

Dear Parent and Carers,

14th September 2022



None of us expected last week to end in the way it did.

We were very sad to hear of the death of the Queen and many of the children were talking about it on Friday and trying to come to terms with the news.

Staff were able to discuss this with them and answer any of the questions that they had.

As we know now, the day of the funeral will be a Bank Holiday and so school will be closed on Monday 19th September. We will continue to talk to the children this week, explaining what is happening in this time of mourning and in the lead up to the funeral.

I am pleased to say that we can now confirm the main dates for this academic year. I know many of you find these dates very useful to have in advance. You'll find them at the end of this newsletter. Please read them through carefully and keep a copy for future reference. They will also be saved on the website in the newsletter section.

This newsletter also gives you a few other updates. I hope you find them useful.

Staffing

Just before the end of term Mrs Rice, one of our Play Supervisors, resigned from her position as she had been promoted in her other job. Mrs Rice had worked with us for 5 years and we have valued all she has done to support our lunchtimes. We wish her well.

The vacancy was advertised during the school holidays. We had 4 applicants and, following interview, we appointed Mrs Burdon. She will start with us once all the necessary checks have taken place and look forward to welcoming her to our team. Our thanks to Romola and Rowan (Y6 and members of the School Council 21-22) for their involvement in the interview process.

I am delighted to tell you that Mr MacDonald's partner had a baby boy in August. All is going well for his family and Mr MacDonald will take his paternity leave from Monday 26th September to Friday 7th October. During this time Mr Durham will cover Mr MacDonald's class and within Reception we will be employing Mrs Ashcroft (who has worked previously at our school) to support the Early Years Team for those 2 weeks. We will ensure that the children continue to receive a high level of education during this time.

Success for All Phonics for children from Pre-School to Y2

In Summer 2021 our Leadership Team met to review our approach to phonics teaching following the government guidance which stated that schools should use a validated systematic synthetic phonics teaching programme.



Our Leadership Team researched various different phonics programmes that had been validated by the government. After much consideration we decided to opt for Success for All Phonics. When Ofsted inspected our school in May 2022 they confirmed that we were taking the right action.

In Spring and Summer 2022 we were very busy preparing to get started with Success for All Phonics. This has included staff training and resource preparation.

This term we have launched Success for All Phonics in Pre-School, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

For children in Pre-School the focus is very much tuning into sounds, so that when children reach Reception they are ready to read letters and words.

For children in Reception to Year 2 there will be two Success for All phonics sessions taught in school per day. One session will focus on basic phonic skills and another will focus on reading / writing skills.

To ensure consistency as a school we have decided to change the way that we send home reading books for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. **Children in these classes will receive a book on a Wednesday to read to an adult at home.** All children in the class will receive the same book and this will be familiar to them as they will have read it in class every day the previous week. For some children, we understand that this may be very challenging, however please persevere and get them to read this book to you at least 3

times at home (recorded in their reading record (Rec) or Personal Organiser (Y1 and Y2) by the adult) as they will be familiar with it. Repetition will help. **This book must then be returned to school the following Monday.** We will trial this approach for this half term and then review it.

For Y2 in particular, we appreciate that this is very different from how we've managed reading books previously, but we are following the guidance given and will trial this until half term.

We have a meeting planned for the afternoon of Wednesday 19th October when we will invite parents of children in Y1 and 2 in to see a demonstration of the shared reading and have the opportunity to discuss this as well as spend time with their child puppet making (see Dates for the Diary).

Thanks in advance for your support. As a staff we are excited to be trying something new and we look forward to seeing the impact of this consistent approach within the development of children's basic phonics skills.

If you would like to know more about Success for All Phonics at this stage please follow this link:

<https://fft.org.uk/phonics>

If you have any further questions regarding Success for All please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or Mrs Geach, who is leading the scheme in school.

PACT House

Thanks to all who sent old uniform into school. We have kept a variety of sizes in school but the main bulk has gone to PACT House in Stanley. The uniform items are free and in good condition so please don't hesitate either to ask at school or go to PACT House to request any items you need.

PE Hoodies

Following a suggestion from a parent, we have added PE Hoodies to our uniform selection. You can find them on the link our website if you'd like to order one. They are a useful alternative to the school jumper.



