

Dear Parents and Carers,

January 2023



Opening Doors, Enriching Lives

A Happy New Year to all our families. We look forward to all that 2023 has in store for our school community.

Let's hope we have a healthy start to the year. I know that many children and adults have suffered from the various flu and cold viruses circulating. I have attached a leaflet from Public Health, reminding us all how we can try to stay clear of germs and what to do if we do become ill. We want the children to be in school as much as they possibly can but if they have been sick or have had diarrhoea then they must be off for 48 hours and if they have a high temperature they should also stay away from school. Please read the attached leaflet for more guidance. We'll also upload it to our website.

We have got off to a flying start. Y5 and Y6 children designed and presented adverts for new snacks and presented these to staff from KP Snacks. The winners had a tour of the factory last week and learnt more about the processes within a factory. I know that all of Y5 and 6 enjoyed the samples KP Snacks brought for them before Christmas.

There's much more to look forward to this term. As usual, please keep the 'Dates for your Diary' pages handy for future reference and read on for updates and information on some of the events this term.

Christmas Fair

Thanks to all who were able to attend and support our Christmas Fair. The children had been very busy preparing their items for sale and organising their stalls. It was great to have so many people enjoying the different stalls and games, whilst raising funds for school.



We always run it as a little inter-class competition – the class who raise the most money win a small prize. This year the winning class was Mr Temple's (raising an impressive £70.65) so very well done to them.

Overall, including funds raised by the Friends of Tanfield, we raised a massive £1278.99. This will really support us in subsidising costs throughout the year for various events which have already included the Christmas play Early Years and Y1 enjoyed and the Christmas Concert for Y2 to Y6.

Like I say, thank you so much for supporting us with this.

New Staff

We have welcomed two new members of staff this term. Ms Bruce has been employed as a Teaching Assistant and is currently supporting in Y5. Mrs Cunningham has joined our Play Supervisor Team.

We are also employing Miss McConnell as a school-led tutor. She will be working predominantly in Y5 and will have some time hearing readers in Y6.



Water Bottles

We continue to encourage children to bring water bottles in to school so they can stay hydrated during the day. Can you please ensure that the children do not bring their water in PRIME bottles. Can you also ensure that they only have water in this – nothing flavoured. Thank you.



Gala Theatre

Our Y4 children and our choir will be taking centre stage with children from Brandon Primary on Wednesday 15th February at the Gala Theatre in Durham. The Y4 children will be singing as well as playing their ukuleles and the choir will be singing a medley of songs.

The children will travel by bus to the Gala Theatre for the afternoon to rehearse. They will be asked to bring a packed tea and then we invite parents to join us for the performance at 6 p.m. Tickets will be on sale for this performance and the money raised will go towards paying for the buses and the hire of the Gala Theatre. This is the third year we have done this. It is a great opportunity for the children. All the children who have had the opportunity to do this in the past have loved it (even if they found it nerve wracking) and really benefitted from the experience. It's certainly something for our Y4 and choir parents to look forward to.



Attendance

I cannot emphasise enough the importance of attendance and punctuality.

Lateness

Lateness means your child misses the main teaching part of the lesson and so they are at a distinct disadvantage to the other children in their class.

Arriving at school 10 minutes late each day means they lose 50 minutes teaching in a week... 4 hours 20 minutes in 4 weeks. This is a significant length of time and of course if you arrive after 9 a.m. it's even more time.

It also means the children have to enter the classroom once the lesson has begun and this can cause great anxiety for them.

It's so much better for all children to be at school on time. You have 10 minutes to arrive. Please ensure you get to school before 8:50 every day.



To formalise our record of lateness we will be asking all adults who bring children late to school to complete the details of their lateness in the Late Book. This book will start from tomorrow, Wednesday 11th January.

Absence

Absence is another cause for anxiety in children. Obviously if a child is ill then they should not come to school. We would not expect them to be well enough to work and so will not provide any work for them at home. However it is important that your child comes back to school as soon as possible. The longer they are off the harder it is for them to get back.

Odd days off

In addition to this, odd days off can have a really detrimental impact on a child. Friendships are key at school and if children are absent for odd days it can really impact on their friendships. If a child is off a day a week (and we do have some children who rarely complete a full week in school) then that means within a calendar month they have been absent for **4 days** (almost a week) – missing approximately **20 hours** of learning.

If they are off a day a week over 8 weeks they will have been absent for **8 days** – missing **40 hours** of learning.

