

Dear Parents and Carers,

October 2022



The term is progressing well. Our new Pre-School and Reception children have settled well, the Reception Stay and Play mornings were appreciated by those parents who could attend, Y5 had a great residential visit, KS2 children enjoyed working with the Word Guerrilla and Y1 and Y2 enjoyed performing their Harvest poems and songs to their parents on Friday. Although we have had to postpone the Pre-School Stay and Play event we can now confirm this will now take place on Wednesday and Thursday 19th and 20th October – letters have been sent out regarding this.

Y6 are now looking forward to their residential to Howtown straight after half term.

This week the children will be completing their first assessments of the academic year and before half term you'll receive your first 'Attitudes to Learning' form for all children from Y1 to Y6 and Pre-School and Reception parents will receive an update which includes an opportunity for parents to make a comment on their first half term.

We'll be in touch again soon with information on how to book your Parent Meeting appointment which will take place the second week after half term.

Please read on for a few updates from this half term.

Staffing

Mrs Burdon, our new Play Supervisor, has settled quickly into her new role.

Miss MacDonald, one of our Teaching Assistants, left a week last Friday to go to work for CAMHS (Children and Adult Mental Health Service). She had been with us since 2016 and had supported individual children as well as supporting groups and classes. We wish her well as she moves on to this exciting new role and thank her for all she has given to the children at our school.

Mrs Davis, our SENDCo, will leave us at the end of this half term to work for the SEN Service. She came to take up the role of SENDCo 15 years ago and during her time with us she has taught a significant number of children as well as supporting many children in her role as Special Needs Co-Ordinator. Mrs Davis has really developed the service we have been able to offer. She will be a great miss, but we all wish her well taking up this new challenge.

Success for All – Shared Reading for children from Y1 and Y2

We gave you some information about this in our last newsletter.

I'd just like to remind you that we have a meeting planned for the afternoon of Wednesday 19th October when we are inviting parents of children in Y1 and 2 to come in to see a video demonstration of the shared reading and discuss this. Parents will then join their child in the classroom to spend time with them making their puppet. We hope many of you can join us for the afternoon. Parents of children in Y1 and Y2 will receive a letter about this soon. We'll be inviting you to join us from 1:15.



Covid Guidance

I thought it worth just reminding everyone about the current Covid guidance.

There is no requirement for anyone to take a test. If your child is ill then please don't send them to school and ring the office to inform of their absence. Once they are feeling better and have no temperature then they can return to school as normal.

PACT House – Harvest Gifts

Thank you for your kind gifts from the October non-uniform day. We took all donations up to PACT House on Friday and they were very grateful. I know families in our community will really appreciate your support and kindness.

Don't forget, if you are short of uniform and would like to benefit from the supply of second-hand uniform supplied by our parents, which is in good condition, please either come to school or visit PACT House in Stanley.



Gift from the Tanfield Partnership

Tanfield Partnership have bought all children in school a commemorative pen, celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Unfortunately, they arrived in school on the day the death of the Queen was announced. We appreciate the Tanfield Partnership's thought and kindness with this gesture and will be giving the pens out this week to the children.

Home Learning

As you know, Home Learning is given to the children on a Wednesday, and we ask that it is returned by the following Monday.

Home Learning is key to helping children consolidate their learning and in making it stick.

Remembering what you have learnt is so important and this comes through going over things.

Due to Covid, over the last two years we have given Home Learning in two forms – through their Home Learning book and assigned via eSchools.

We introduced eSchools as it was a way of sharing home learning virtually which became essential when children were off isolating with Covid. Moving forward, we have recognised that we no longer need what eSchools can offer. Children are now only off if they are ill (not isolating) and so it is not necessary to be able to offer work via this method. From now on all Home Learning will be completed in their Home Learning books or through specified websites.

We will not be using eSchools to assign homework or use it to communicate with parents. If you do need to contact your child's teacher about something, then either ring school or email them on the school email address tanfieldlea@durhamlearning.net

Entering and Leaving the school grounds

We are operating a one-way system on the school yard when you enter and leave at the start and end of the day.

It would be very helpful if people would keep to this as it eases congestion.