PE Kits

As stated in our 'Back to School' letter, PE days are as follows:

Reception	Tuesday
1D	Tuesday
2W	Tuesday
1/2B	Friday
3D	Wednesday
3Mac	Friday
Year 4	Monday
Year 4 Swimming	Friday
Year 5	Wednesday
Year 6	Thursday



Please dress your children appropriately. School PE kits preferably but if not, then please choose plain clothing and plain T-shirts - no football tops etc. Leggings or tracksuit trousers will be necessary in the cooler months.



Bikes on the School Ground

It has been lovely to see some children coming to school on their bikes. However, to avoid any accidents, once they arrive at the school gate they should get off their bike and push from there. The same is true when they go home. We've spoken to the children about it. If you could remind them too that would be helpful thank you.

Wellingtons

We are going to have a sort out of wellingtons this week. The children are going to be asked to find theirs on the shelves and then any that are left over will either be discarded or kept for spares.



Attitudes to Learning Form for children from Y1 to Y6

The Attitudes to Learning Form is designed to show how the current teacher views the child's attitude to learning. It is not designed to show year on year progress.

We asked what you thought of it on the Parent Questionnaire we sent in March 2022. 94% of parents said they found this information useful. Some parents did request more information on what the 3 different judgments meant. We hope the following information clarifies this. We shared it with parents in the 'Meet the Teacher' meetings and also with the children.

 PARENT INFORMATION AUTUMN TERM UPDATE			
Child's Name:	NEEDS FURTHER DEVELOPING	MEETS EXPECTATIONS	OUTSTANDING
Attitude to learning	Shows some interest in lessons	Shows interest in lessons	Shows additional interest – consistently makes links to experiences and goes and finds out more
Attitude to presentation of work	Work is not consistently well presented	Work is consistently well presented	Work is consistently very neat, or has made extra effort with presentation
Attitude to home learning	Doesn't complete all home learning or reading comments	Completes home learning/reading comments	Completes home learning/reading comments, including extra such as TTRS/Mathletics/additional challenges
Behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Can be distracted- Frequent loss of PT/reminders about behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Focuses on the teacher and own learning-Occasional loss of PT/some reminders about behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Always engaged-No loss of PT/Very few reminders from teachers about behaviour

Attendance, arriving to school on time and Leave of Absence requests

Attendance is crucial to your child's progress.

Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow		
100% Attendance	0 weeks of learning missed	Best chance of success.
95% Attendance	1 week and 4 days of learning missed	Well done.
90% Attendance	3 weeks and 4 days of learning missed	Poor attendance, we are worried.
85% Attendance	5 weeks and 3 days of learning missed	
80% Attendance	7 weeks and 3 days of learning missed	Very poor attendance, we are seriously concerned.
75% Attendance	9 weeks and 1 day of learning missed	

Arriving at school on time is also really important. Lessons start immediately and if your child is late they are missing out on important learning time. Please endeavour to arrive at school on time every day.

We encourage parents to take their children on holiday during school holiday times.

We plan to hold 2 or 3 of our Teacher Training days in May, linked with the half term holiday. This gives parents the opportunity to benefit from cheaper prices.

Schools can only authorise **Leave of Absence** for children in exceptional circumstances and so Leave of Absence is rarely authorised. If you do take your child out of school during school time then it will impact on their success in school and could result in a fine for parents. Please try to avoid doing this.



Sorry this has been such a lengthy newsletter but there has been a lot to share or remind you about. Thanks for reading it through.

Please keep the next few pages for future reference and don't forget, you can always find it on our website.

Many thanks.

Kay Hemmings

Head Teacher

Dates for your Diary Autumn 2022	
Friday 9 th Sept	Last payment should have been made for Grinton by today
Tuesday 13 th Sept	Ukulele lessons start today a.m. for all of Y3 and Y4 and Little Fingers Music session starting in 2W
Tuesday 13 th Sept	Grinton Meeting for parents 5 p.m.
Wednesday 14 th September	Individual and sibling photographs – families with children not at school yet can come from 8 a.m. to lower school hall to have photos taken with whole family. Children in school will have their photos taken during school time and we'll arrange for them to have sibling group photos too.
Friday 16 th Sept	Children to vote for their School Council representatives
Friday 23 rd Sept	Disability Morning – children taking place in various activities to learn more about disabilities (1 hour)
Tues 27 th Sept – 30 th Sept	Grinton Residential visit for Y5
Wednesday 28 th Sept	Stay and Play for Reception Parents – Literacy focus – Butterfly parents invited a.m. (8:50 until 10:30) Dragonfly parents invited in p.m. (1:30 until end of school day) More info later. Parents can learn more about literacy in Reception and spend time with their child in class.

