

# Tatham Fells CE Primary School

Roots to Grow, Wings to Fly & Faith to Flourish

November 2023



Dear families,

We had a super start to the week with a visit to see our friends at Melling for the 'Festival of Light', celebrating and exploring different faiths. We had Prags Birk from Cultural Educ-Asian teaching us about the Hindu religion. We got to do Bollywood dancing, rangoli patterns, eat samosas and have Mendhi on our hands. We learned about Catholicism from Sister Michaela from Our Lady of Hyning Monastery, made rosary beads and ate cake. We learned about the Anglican faith from Rev Jane and sang hymns and learned about letting light shine through making glowing stars. The infants also had a joint PE lesson with Mrs Speight-teamwork!

A group of Y1/2 children had a great time representing our school in an athletics rally at Carnforth high school and enjoyed running, jumping and showing their athletic skills whilst working as a joint team with children from Melling. We are very proud of them as for most of them it was their first time at a big competition.

We have lots to look forward to in the second half of the Autumn term with sporting events, bikeability, Sports leaders and of course Christmas activities so enjoy the half term break in preparation!

It has been an extremely busy start to the school year, I hope you enjoy a restful half term with your families.

Fiona Ip

Headteacher

## SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

The closing date for applications for September 2024 are:

**Tuesday 31 October 2023 for secondary applicants**

**Monday 15 January 2024 for primary applicants.**

Apply online at: [www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools)

## OPEN DAY FOR NEW STARTERS 2024

We are excited to be holding an open day for parents of children starting school in September 2024.

**Monday 13th November 9.30am - 10.30am & 1pm - 2pm**

Please spread the word! We are full in KS2 but would love more children and families in the early years. If you know of any families willing to travel 'the extra mile' to our lovely rural school please encourage them to come and look round on open day. Every preschool child visiting will receive a goodie bag to take home.

## Little Explorers

Our Little Explorers Forest School toddler sessions continue next half term, Fridays 1.15pm - 2.30pm. All toddlers and their parents/carers are most welcome!

## Feedback from Parent Questionnaires

Thank you to all who replied to our parent questionnaire in the summer term. It was lovely to receive all your positive feedback and we have tried to act on any actions we could.

**More visits and trips-** we have lots of visits and events which have happened or are happening this year. They are all linked to the curriculum to enhance the children's learning and have 2 residential visits, one to the Isle of Man for Y5/6 and one to Borwick Hall for Y3/4. We will continue this pattern so one year will be IOM and Borwick and the next year will be

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Edinburgh. That means all children will have the opportunity for a 1 night residential stay on Y3/4: a week of outdoor and adventure activities during Y5/6 and a city visit during Y5/6.

**Homework more/less** - some people wanted more homework and some wanted less. We have re-evaluated our homework and hope you think it is the right amount and worthwhile. Thank you to all those who have been listening to their children read. The reading scores have improved a great deal and reading is the most valuable homework a child can do.

**Communication/knowning dates-** we hope the Friday spider and monthly newsletter have helped with this. We will try to keep you as updated as we can.

**Behaviour Policy-** we always have high expectations of children's behaviour and are proud of their outstanding behaviour and lovely manners. We are committed to ensuring that all children understand our expectations. In line with these expectations and following staff training we will praise children publicly and give reminders for behaviour privately.

## Open Door Policy / Contacting School

It was lovely to see so many parents at our parent meeting afternoon last week. These meetings offer an opportunity to discuss your child's progress, ask questions & share your child's strengths and needs enabling us to work together to ensure the best outcomes for your children.

At Tatham Fells we operate an 'Open Door' policy. The purpose of this is to encourage open communication, feedback and discussion. We value the input parents make to our school. If you have any worries or concerns about your child's progress, wellbeing or the school please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher. Teachers can be contacted via the following email addresses:

[r.morgan@tathamfells.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:r.morgan@tathamfells.lancs.sch.uk)

[lisaianson@tathamfells.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:lisaianson@tathamfells.lancs.sch.uk)

For other matters please contact Mrs Ip, Headteacher via

[head@tathamfells.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:head@tathamfells.lancs.sch.uk) or Rebecca via [bursar@tathamfells.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:bursar@tathamfells.lancs.sch.uk)

Please allow time for staff to respond to emails, which will routinely be in working hours only (8.30am - 5pm, Monday to Friday).

Alternatively, contact the school by telephone on 015242 61441.

## New Menu

We are moving onto our new menu on Monday 30th October (Menu Week 1). Please see the menu attached. There is a special menu on Thursday 2nd November. As always, children can choose their preferred lunch option in the morning or bring a packed lunch.

## Year 5 & 6 Sports Leader Training

Children in Years 5 & 6 will be taking part in Sports Leader training on Monday 30th October, they should wear PE kit please.

## Rugby Tournament

We will be taking a team of children from Year 5 & 6 to take part in the Lune Valley Rugby tournament at Wray on Thursday 16th November. Children taking part will need to be collected from Wray at the end of the day please. Full details to follow.

## Swimming Gala

We will be taking a team of children from Year 5 & 6 to take part in the Lune Valley swimming gala at Heysham on Wednesday 22nd November. Details to follow.

# Tatham Fells CE Primary School

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## **Bikeability \*\*Date Change\*\* (due to a clash with rugby!)**

Children in Years 5 & 6 will be taking part in Bikeability training in school on the 23rd & 24th November.

## **Friends of TFS - Own Clothes Day**

Children are invited to wear what they want to school on Friday 3rd November in exchange for a raffle prize or hamper item for the Friends Christmas raffle.

## **Term Dates -**

The 2024/25 term dates have now been set. Please see attached.