You can't get this time back so if your child is well enough to attend school, please make sure they are here and on time.

We closely monitor children's attendance. Within school we acknowledge and reward positive attendance on a weekly basis by sharing class attendance data and by entering those children who have achieved 100% for the week into the winning spinner. Your child will be able to tell you about this. The winning class for attendance – last half term it was Mr Temple's class – receives £20 which is spent by the class on something of their choice.

You will also know that we reward children from Y1 upwards who have not lost any Privilege Time during the half term with either a chocolate biscuit (Y1 and Y2) or a hot chocolate (Y3 to Y6). The children love this treat and really appreciate it. We are now going to add another dimension to this and unless there are exceptional medical reasons, only children who have 90% attendance or above and have lost no Privilege Time during the half term will be eligible for this reward. This is another way to encourage good attendance and may well help you on those days when maybe your child is well but is feeling reluctant to come to school for any reason.

Travelling to and from school

Parking continues to be a problem outside school. Space is limited and if everyone comes in a car it can become dangerous. If possible, can you park away from school and walk your children here. If not, please **do not** park on the double yellow or zig zag lines – this applies to dropping children off too. Our School Crossing Patrol Man needs a clear view up and down the road and if you pull up in these areas this blocks his view. **We must do all we can to keep the children safe when coming to and from school.**



When entering the school grounds can you please adhere to the one-way walking route. Most parents do and I am grateful for this but some families regularly come in via the top exit and some do leave via the bottom entrance. Following the one-way system ensures fluid movement and reduces congestion.

To support this, can parents picking up children from the upper school please come on to the yard and not wait by the top gates – either on the school grounds or beyond the fence. If you gather there it does cause congestion and it doesn't take long to walk in via the correct route and wait on the yard. It also means that the teacher can see you more easily and therefore safely dismiss your child.

It would be greatly appreciated if everyone can follow our one-way system at all times (unless you have specific medical needs which means you cannot adhere to this.)

Tanfield's Got Talent

Yes – it's that time of year again and I have no doubt the children are already anticipating this and thinking about what they can do. The Talent Show is for Y2 to Y6 and the children will be told more about this within the next week as class auditions will be taking place soon.

Head Lice

Just a reminder to say that it's important to check your child's hair regularly for head lice. They are very common in children and their families. There's nothing you can do to prevent head lice but you can stop them spreading by wet or dry combing regularly to catch them early. Please read the guidance by using the link below. It's important to keep vigilant and check regularly. Thank you.



<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>

Finally....

GRINTON SLIDE SHOW

The Y5 children have been busy putting together the Slideshow of their visit to Grinton in September 2022.

We would like to invite parents to come in to school on Friday 10th February at 9 a.m. in the Upper School Hall. We hope you can join us for this to enjoy seeing all the children did during their visit.

Dates For Your Diary	
Spring 2023	
Friday 13 th January	Vision tests for Reception children
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 We are planning to hold Healthy Living Activities in a different way this year, using Chartwells (our caterers) to lead this. Dates still to be confirmed but will be part of the normal timetable.
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
Friday 10 th February	9 a.m. Grinton Slideshow for Y5 parents
Monday 6 th February	KS2 Swimming Gala
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. More info to come.</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 February	Back to school
Week beg 27 th Feb	Book Fair in this week.
Tuesday 28 th February	Y6 who were in Mrs Morning's class last year to attend Monozukuri event at Nissan today
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 (As in previous years, 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. Choir to sing at this event.
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
Monday 17th April	Half of Howtown payment to be made by today
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
Friday 5th May	Half of Grinton payment to be made by today
Monday 8th May	Bank Holiday for the Coronation
Tues 9 th – Friday 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 @ Brandon
Monday 22 nd May	Y1 Multi Skills Festival @ Tanfield
Tuesday 23 rd May	Art Exhibition - celebrating the children’s artwork Friends of Tanfield to hold a Coffee Afternoon in the Lower School Hall
Wednesday 24 th May	Y5/6 – Cricket Competition
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
Wednesday 7 th June	10:30 to 12:15 All Y6 to attend swimming assessment at Louisa Centre
Thursday 8 th June	Y1/2 (a.m.) and Y3/4 (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
Wednesday 14 th June	Targeted Y6 swimmers to attend swimming session at Louisa Centre every Weds morning until the end of term.
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 @ Tanfield Y3/4 – Cricket Competition
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 3 rd July)
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 + 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