Monday 3 rd October	Howtown payment to be made in full by today
Tuesday 4 th Oct	Word Guerrilla working in school all day - Poet (with KS2)
Weds 5 th October	Stay and Play for Pre-School Parents – Dialogic Reading will be the focus. Bumblebee and Caterpillar parents to be invited – 8:50 until 10:30. More information nearer to the time.
Thursday 6 th Oct	Stay and Play for Pre-School Parents – Dialogic Reading will be the focus. Caterpillar and Ladybird parents to be invited – 8:50 until 10:30 More information nearer to the time.
Friday 7 th October	Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund – 1 per family We’re asking for non-perishable food donations today for Harvest. Thank you.
Friday 7 th October	Harvest Festival led by Y1 and Y2 – Parents to be invited to join us for this – approx. 9:15 start
Monday 10 th October	ASSESSMENT WEEK for all children
Tuesday 11 th October	5 p.m. Howtown meeting for parents
Tuesday 18 th October	Y6 Multi Skills Festival – at Tanfield
Wednesday 19 th October	Show Racism the Red Card – working with Y5 and Y6 2 sessions 10-12 and 2 sessions 1:15 to 3:15 In School session for Y1 and Y2 parents All Year 1 and 2 parents to be invited in from 1:30 for the afternoon 1:30 – Parents to see demonstration and have discussion re the new Shared Reading approach 2:00 – Parents to join their child in puppet making We hope you can join us for this afternoon.
Friday 21 st October	Attitudes to Learning Sheets to be sent out today Pre-School and Reception to receive an update including voice of child and parent
Friday 21 st October	Y3 and 4 Tag Rugby, Cross Country (TBC) and ABCs (Anti-Bullying Champions) Meeting @ Brandon Mrs Davis’s last day
HALF TERM	Monday 24th Oct to Friday 28th October
Monday 31 st October	Y6 Parents – you must have completed the application for your child’s secondary place by today
Monday 31st October	Back to school Mrs Brotherston takes up her post in Y3 Y6 go to Howtown
Wednesday 2 nd Nov	Stay and Play for Reception Parents – Maths focus – Dragonfly parents invited a.m. (8:50 until 10:30). Butterfly parents invited in p.m. (1:30 until end of school day) More info nearer the time. Parents can learn more about maths in Reception and spend time with their child in class.
Friday 4 th Nov	Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund (1 per family)
Monday 7 th Nov	Parent Meetings – after school – 3:20 to 5:30 We will be offering face to face meetings this time but are looking to see how we can offer a phone call for those parents who would find this more convenient. More info nearer the time.
Tuesday 8 th Nov	Parent Meetings – after school – 3:20 to 5:30 We will be offering face to face meetings this time but are looking to see how we can offer a phone call for those parents who would find this more convenient. More info nearer the time.
Friday 11 th Nov	Remembrance Day – 1 minute’s silence for KS2 at 11 a.m.

Wednesday 16th Nov	Full Governing Body Meeting
Thursday 17th Nov	INSET Day – No children in school today
Friday 18th Nov	INSET Day – No children in school today
21 st November	Flu Immunisation all morning for Rec to Y6 – More information nearer the time
30 th Nov/1 st & 2 nd Dec	Parents for Pre-School January starters to be invited to come for visits
Friday 2 nd Dec	Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund (1 per family)
Friday 2 nd Dec	Data Sheets to be given out to parents this week – Y1 to Y6
Tuesday 6 th December	Y5 Multi Skills Festival (@ Tanfield)
Wednesday 7 th Dec	Christmas Performance for parents by Pre-School and Reception 9:15 a.m. Christmas Dinner ALL CHILDREN TO COME DRESSED IN THEIR CHRISTMAS JUMPER TODAY or other Christmas clothing. Christmas Performance for parents by Pre-School and Reception 2:15 p.m.
Thursday 8 th Dec	Y1/2 Christmas Performance for parents 9:15 a.m. Y1/2 Christmas Performance for parents 2:00 p.m.
Friday 9th Dec	Y1 and Y2 Hockey Competition/Dance&Gym Routine (TBC) and ABCs meeting @ Tanfield
Tuesday 13 th Dec	Santa hoping 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 Reception Party – Lower School Hall p.m. – come to school in party clothes Y5 Party - Upper School Hall p.m. – come to school in party clothes
Wednesday 14 th Dec	Pre- School Party – a.m. and p.m. Lower School Hall – come to school in party clothes Y3 Party – Upper School Hall p.m. – come to school in party clothes
Thursday 15 th Dec	Y1/2 Party – Lower School Hall p.m. – come to school in party clothes Y4 Party Upper School Hall p.m. - come to school in party clothes 10 a.m. Christmas Performance by BigFoot for Pre-School, Reception and Y1 - The Clumsiest Christmas Elf (Money raised through fundraising through the year will be used to pay for this)
Friday 16 th Dec	Y6 Party Upper School Hall p.m. – bring party clothes to school
Monday 19 th Dec	Christmas Fair (We are working out how to hold this but intend to have one again this year)
Tuesday 20 th Dec	Upper School Carol Service – parents of Upper School children invited to attend with siblings Children can go home following the service. Those with no parents attending will come back to school. Lower School children will attend school as usual (unless they have Upper School siblings and attend the service with their parents)
There will be no visit to Northern Stage this year as they are doing the same production as last year and the children have already seen this as a recording of it was shared when they were unable to perform it live to us, due to the cast getting Covid. We also thought, given the current financial climate, instead of a theatre visit this year we would invite the Durham Music Service in to perform a Christmas Concert for children from Y2 to Y6 and the EY children and Y1 will see a performance of The Clumsiest Christmas Elf in school (as in previous years). Money raised through fundraising during the year, including Non School Uniform Days, will pay for both experiences.	
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY	Wednesday 21st December until Wednesday 4th January