## **School Spider App**

Please ensure you have downloaded the 'School Spider' app so you can make bookings/payments, complete surveys & permissions and receive messages from school. We use School Spider most days so it is important that you are able to access your parent account. Please contact the school office if you need any help logging in.

## **Forest School**

Our Forest School Sessions with Mrs Entwistle continue next half term. We will be working in 3 week blocks. The rota is as follows:

### **Infants:**

Friday 3rd/10th/17th November

### **Year 3 & 4**

Friday 24th November / 1st & 8th December

### **Year 5 & 6**

Friday 15th December / New Year

Children in the Infant class will need to bring a pair of long trousers please.

Junior children should bring long trousers and a top to change into.

**All children need waterproofs if they have them please!**

## **Flu Vaccination Programme 2024**

Flu vaccinations for Reception - Year 6 will take place in school on Thursday 30th November. Consent is managed online, please complete the online form - even if you do not give consent for your child to have the vaccination. Thank you

## **National Child Measurement Programme 2024**

The National Child Measurement Programme, height & weight checks for Reception & Year 6 will take place in school on **Tuesday 21st November 2023 (please note change of date)**. If you do not want your child's height and weight to be checked, please let the team know before the date of measure using the contact details listed below to ensure your child is opted out in time. Children will not be made to take part on the day if they do not want to. The Lancashire Healthy Young People and Families Service

T : 0300 247 0040

E : VCL.019.SinglePointofAccess2@nhs.net

## **School Day**

Our school day starts at 8.30am, drop off at the gate is between 8.20am - 8.30am. If you arrive after this time, please bring your child to the main entrance, thank you.

Early drop off is available from 8am (please do not arrive before this time) at the cost of 50p per child.

The school day finishes at 3pm.

# Tatham Fells CE Primary School

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November 2023



## DINNER ORDERING / MONEY

All balances are now available to view and pay via School Spider. If you are experiencing difficulty paying your invoice, please speak to Mrs Ip or Mrs Mason in confidence.

**Please check your parent account for outstanding invoices. Thank you**

## ASC/8am Drop Off:

As above, select the dates required and complete the booking at the payment page.

The products are all marked **\*\*NEW\*\*** on the booking system.

If you haven't made a booking in advance your child will be manually added to the system and an invoice will be generated.

If you have any difficulty accessing the system please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

## School Uniform

Please could all children keep a pair of wellington boots in school. They also need a pair of trainers for PE and outside play.

Long hair must be tied back at all times. We allow the children to wear plain stud earrings, but ask that the children do not wear earrings on the days of PE or swimming lessons.

**All items of clothing must be named please.**

School Uniform is supplied by the Uniform & Leisurewear company at Lancaster.

## PE Kit - Children should wear PE kit (with school shoes) on the following days please:

### Infants

Wednesday - PE lesson & Thursday - RugbyTots

### Juniors

Tuesday & Wednesday - PE Lesson

## After School Clubs This Half Term

Monday 3.15-5pm - ASC with Mrs Denby

Tuesday 3.15-5pm - ASC with Mrs Lowther

Wednesday 3.15-5pm - ASC with Mrs Speight

Please book online via the School Spider App or by emailing [bursar@tathamfells.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:bursar@tathamfells.lancs.sch.uk)

**£2.50 per child/ session**

## Absence Reporting & Attendance

**\*\*Absences can now be reported via the School Spider app\*\***

If your child is going to be absent from school please leave a phone message or email [bursar@tathamfells.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:bursar@tathamfells.lancs.sch.uk) before 9am on the day of each absence. If a phone call/email is not received we will need to call you during the morning to find out where they are as part of our safeguarding responsibility.

## DIARY DATES: amendments/additional dates \*\*

Tuesday 31st October - Lancashire Fire & Rescue visit to Years 2, 3 & 6

Tuesday 7th November - Yer 5 & 6 to visit Quernmore Primary school (book signing)

Friday 10th November 10:50am - Remembrance @ Lowgill Cenotaph

Wednesday 15th November - Bags2School Collection

\*\*Thursday 16th November Y 5 & 6 - rugby @ Wray

Friday 17th November - Children in Need (Wear something Spotty!)

Tuesday 21st November - Height/Weight checks (Reception & Year 6)

Wednesday 22nd November - KS2 Swimming Gala

\*\*Thursday 23rd & Friday 24th November - Year 5 & 6 Bikeability training in school

Thursday 30th November - Life Education visit (in school) & Flu Vaccinations

Thursday 30th November - Friends Bingo after school

# Tatham Fells CE Primary School

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November 2023



Thursday 7th December 2.30pm - School Fair

Friday 8th & Saturday 9th December - Christmas in the Mart (Friends of TFS)

Monday 11th December - Panto @ the Dukes Lancaster

Wednesday 13th December - Christmas Dinner & Party afternoon

Thursday 14th December 6pm - Nativity in Church (whole school)

## Advance Diary Dates - 2024

Monday 15th January - KS2 Trip to Blackburn Cathedral

Tuesday 6th February - Young Voices @ Manchester

Thursday 8th February 2.30pm - Family Worship

Tuesday 5th March 1.15-4pm - Parents Afternoon

Thursday 7th March - World Book Day (dress as a character from a book)

Friday 3rd May 2.30pm - May Day Celebration (Maypole)

Wednesday 5th June 1.30pm - Sports Day (RESERVE Wednesday 19th June)

**Monday 10th - Friday 14th June - Year 5 & 6 Isle of Man Trip**

**Tuesday 25th June - Wednesday 26th June - Year 3 & 4 Borwick Hall residential**

Wednesday 10th July 2pm - Summer Performance

Thursday 11th July 6pm - Summer Performance

Thursday 18th July 11am - Leavers Service (at Church) & Leavers Picnic (all welcome) 12noon