

Dear Parents and Carers,

June 2022



Opening Doors, Enriching Lives

Our last half term is now well underway.

Thanks to all who were able to come to the Sports Day. The children had a great Sports Week and were very active every day. If you follow us on twitter you'll have seen the terrific photos showing what they got up to and hopefully the children will have told you all about it too.

There's a lot still to look forward to this term and this newsletter will go some way to remind you of the various activities and meetings planned.

Can I remind you to look out for an email this Friday night, explaining the class setup for next year and informing you of the class your child will be in.

Also, end of year reports will go out via email to all parents at the end of the day on Friday 8th July, not Friday 15th July as stated on previous newsletters.

Please read on to find out more about the next few weeks and other general updates.

Kay Hemmings (Head Teacher)

Parent Questionnaire

Our thanks again to everyone who completed the annual parent questionnaire, sent out in March. We have recorded all comments made. Thanks for the incredibly positive and supportive comments made by so many of you. It's great to know that what we do is appreciated by so many.

Thank you also for the suggestions given. Some of them we may be able to take on-board, but we have commented on all of them. We hope you can find time to read them all through. Our responses are in green on the questionnaire itself. A copy is attached with this newsletter email, and we will also save it on the website.

Just a few particular points to draw your attention to:

- the majority of parents like the one-way system and the staggered start and end to the day
Some parents are frustrated that not everyone follows the one-way system, some leaving by the entrance/some entering by the exits. There are some adults who have requested to leave via the entrance due to specific medical reasons but other than that, please keep to the system we have in place. Thank you
- most parents would prefer a face-to-face parent meeting next academic year although the phone call/video call is still attractive to some
- parents find the attitudes to learning and teacher assessment termly updates useful but attitudes to learning might benefit from more guidance
- Parking – parents continue to express their concerns about the parking outside school. Some drivers are parking on the double yellow lines and others are turning in the middle of the road. Parking and manoeuvres like this can put lives at risk. We want our children and parents to be able to come to and from school safely. Please ensure you adhere to the Highway Code.

Please read the whole questionnaire document to learn more about what parents have said.

P.E. Kit Days

This year we have asked parents to send children into school in their P.E. kits on P.E. days. This has worked well and meant that the children get more P.E. time, which is a real advantage.

A parent contacted me this term suggesting that we offer a hoodie as part of our P.E. uniform. She felt it would be a useful garment to have. Children would wear it on their P.E. days instead of their school sweatshirt; it would be warmer and more practical. We've looked into this and have asked the uniform provider to add a hoodie to our uniform selection. It would be for their P.E. kit days rather than normal days and the cost will be £12 and it can be purchased in your child's team colour. Emblematic are in the process of adding this to the selection available for our school. However, there will be no pressure to purchase this. It is only for those parents who feel this would be useful. Thanks to the parent who suggested this 😊





Bastille Day

On the 14th July, in France, it is Bastille Day. This is a celebration of their nationality and an annual event with fireworks and parades. At our school, the children learn French from Y3 to Y6 and we thought it would be a nice idea to show a connection to the country and take part in this celebration. On this day, 14th July, we are asking children to come to school in red, white and blue (like the flag colours) and they will take part in some celebratory activities during the day.

Durham Brass

Last week we were lucky enough to enjoy a concert performed by three singers from the Durham Music Service. The children thoroughly enjoyed it, were a very appreciative audience and were able to show off their musical knowledge too. The Durham Brass Festival is taking place once again in July and we will host Perhaps Contraption, a multi-award winning, progressive brass band from London. Part choir, part chamber orchestra, part avant rock troupe, they create a truly unique musical experience; melding elements of jazz, punk, art pop and post-minimalism. They've performed across Europe as well as at Glastonbury and now they will perform at our school ☺ This will be on Tuesday 12th July. I have no doubt the children will love it. If you want to check them out before the day, take a look on their website <https://perhapscontraption.co.uk/>



Water Slide

This is possibly one of the children's favourite activities of the year.

A large plastic sheet is setup on the hillside just below the tree houses.

That, together with a water hose and some washing up liquid, creates a

fantastic water slide and hours of fun. Pre-School, Reception, Y1 and Y2 will have their Water Slide during the Lower School Fun Day on Friday 15th July.

We are planning for the Upper School children to have theirs on 12th July. We'll have time to do that as well as enjoy the brass band that day. The Bumblebee Pre-School children (and Caterpillars) will be able to join them on that day too.

We will watch the weather and if that is not looking possible then we'll email with an alternative date.

On the water slide day the children will need a complete change of clothes including underwear and footwear. They will also need a towel. They get very wet and pretty muddy too so make sure it's some old clothes you provide them with for this activity.

