

Dear Parents and Carers,

March 2023



Opening Doors, Enriching Lives

It was great to see so many parents in school last week for our Parent Meetings. It's a really good opportunity to see your child's work as well as speak to their teacher.

Mrs Sparkes (Reception) and Mrs Carter (Y4) are settling in and the children are adjusting to their new teacher.

We have four weeks until Easter so there is a lot to fit in. Please read through the 'Dates for your Diary' to ensure you know what is happening when.

More information on some of the activities is included in this newsletter.



Paul Cookson, poet

We are welcoming Paul Cookson tomorrow. He is a poet who has worked with children both nationally and internationally and really inspires the children to enjoy poetry as well as write their own. We hope to use some of the KS2 children's compositions in our Easter Celebration Service.

Paul will be selling three of his books. If you would like your child to purchase any, please send them in with some money - £3 for one book, £5 for two.

Coming to school – walking and driving

We continue to have local residents expressing concern about parking in the streets around our school. It's so important that you park considerately. If you live within walking distance to school, please try to walk to school. If you can't, then ideally you should park away from school and then walk here. Please do not park across anyone's drive and do not reverse onto the main road. We must do all we can to ensure that the children are safe as they walk onto the school grounds.

Can I also remind you again that we operate a one-way system when walking into school. Unless you have any particular needs, please enter by the main entrance gate and then leave by the path between the School House and the Activity Den.



Strike Days

There are two more strike days planned. These will be on Wednesday and Thursday 15th and 16th March. Currently the strike is still going to take place and if that is the case then we will have to close the following classes on both days.

1D	Mrs Davidge
12B	Mrs Brown
2W	Mrs Wilkinson
3B	Mrs Brotherston
3Mac	Mr MacDonald
4Mc	Mr McIntosh

If your child is **not** in one of the above classes, they will be expected to attend school as usual as they are not affected. I am sorry for the inconvenience this is causing.

Residential Visits

Y6 are still working on their slideshow, celebrating their visit to Howtown in November. It looks as though it will be early on in the summer term that we'll be inviting you in to see that. The vast majority of children in the current Y4 and Y5 have signed up for their residential visits. Y4 will visit Grinton in September, when they are in Y5. The current Y5 will visit Howtown in November.

Don't forget - you can make payments for these visits at any time but half of the money must be paid by the following dates:

Howtown Monday 17th April

Grinton Friday 5th May



We are also going to be sending a questionnaire to Y4 and Y5 parents as we are considering applying for funding to take the children further afield next year if we can secure the funding to make this accessible for all children. Funding is offered through the Turing Scheme and supports visits worldwide. Watch out for information about this coming soon.

Easter Celebration Service for Key Stage 2

The children in KS2 will be holding their Easter Celebration Service on Thursday 30th March.

This will be a combination of the Easter story, poems and music. The children will lead it.

KS2 children will be walking to the church for this service. The children who are taking part in this will have an early lunch so that they can walk to the church to get there earlier to rehearse before the rest of KS2 arrive. We are aiming to start the service between 1:30 and 1:45. We are encouraging parents to join us for this. Children will be able to go home with parents afterwards. Those who do not have parents there will walk back to school with staff, arriving back for the end of the school day.



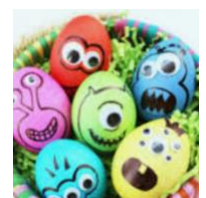
Easter Egg Decorating

It comes around quickly!

Our Easter Egg decorating competition will take place on Wednesday 29th March. We ask Lower School children (Pre-School to Y2) to decorate their egg at home and bring it in that morning ready for judging. Upper School children should come into school with a plan for their egg. They'll need to bring some hard-boiled eggs and resources to decorate their egg.

The Friends of Tanfield will organise a Coffee Afternoon in the Upper School Hall from 2 p.m. until the end of the school day. The choir will sing at this event and the Easter Raffle will be drawn.

We'll be asking all families to send in a chocolate contribution on an extra Non School Uniform day on Friday 24th March. Thanks in advance for your support with this.



Talk of Tanfield

Our Tanfield Reporters have been very busy researching and writing some new articles for their Spring edition of Talk of Tanfield. We have attached the newspaper for your enjoyment. The editors (Hannah and Autumn) will be going around the Upper School classes this week to encourage younger children to submit their drawings and written ideas.



Dates For Your Diary	
Spring 2023 (Green indicates new dates added)	
Tuesday 7th March	Paul Cookson (poet) to spend the day in school – he will be selling books £3 for 1 or £5 for 2
Tuesday 14 th March	All Stars Cricket Roadshow for Y1 to Y3 – children to come in their PE kits this day please
Tuesday 14 th March	Boys' Football Matches – after school at Greenland I think this one is happening
Wednesday 15 th March	Strike Day – 1D, 1/2B, 2W, 3B, 3Mac and 4Mc closed all day
Thursday 16 th March	Strike Day – 1D, 1/2B, 2W, 3B, 3Mac and 4Mc closed all day
Thursday 23 rd March	After School Local Litter Pick organised by the School Council – more information soon but parents and children are encouraged to take part in this
Friday 24 th March	Data Sheets to be given out to parents at the end of this week – Y1 to Y6
Friday 24 th March	Non-School Uniform Day – please donate an Easter Egg – one per family
Monday 27 th March	Phototronics in to take Y6 individual photos for end of year Leavers' Books
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 will be 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