Spring 2023	
Wednesday 4th January	Back to School
Friday 6 th January	Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund, one per family
Sunday 15 th January	Pre-School Parents – you must have completed the application for your child’s primary place (place in our Reception Class) by today
17 th January	Healthy Living Activities – children taking place in various activities to learn more about healthy living
Weds 25 th Jan	Stay and Play for Pre-School Parents – Maths will be the focus. Bumblebees and Caterpillar Parents to be invited – 8:50 until 10:30. More info nearer the time.
Thurs 26 th Jan	Stay and Play for Pre-School Parents – Maths will be the focus. Ladybird and Caterpillar Parents to be invited – 8:50 until 10:30. More info nearer the time.
Friday 3 rd February	Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund, one per family
6 th Feb to 10 th Feb	ASSESSMENT WEEK for all children
Weds 8 th February 6 p.m.	Tanfield’s Got Talent – children from Y2 upwards will have the opportunity to audition for this
Friday 10 th Feb	Attitudes to Learning Sheets to be sent out today Pre-School and Reception to receive an update including voice of child and parent
Tuesday 14 th February	Y3 Multi Skills Festival @ Tanfield
Wednesday 15 th Feb	Gala Theatre booked for Y4 performance – all children to take part. Rehearse in the afternoon and then perform at night. <i>Y4 to be central to this plus our musicians and choir</i>
Friday 17 th February	Y5 and Y6 girls v girls/boys v boys High 5 competition and Golf (TBC) and ABCs @Brandon
HALF TERM	Monday 20th February to Friday 24th February
Monday 27 th Feb	Back to school
Week beg 27 th Feb	Book Fair in all week.
Tuesday 28 th February	Parent Meetings – after school – times to be confirmed at time of booking Same arrangement as for autumn parent meetings
Weds 1 st March	Full Governing Body
Wednesday 1 st March	Parent Meetings – after school – times to be confirmed at time of booking Same arrangement as for autumn parent meetings
Thursday 2 nd March	World Book Day (We will not be asking children to dress up as book characters.)
Friday 3 rd March	Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund, one per family
6 – 10 th March	Paul Cookson (poet) to spend a day in school this week (actual date to be confirmed)
Friday 24 th March	Data Sheets to be given out to parents this week – Y1 to Y6
Friday 24 th March	Non-School Uniform Day – please donate an Easter Egg – one per family
Tuesday 28 th March	Y4 Multi Skills Festival @ Brandon
Wednesday 29th March	Egg Decorating Lower School children to bring decorated egg into 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. Friends of Tanfield to hold a Coffee Afternoon this afternoon in the Lower School Hall