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. Parents should now have paid at least half of the total cost for Grinton and at least half of the payment for Howtown 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.

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 school aged child/ren (children are not invited to this meeting). If you do have to bring your child/ren 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. (Please approach the Upper School Hall through the usual parent access and come through the side gate next to the kitchen.) If you have more than one child and can arrange for an adult to attend each meeting that would be ideal.

For parents who have children moving from Reception to Y1, you are also being invited to come into school and join your child for a visit to their Y1 classroom. This is on Wednesday 6th July and parents are invited to come at 2 p.m. for this (see the next paragraph for more information). If you are attending this, then there is no need to come to the 'Meet the Teacher' on the Monday as this will be included as part of your visit on the Wednesday.

Special transition session for children and parents moving from Reception to Y1

As part of the transition for our current Reception children preparing to move Y1, we like to invite parents to join with their children to learn a bit more about the year ahead. If you can attend on Wednesday 6th July at 2 p.m. you will have the opportunity to meet your child's new teacher and enjoy activities together with your child. At the end of this session your child will return to Reception until the end of the school day, and you will be able to collect your child as normal at home time. When your child returns to Reception there will be a short presentation for parents about the Year 1 curriculum and routines. This will be the same presentation as the 'Meet the Teacher' evening on the Monday night for those parents who are unable to attend the Wednesday transition afternoon.

Puberty Talk for Y5 and Y6

The Family Health Nurse has just confirmed this week that they will be holding the Puberty talk for all Y5 and Y6 children on Tuesday 12th July. This is a valuable session for the children which gives them both the opportunity to learn more about what to expect during puberty as well as the chance to ask questions in a safe and supportive environment.



Suntan Lotion

Now that the weather is getting warmer we'd advise that your child comes to school having applied some suntan lotion. If you know it's going to be a particularly hot day then please feel free to send them in with their lotion on the understanding that they will need to apply this themselves. A hat is also a useful thing to wear on the particularly warm days.

Head Lice

As stated in our last newsletter, one of the positives of Covid (and there are not many!) has been that Head Lice have not been as prevalent. 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.

Moving On and Leavers' Assembly

We traditionally hold a 'Moving on' assembly for Y2 and a Y6 'Leavers' Assembly'. We'd love parents to join us for this. Y2 children will have theirs on Thursday 14th July and Y6 on Wednesday 20th July. We will aim for them to start as soon after 9 as possible.

We'll have to limit this to two adults per child but hope you'll be able to join us. For Y6 parents, please wait at the main gate. Y2 parents please drop off your child in class as usual and then enter the Lower School Hall via the covered walkway.

Peter Pan

The children in Mr Patterson and Mr Temple's classes are well into rehearsals now for their end of year performance. This year it is **Peter Pan** and will be performed on Tuesday 19th July at 6 p.m. in the Upper School Hall. Tickets will go on sale shortly - £2 for an adult and £1 for a child – maximum of 2 tickets per child initially. A letter will come out soon regarding the purchase of tickets.



Dates for the rest of the Summer Term	
Additional dates since the May newsletter are in green	
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 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 Half of Howtown payment to be made by today
Tuesday 5 th July	Y2 Multi Skills Festival
Wednesday 6 th July	Transition afternoon for Reception moving into Y1. Parents are invited to attend @ 2 p.m.
Friday 8 th July	Y5 and Y6 girls v girls/boys v boys Athletics Competition @ Brandon Primary School
Friday 8th July	Reports to go out today – 4 p.m. via email
Monday 11 th July	Parent Meetings for those who might want to speak to their child's teacher (Letter to follow soon)
Tuesday 12th July	Perhaps Contraption (Durham Brass Festival) to perform at school this morning Water Slide Day for Y3 to Y6 plus the caterpillars and bumblebees
Wednesday 13 th July	Pre-School, Reception and Y1 visit to Hall Hill Farm
Thursday 14 th July	Y2 Moving on Assembly (starting as soon after 9 as possible, once children are ready) Bastille Day – children to take part in some French activities during the day
Friday 15 th July	Lower School Fun Day – including Water Slide Day for ladybirds, Rec, Y1 and Y2 Upper School visit to Craster/Embleton Beach
Monday 18 th July	Y2 to visit St. Mary's Lighthouse. Y6 Leavers' Meal – 4:15 until 5:45 at school
Tuesday 19 th July	Peter Pan - Dress Rehearsal to the Upper School – afternoon. Peter Pan - Performance – 6 p.m.
Wednesday 20 th July	Y6 Leavers' Assembly for Y6 and their parents approx. 9 a.m. start
Thursday 21 st July	Last day of term
Monday 5th September	Back to School
Tuesday 13th Sept 5 p.m.	Grinton Meeting for all parents and Y5 children who are going