

Dear Parents and Carers,

July 2023



The last half term of the academic year is well underway and we have a lot planned for these 3 weeks.

Y6 are having their transition days this week and the rest of our children met their teacher and had their transition lesson yesterday. We also had our 'Meet the Teacher' information sessions last night. Thanks to all who were able to attend this. We will be sharing the presentations via our website and we'll let you know as soon as these are uploaded.

In addition to this, parents of children in Pre-School who are moving in to Reception in September are invited in this Wednesday afternoon, please arrive at 2 p.m., to spend some time with their child in the Reception environment. Parents of children in Reception who are moving in to Y1 in September are invited in a week on Wednesday (12th July), please arrive at 1:45, to join their children as they move up to the Y1 classroom.

The children's end of year reports will go out via email to all parents at the end of the school day on Friday 7th July. For the majority of parents this is enough as it is very detailed.

However, if you have something in particular you would like to discuss with your child's teacher then we do have some appointments available to book on Monday 10th July. We've sent an email out about this with instructions on how to book.

As we approach the end of term I'd like to take this opportunity to remind you that if you are wanting to express your thanks to your child's class teacher at the end of their time in their class then please don't buy a present, staff would much prefer that you send a card. It's much cheaper and appreciated even more. Thank you.

Please read on to find out more about the last three weeks and other general updates.

Kay Hemmings (Head Teacher)

New Staff

As you know we've had a few changes this year. We've had staff promoted, our School Business Manager retire as well as Mrs Hole (Clerical Assistant) who will be going on maternity leave.

We have been successful with appointments and I can now tell you who we have appointed.

Class Teacher Miss Keith will join us in September. She has already met her class and is excited to be joining our team.

Clerical Assistant Whilst Mrs Hole is on maternity leave, Mrs Robertson will be covering both Breakfast Club and the role of Clerical Assistant. She's already spent a couple of mornings in school finding out more about the role.

School Business Manager Following readvertisement, Mrs O'Malley was successful in securing the post of School Business Manager. She is currently School Business Manager in a school in Crook and so is very familiar with the role. She will take up the post on Monday 17th July.

Higher Level Teaching Assistant This is a two-year temporary contract, Mrs Howe was offered the job and she will start with us in September.

We're looking forward to welcoming them all to our team and we are sure they will enjoy working at our school.



Cricket Success

A team of eight Y5 and 6 children have enjoyed great success in the Durham County cricket competition. They won the first two rounds which named them Derwentside champions, and they were going on to represent our area in the county final. Sadly, the weather got the better of us on the day and unfortunately they have not been able to rearrange this. It's such a shame as I know the children were really looking forward to this – however, they can be very proud of their achievements.

Woodwind lessons

If your child is in Y3 they are being given the opportunity to learn to play a woodwind instrument. Lessons are provided by the Durham Music Service. There is a cost for this, although the school does subsidise this for children who are eligible for free school meals. If your child is interested, they will be bringing home a postcard which gives you more information. Please read this to find out how to proceed.

Parent Questionnaire

Our thanks again to everyone who completed the annual parent questionnaire, sent out in March. I am sorry it has taken us so long to work through the responses.

As in previous years we had some really positive comments and some suggestions for changes we could make. We will report in more detail about this to you before the end of term but here is a summary of the responses:

MARCH 2023 60 responses <i>1 response = approx. 1.66%</i>					
Question		Strongly Agree+Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
My child is happy at this school		92%	3%	5%	0%
My child feels safe at this school		90%	8%	2%	0%
The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved. (e.g.		83%	10%	3%	3%
My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively.	NOT BEEN	Strongly Agree+Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
	57%	17%	7%	7%	13%
The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year.		82%	17%	2%	0%
When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly.	NOT Raised any	Strongly Agree+Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
	20%	62%	10%	7%	2%
Does your child have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)? (yes or no)		Figures based on less than 12 responses			
If yes, 'My child has SEND, and the school gives them the support they need to succeed.'		67%	33%	0%	25%
The school has high expectations for my child.		95%	5%	0%	3%
My child does well at this school.		94%	5%	0%	2%
The school lets me know how my child is doing.		88%	10%	2%	0%
There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school.		97%	2%	0%	2%
My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school.		85%	3%	3%	8%
The school supports my child's wider personal development.		81%	10%	3%	5%
I would recommend this school to another parent.		87%	13%		



Suntan Lotion

Don't forget that on sunny days it's important that your child comes to school having applied some suntan lotion. If you know it's going to be a particularly hot day then please feel free to send them in with their lotion on the understanding that they will need to apply this themselves. A hat is also a useful thing to wear on the particularly warm days.

Football Strips We would like to say a big thank you to Lee Ovington from Stanley Locksmiths for sponsoring the boys' new football strip. Both of our teams are going to look very smart next year.



Water Slide

This is possibly one of the children's favourite activities of the year. I'm hoping we've not missed all of the sunny weather as we like to keep this activity until the end of the half term.

A large plastic sheet is setup on the hillside just below the tree houses. That, together with a water hose and some washing up liquid, creates a fantastic water slide and hours of fun. This activity is going to be offered to all children from Reception through to Y6.

We are hoping to do it on Tuesday 11th July. We will watch the weather and if that is not looking possible then our alternative date is Friday 14th July.

On the water slide day the children will need a complete change of clothes including underwear and footwear. They will also need a towel. They get very wet and pretty muddy too so make sure it's some old clothes you provide them with for this activity.

Durham Brass

The Durham Brass Festival is taking place once again this month and we will host Artistas del Gremio, a Spanish fanfare-type music band, composed of brass and percussion instruments. They've performed in several European countries as well as in Ecuador and now they will perform at our school ☺ This will be on Thursday 13th July. I have no doubt the children will love it.