Thursday 30 th March	KS2 Easter Celebration – through music and poetry in St. Margaret’s Church Parents of children involved are invited to join us for this special service – starting between 1:30 and 1:45. Children able to go home with parents afterwards.
Friday 31 st March	Y1 and Y2 Football Competition/KS Dodgeball Club (TBC) and ABCs @ Brandon
Friday 31st March	Break up for Easter Holidays
EASTER HOLIDAYS	Monday 3rd April to Friday 14th April
Monday 17th April	Back to school
Wednesday 26 th April	Pre-School visit to Hall Hill Farm
Monday 1st May	May Bank Holiday
Monday 1st May	Y2 SATs testing window starts today and finishes at half term (24th May)
Friday 5 th May	Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund, one per family
Mon 8 th – 12 th May	Y6 SATs WEEK It is very important that you do not book a holiday for this week or for the weeks leading up to it. Requests will not be authorised and absence will impact on your child’s attainment.
Mon 15 th – 19 th May	Assessments for the rest of the school – as for all assessment weeks, it’s important the children are in school for this
Friday 19 th May	Y3 and Y4 Cricket Competition, Y1/2 Athletics (TBC) and ABCs @ TBC
Monday 22 nd May	Y1 Multi Skills Festival
Tuesday 23 rd May	Art Exhibition - celebrating the children’s artwork Friends of Tanfield to hold a Coffee Afternoon in the Lower School Hall
Thursday 25 th May and Friday 26 th May	TEACHER TRAINING DAYS – no children in school for these 2 days. This is your chance to book a cheaper holiday, linking up with the May half term week, before the rest of the schools break up on Friday 26th May.
May Half Term	Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June
Monday 5 th June	Back to school
5 th June to 23 rd June	Multiplication Tables Check – Test period for Y4 children
Monday 5 th June	SPORTS WEEK Skipping Activity Session today
Tuesday 6 th June	CnS Active Morning for all children from Y1 to Y6
Tuesday 6 th June after school	Sponsored Bike Ride after school for children from Y2 to Y6
Wednesday 7 th June	SPORTS DAYS for all year groups: 9:15 – Years 5 and 6 10:30 – Years 1 and 2 11:15 – Pre-School (Bumblebees only) 1:00 – Pre-School (Ladybirds and Caterpillars) and Reception. Ladybirds to start 15 minutes later today. 2:00 – Years 3 and 4
Thursday 8 th June	Y3/4 (a.m.) and Y5/6 (p.m.) – Outdoor Activities in the grounds
Thursday 8 th June evening	Sleepover for Y6 – arriving at school between 6:30 and 6:45
Friday 9 th June	Activity Day for Y5 and Y6 Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund, one per family
12 th to 16 th June	Phonics Screening Check – Test Week – All of Y1 children plus those Y2 children who did not reach the required standard last year.

Wednesday 14 th June	Full Governing Body Meeting
Wednesday 21 st June	Transition Day for Reception (current Pre-School to move into Reception for the day)
Wednesday 21 st June	In it Together Conference for Y3 – exploring equality and diversity
23 rd June	Letters to go out today to all parents re classes for next year
Monday 3 rd – 5 th July	Transition Days for Tanfield School (for our current Y6 moving to Y7)
Monday 3 rd July	Transition lesson for all children at our school
Monday 3 rd July. 4 p.m.	Meet the Teacher meeting for all parents to learn more about their child's new class – creche available
Tuesday 4 th July	Y2 Multi Skills Festival @ TBC
Wednesday 5 th July	Transition afternoon for children and parents of Pre-School and Reception to learn more about how things work in the new year groups and support their children with this progression. Reception to move to Y1 – Parents to be invited to join us at 1:45 p.m. Pre-School to move to Reception – Parents to be invited to join us at 2 p.m. (If attending this you do not need to attend the 'Meet the Teacher' on Monday night.)
Friday 7 th July	Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund, one per family
Friday 7 th July	Y5 and Y6 girls v girls/boys v boys Athletics Competition/Y3 Maths Challenge (TBC) + ABCs @ Brandon
Friday 7 th July	Reports go out to all parents
Monday 10 th July	Parent Meetings for those parents who would like an appointment
Friday 14 th July	Y2 Moving on Assembly for their parents (9 a.m.) Bastille Day – all to come in dressed in red, white and blue and do some activities linked with this day
Monday 17 th July	Y6 Dress Rehearsal to the Upper School and some parents – afternoon Y6 Leavers' Meal – 4:15 until 5:45
Tuesday 18 th July	Thankyou tea for all who have helped us this year – 3:30 until 4:15 Y6 Performance – evening – 6 p.m.
Wednesday 19 th July	Lower School Fun Day and Upper School visit to Craster/Embleton Beach
Thursday 20 th July	Y6 Leavers' Assembly for Y6 and their parents (9 a.m.)
Friday 21 st July	Last day of term