To support this, could parents not congregate at the top of the steps leading from the Upper School. This is reducing the space others have to exit and is causing a blockage. If you are waiting for your child, please wait on the main yard – not at the top of the steps. If you have been meeting your Y5 or Y6 child at the top of the steps rather than outside of the school grounds, please feel free to come and wait for them on the yard.

New Spelling Scheme

In September 2022, we launched a new spelling scheme from Year 1 to 6, where initially all children in the class learn the same list of words. This reduces the time taken to do the spelling tests, allowing the teachers to spend more time focusing on the spelling patterns. Thank you for your support in helping your child to learn their spellings. If your child is finding the spellings difficult to learn, your child's teacher will discuss this with you at parents evening to see if this spelling list might be adapted in some way (a shorter list of words or a different set of words).

Leave of Absence in term time

Time in school is valuable and it is important children miss as little school as possible. We have regular school holidays as well as the teacher training days that families can use to go away as a family.

Schools can only authorise absence in exceptional circumstances and this is very rare. Holiday requests in term time will not be authorised and if they are over 6 days then fines will be issued.

Please refer to the 'Dates for your Diary' to see when our school holidays are and book to go away during these times. Thank you.

Parking outside of school

If you have to arrive at school by car, whether it is for Breakfast Club or the start of the school day, can you please respect the safety measures in place outside of school. Unless you have a Blue Badge and are walking your child in to school you should not be parking or stopping on the double yellow or zig-zag lines. Neither should you be pulling up on the kerb or turning in the road or the school entrances. We must ensure the safety of the children at all times and drivers who are not adhering to the Highway Code are putting our children in danger. Please make sure you park and manoeuvre sensibly. Thank you.

Finally, I've included the current dates for the rest of this term. The full year's dates are on the September newsletter, a copy of which is on our website.

Many thanks.
Kay Hemmings
Head Teacher



Opening Doors, Enriching Lives

Dates for your Diary Autumn 2022	
Monday 10 th Oct	ASSESSMENT WEEK for all children
Tuesday 11 th Oct	5:15 p.m. Howtown meeting for parents
Tuesday 18 th Oct	Y6 Multi Skills Festival – at Tanfield
Weds 19 th Oct	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. 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 20 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 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 Oct	Y6 Parents – you must have completed the application for your child's secondary place by today
Monday 31st Oct	Back to school Mrs Brotherston takes up her post in Y3 Y6 go to Howtown
Weds 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 6:00 We will be offering face-to-face and telephone meetings this time. We'll be writing to you soon to explain how this will work.
Tuesday 8 th Nov	Parent Meetings – after school – 3:20 to 5:00 We will be offering face-to-face and telephone meetings this time. We'll be writing to you soon to explain how this will work.
Friday 11 th Nov	Remembrance Day – 1 minute's silence for KS2 at 11 a.m.
Weds 16 th 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 Dec	Y5 Multi Skills Festival (@ Tanfield)
Wednesday 7 th Dec	Christmas Performance for parents by Pre-School and Reception 9:15 a.m.

	<p>Christmas Dinner ALL CHILDREN TO COME DRESSED IN THEIR CHRISTMAS JUMPER TODAY or other Christmas clothing.</p> <p>Christmas Performance for parents by Pre-School and Reception 2:15 p.m.</p>
Thursday 8 th Dec	<p>Y1/2 Christmas Performance for parents 9:15 a.m. Y1/2 Christmas Performance for parents 2:00 p.m.</p>
Friday 9 th Dec	Y1 and Y2 Hockey Competition/Dance&Gym Routine (TBC) and ABCs meeting @ Tanfield
Tuesday 13 th Dec	<p>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</p> <p>Reception Party – Lower School Hall p.m. – come to school in party clothes</p> <p>Y5 Party - Upper School Hall p.m. – come to school in party clothes</p>
Weds 14 th Dec	<p>Pre- School Party – a.m. and p.m. Lower School Hall – come to school in party clothes</p> <p>Y3 Party – Upper School Hall p.m. – come to school in party clothes</p>
Thursday 15 th Dec	<p>Y1/2 Party– Lower School Hall p.m. – come to school in party clothes</p> <p>Y4 Party Upper School Hall p.m. - come to school in party clothes</p> <p>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)</p>
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	<p>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)</p>
<p>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.</p>	
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY	Wednesday 21st December until Wednesday 4th January