Y2 Moving On Assembly – Friday 14th July

We're hoping many of you will be able to join us for this.

Although, due to numbers, we are restricting this to no more than 3 adults per child. It will take place in the Upper School Hall starting as soon as the children are ready – probably between 9 and 9:15. We won't be able to let parents into the hall until we have cleared Breakfast Club away and chairs have been set out so once you've dropped your child/ren off please queue up under the covered walkway leading into the Upper School Hall. As soon as we are ready we'll invite you in to the Upper School Hall. We look forward to seeing you then.



The children in Mr Patterson and Mr Temple's classes are well into rehearsals now for their end of year performance. This year it is **Cinderella and Rokerfella** and will be performed on Tuesday 18th

July at 6 p.m. in the Upper School Hall. Tickets have gone on sale - £2 for an adult and £1 for a child – maximum of 2 tickets per child initially.

Lower School Fun Day – Wednesday 19th July

Children and staff in Lower School are very excited for our annual fun day! This will be held on Wednesday 19th July during the school day.



On Fun Day, Early Years, Pre-School and Reception children will celebrate the many books that they have read and enjoyed on their book spine. Various fun activities will take place in and around the Early Years Unit. Year 1 and Year 2 will spend the morning celebrating the diverse curriculum that we have in school through a variety of activities.

All children from Pre-School through to Y2 will also get to meet some creatures when "Crazy Creatures North East", a mobile petting zoo, visit us. This has been funded by a generous offer from a Pre-School parent and school fund. In addition to this the children in Reception through to Y2 will see children's entertainers "Eileen and Joe", a ventriloquist act, funded through school fund.



At the end of Fun Day all of lower school will join together for a celebration picnic (small snack provided by school).

Children in Lower School will not be required to wear their school uniform on Fun Day.

We would like to ask for a donation of £1 per family to go towards the costs of fun day. We ask you to send this in on the day please. Thanks.



Upper School Walk from Craster to Embleton, including beach activities

Our annual Upper School walk on the Northumbrian coast is on Wednesday 19th July.

All children from Y3 to Y6 will go on this. There will be no charge to parents for this. Buses will be funded through contributions

from the Friends of Tanfield Lea and the school fund.

We'll be leaving promptly, as close to 9 a.m. as possible, and we aim to be back for the end of the school day. Children will have the opportunity to play on the beach and paddle in the sea. They can bring a change of clothes if they intend to get wet. We'll send a further email closer to the day.

Y6 Leavers' Assembly – Thursday 20th July

As with the Y2 Moving on Assembly, this will take place in the Upper School Hall. We are restricting this to 2 adults per child and we aim to start as soon after 9 a.m. as possible.

Again, we'll have to wait for Breakfast Club to be cleared away and chairs set out so please queue up under the covered walkway leading into the Upper School Hall. As soon as we are ready we'll invite you in to the Upper School Hall.

Residential Visits to Grinton and Howtown – Autumn 2023

Thanks to all parents in Y4 and Y5 who have booked their children on to the residential visits in the autumn term. Parents should now have paid at least half of the total cost for these visits and full payment for Grinton is to be made by Friday 8th September and for Howtown, full payment should be made by Monday 25th September.

If you have not booked but your child is now thinking they would like to go, please get in touch and we will see if it is possible to confirm a place. Both are great experiences for the children and not to be missed.

Dates For Your Diary	
Summer 2023 (New dates added in green)	
Tuesday 4 th July	Y2 Multi Skills Festival and ABCs @ Tanfield
Wednesday 5 th July	Transition afternoon for children and parents of Pre-School. Current Pre-School Parents to join us at 2 p.m. Due to numbers, we ask that only one parent attends this and that you do not bring any younger siblings.
Wednesday 5 th July	Strike Day – 1D, 12B, 2W, 3B, 3Mac and 4Mc classes closed all day
Friday 7 th July	Strike Day – 1D, 2W and 4Mc classes closed all day 3B class open for afternoon session – please arrive at school for 12:40 12B and 3Mac classes open for afternoon session – please arrive at school for 1 p.m.
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	Puberty talk for Y5 and Y6 All Friends of Tanfield Lea raffle tickets to be returned by today please.
Monday 10 th July	Parent Meetings after school for those parents who would like an appointment
Tuesday 11 th July	Water Slide for children from Reception through to Y6. Please send your child in with a full change of clothes (including shoes and underwear)
Wednesday 12 th July (Date changed due to strike day)	Transition afternoon for children and parents of Reception to learn more about how things work in Y1 and parents to support their children with this progression. Current Reception Parents to be invited to join us at 1:45 p.m. Again, we ask that just one parent attends and that you do not bring any younger siblings.
Wednesday 12 th July Doors open 6p.m. for 6:30 start	Fashion Show in Upper School Hall – organised by the Friends of Tanfield Lea There are still some tickets left, please contact the office
Thursday 13 th July	Brass Band Artistas Del Gremio to come and play to school (hopefully outside) 1:30
Friday 14 th July	Y2 Moving on Assembly for their parents (9 a.m.) Alternative day for Water Slide if weather not good enough on Tuesday Bastille Day – this event has been cancelled this year
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 This has been postponed until December.
Friday 21 st July	Last day of term
Monday 4 th September	BACK TO SCHOOL FOR EVERYONE
Tuesday 12 th Sept	5 p.m. Meeting for all parents who have children going on the Grinton residential visit
Tuesday 10 th Oct	5 p.m. Meeting for all parents who have children going on the Howtown residential visit

