

Dear Parents and Carers,

April 2023

We hope the children have had a lovely Easter and are looking forward to all the summer term has to offer.



The end of last term was a busy one. If you follow us on twitter, you'll have seen the great egg decorating completed by the children. As ever they were very creative and enjoyed taking part. Thanks to all the KS2 parents who were able to come in and help with this. Huge thanks also to the Friends of Tanfield Lea who organised the Easter Raffle and Coffee Afternoon, which was well supported. They raised a massive £541 which will go towards funding enrichment activities for the children.

KS2 led their Easter Celebration Service at St. Margaret's retelling the Easter Story as well as reciting some classic poems, some humorous ones and some original poems. The afternoon was enjoyed by all involved.

It was also lovely to see so many enjoying the Litter Pick in the woods adjacent to our school. Thanks to the School Council for organising this.

Y4 enjoyed their Multi Sports event and our Y1 and Y2 football team won the inter school competition. Well done to all involved.



This half term is an important assessment term. Y2 and Y6 will take part in the national assessments and all other children will be assessed on their progress this year.

It's therefore very important that the children are in school as much as they can be.

It's never ideal requesting Leave of Absence during the school term but even more important during this half term.

Things to look forward to this term:

We have some year groups going on Educational Visits linked to their learning in school. Early this term Pre-School will visit Hall Hill Farm on Wednesday 26th April and Reception will be visiting the Great North Museum on Wednesday 3rd May.

Creative Pop - Our Y3 have been lucky enough to be selected to take part in an Art Project funded by the Forge (<https://www.intheforge.com/> who secured the funding from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation). The focus for the project is to support children's emotional well-being through art and the project will culminate in the children being involved in creating an art installation for our school. Year 3 children will have the opportunity to work with the artists this term. If you want to know more about Creative Pop then follow this link <https://www.creativepop.uk/home> .

Our **Annual Art Exhibition** will be on Tuesday 23rd May. The exhibition will celebrate some of the artwork children have produced this year. Parents are invited to view the gallery and enjoy a coffee (courtesy of the Friends of Tanfield Lea) on the afternoon from 2 p.m. (Main gates will be opened for access between 2 and 2:15).

The Friends also have another two fundraising events planned. Tuesday 25th April is a **Bingo Night** – please come for 6 p.m. Wednesday 28th June will be a **Fashion Show**.

The Friends will send out more information later but it is planned to start at 6 p.m.

The group are now moving forward (post Covid) and are keen to recruit new members.



Strike Days

As you may be aware there are two more strike days planned for this coming half term.

They are Thursday 27th April and Tuesday 2nd May.

It is looking as though the same classes will be affected again with all classes listed below being closed all day on Thursday 27th April.

On Tuesday 2nd May, if staff do strike, Mr McIntosh's class would be closed all day but all other classes will be able to open for the afternoon due to the fact that those teachers have their Planning and Preparation time on a Tuesday afternoon and so we can have our usual cover arrangements in place. I will write again at the end of this week to confirm arrangements.

Classes currently impacted by strike action:

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. Once again, I am sorry for the inconvenience this is causing.

Inappropriate Use of Social Network Sites



Most people take part in online activities and social media. Our school actively use Twitter @TanfieldPrimary and the Friends of Tanfield have their Facebook site. These are online school groups, managed by our school for parents, and they are a great way to share the many things happening in school.

Social media is, unfortunately, being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, headteachers, school staff, and, in some cases, other parents or pupils. This is unacceptable to all and will not be tolerated.

We always try to make sure that the school is a happy place but recognise that there might be times when parents/carers have concerns. It is not appropriate or acceptable to share your concerns on social media. You are encouraged to raise any issues with a member of staff; if you consider that the issue remains unresolved, then please use the School Complaints Policy.

Collecting your children at the end of the day

Thanks to all parents who are following our one-way system to enter and exit school. It really does make a difference in reducing congestion on the grounds.

When you are picking up on both yards but particularly the Lower School yard, could you please stand back and not crowd the area around the doorway. This will allow the staff and children to come out and have a clear view of adults on the yard, ensuring that all children can leave safely. Many thanks for this.

