Y6 at our school
Friday 10 th June	Activity Day for Y5 and Y6 at our school
Friday 10 th June	Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund, one per family
Tuesday 14 th June	Mindful Afternoon session for 4M. Parents will be invited to attend this with their children @ 2:15 p.m.
Weds 15 th June	Full Governing Body Meeting
Week beg 20 th June	Science Week Catch Up Week
Wednesday 22 nd June	In It Together Conference for Y3 at Durham Leadership Centre exploring diversity and equality
Thursday 23 rd June	Monozukuri visit at Nissan for 56T (This visit is sponsored by Nissan so no cost to us)
Friday 24 th June	Monozukuri visit at Nissan for 6P (This visit is sponsored by Nissan so no cost to us)
Friday 24 th June	Letters to go out today to all parents re classes for next year
Weds 29 th June	Transition day for new Reception children
Weds 29 th June 6 p.m.	Bingo Night organised by the Friends of Tanfield Lea @ 6 p.m. More info nearer the event
Friday 1 st July	Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund, one per family
Monday 4 th – 6 th July	Transition Days for Tanfield School and NDA
Monday 4 th July	Transition lesson for all children at our school – moving to their new classes
Monday 4 th July	Meet the Teacher meeting for all parents from Rec to Y6 – 4:00 p.m. Creche will be available
Tuesday 5 th July	Y2 Multi Skills Festival
Wednesday 6 th July	Transition afternoon for Reception moving into Y1. Parents will be invited to attend @ 2 p.m.
Friday 8 th July	Y5 and Y6 girls v girls/boys v boys Athletics Competition
Monday 11 th July	Parent Meetings for those who might want to speak to their child's teacher.
Wednesday 13 th July	Pre-School, Reception and Y1 visit to Hall Hill Farm
Thursday 14 th July	Y2 Moving on Assembly Bastille Day – children to take part in some French activities during the day
Friday 15 th July	Lower School Fun Day and Upper School visit to Craster/Embleton Beach Reports go out to all parents
Monday 18 th July	Y6 Leavers' Meal – 4:15 until 5:45
Tuesday 19 th July	Y6 Dress Rehearsal to the Upper School and some parents – afternoon. Y6 Performance - evening
Wednesday 20 th July	Y6 Leavers' Assembly for Y6 and their parents 9 a.m.
Thursday 21 st July	Last day of term