Finally the following pages are the significant dates for this term and the holiday dates for the next academic year, for your reference.

Dates For Your Diary

Summer 2023 (New dates added in green)

Monday 17th April	Back to school
Monday 17 th April	Half of Howtown payment to be made by today
Thursday 20th April	Phonics/Reading after school club for Y4 (no charge) – by invitation only (every Thursday this half term plus Wednesday 24th May, due to Teacher Training Days)
Tuesday 25th April	After School – Football Matches –last ones this year for the boys
Tuesday 25th April	Bingo Night organised by Friends of Tanfield Lea – 6 p.m.
Wednesday 26 th April	Pre-School visit to Hall Hill Farm
Thursday 27th April	Proposed Strike Day for teachers in NEU
Monday 1st May	May Bank Holiday
Monday 1st May	Y2 SATs testing window starts today and finishes at half term (24th May)
Tuesday 2nd May	Proposed Strike Day for teachers in NEU
Wednesday 3rd May	Reception to visit the Great North Museum all day
Friday 5 th May	Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund, one per family
Friday 5 th 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) @ Brandon
Monday 22 nd May	Y1 Multi Skills Festiva and ABCs @ 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 – Gates open between 2 and 2:15 p.m. for entry
Wednesday 24 th May	Y5/6 – Cricket Competition at Burnopfield
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
Monday 5th June 3:15 to 4:15	After School German Club run by Ms Bruce for Y3 to Y6 starting today (No charge for this club) (Letter to be sent out before May half term)
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 including a Climbing Wall 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
Wednesday 28th June	6 p.m. Fashion Show organised by the Friends of Tanfield Lea
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 and ABCs @ Tanfield Y3/4 – Cricket Competition - 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 – Current Reception Parents to be invited to join us at 1:45 p.m. Pre-School to move to Reception – Current Pre-School 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 @ Brandon
Friday 7 th July	Reports go out to all parents
Monday 10 th July	Parent Meetings after school 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 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.) 12:15 to 3:15 - Y5 and Y6 to go to NDA to see their performance of Frozen
Friday 21 st July	Last day of term

Holiday Dates for 2023 – 2024

Please book holidays during our holiday periods. We deliberately plan to have 3 of our Teacher Training Days in May, linked with the May Half Term break, so that families can potentially benefit from cheaper prices. We cannot authorise holidays taken during term time and as well as impacting on a child's attendance it can significantly impact on their learning and friendships.

Please note that these may differ from other schools in the area due to Teacher Training days.

Holiday	Closing Date	Date Re-open for Teaching Purposes
Summer 2023	Friday, 21st July 2023	<u>Monday, 4th September 2023</u>
Autumn Half-Term 2023 (1 week)	Friday, 27th October 2023	<u>Monday, 6th November 2023</u>
<i>Teacher Training Day</i> (2 days)	Wednesday, 22nd November 2023	<u>Monday, 27th November 2023</u>
Christmas 2023 (2 weeks)	Tuesday, 19th December 2023	<u>Wednesday, 3rd January 2024</u>
Spring Half-Term 2024 (1 week)	Friday, 16th February 2024	<u>Monday, 26th February 2024</u>
Easter 2024 (2 weeks & 1 Day)	Thursday, 28th March 2024	<u>Monday, 15th April 2024</u>
May Day 2024 (1 day)	Friday, 3rd May 2024	<u>Tuesday, 7th May 2024</u>
Summer Half-Term 2024 (1week) <i>Teacher Training Days</i> (3 days)	Tuesday, 21st May 2024	<u>Monday, 3rd June 2024</u>
Summer 2024	Tuesday, 23rd July 2024	<u>Wednesday, 4th September 2024</u>

N.B. Due to the changes in amendments to School Attendance Regulations Head Teachers may not grant ANY leave of absence during term-time unless there are exceptional circumstances. From September 2015 parents will be fined if they choose to take their child out of school for more than 6 days unauthorised absence over a rolling 12 week period. *Exceptional circumstances will be extremely rare.*

TEACHER TRAINING DAYS – SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS :- 23rd, 24th November 2023 and 22nd, 23rd, 24th MAY 2024.