



## Spring Newsletter (3)



Happy new year and a warm welcome back to everyone; particularly those children who have just started their school life in Nursery. I am sure they will thoroughly enjoy their time with us. All children have settled in particularly well so thank you for preparing them so thoroughly!

I would also like to thank you for all your support at the end of last term. It does seem to be a long time ago now but we had a really wonderful end to the term with such great nativities, carols round the tree and parties.

Our school twitter page continues to be as popular as ever – don't forget to follow us: @LanchesterEP. You will find out all sorts of things that happen in your child's class on a daily basis as well as being well-informed about different events taking place across the whole school.

As usual, there are some important diary dates at the end of this newsletter, but of course, dates are continually being added to the diary, so please look out for any additional weekly letters that come out during the course of the term. Also, please remember that all our letters are also posted on our website and if you have the app for eSchools, they will also be sent directly to your device.

As usual, if there is anything at all that you want to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

*Jane Davis*

### Staff News



Mr Taylor and Mrs Coyle are both thoroughly enjoying their new classes, even though I know they do miss the children from last term. It is so reassuring to see how quickly both the children and teachers have adapted to each other!



The governing body are in the process of beginning the recruitment process to replace Mr Mordue and employ a senior leader for September. This will be quite an exciting and important appointment for the school – we will keep you informed of any progress.

### Contact Details and Email Addresses



Once again, we would just like to remind you about updating the School Office with your contact details. It is so important that all your emergency contact details are kept up to date, especially any new mobile numbers for both parents and additional contacts. Also, if you move house, it is essential that you inform the office.



It is also essential that the school office is informed of any change of email addresses. All letters and newsletters are now emailed to all parents and carers. It has become apparent that some of these are landing in spam or junk boxes. Please make sure that you check this. However, please also remember that all letters can also be found on our website and will also drop into your app if you have a smartphone. Help us become more efficient and environmentally friendly as we become increasingly paperless. Thank you!



### LJG Coaching Holiday Club



LJG Coaching (Mr Graham!) is holding another holiday club in the February half term holiday. The club will be held in school on the Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February, Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February and Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020. Forms for this are on the website – early booking is strongly advised.



### School Disco



On Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February we will be holding another school disco. The children will enjoy a mixture of dancing and games as well as enjoying a drink and hot dog. Reception & Key Stage 1 (Years 1&2) disco will be held immediately after school from 3.20pm until 4.30pm followed by our Key Stage 2 disco from 4.45pm until 6.00pm. Tickets will be on sale from Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at a cost of £2 each. If children could please bring their money into school in a named envelope and hand it to their class teacher, then the Office will make sure they receive their ticket.

Reception and Key Stage 1 children can bring their disco clothes to school and staff will help them change at the end of the day. KS2 children can stay at After School Club and go straight to the disco from there. Again, if they bring a change of clothes, they can change during After School Club. However, please remember that After School Club needs to be booked and paid for in advance.



### Ford Castle



Our Year 6 children are looking forward to their three days at Ford Castle in Northumberland during the first week of next half term (Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> to Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020). They will be given more information in the next couple of weeks including their kit list, consent form and activities. Due to having parents evenings in the last week of this half term, we are not holding a meeting for this trip but if you have any specific questions or concerns about the visit, please just ask the Year 6 teachers or myself. This is always such a special trip for our oldest children as it is lovely for them all to spend some quality time together as a year group.

With only 5 weeks to go before this trip, can I please remind you that the final payment of £45 or £20 for those eligible for Free School Meals is due by Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020. Please log into your ParentPay account to check you are up to date with your payments. Thank you.



### Digital Leaders and the Bett Show



We will be taking four of our Digital Leaders again to the BETT Show at the Excel Centre in London from Friday 24<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January. BETT is the largest education technology conference in the world (over 30,000 people attend over the four-day event) and our pupils will have the opportunity to see the latest products and help to inform future purchases.

It is a real privilege that for the first time our Digital Leaders have also been asked to present in one of the theatres at BETT and will be presenting to delegates from all around the world about the positive impact that the use of social media has had at Lanchester EP. As well as attending BETT, pupils will also be given the opportunity to see The Lion King in the West End and take a sightseeing tour of London on the River Thames.



### Holocaust Memorial Day Event



On Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January we are delighted to be hosting a Holocaust Memorial Day Event for North-East schools. 95 year-old Holocaust survivor Sigmund 'Sigi' Ciffer will be visiting our school and sharing his story with Year 5 and Year 6 pupils from around the region. Pupils will then work in groups to produce a piece of digital work about Sigi's story and the lessons that can be learnt from it. The session will end with each school lighting a candle in remembrance of the Holocaust victims.

We are running this event in partnership with our friends from 2Simple Software and are delighted that Radio Newcastle will also be in attendance to cover this very special event.



### Persistent Absentees



Any child whose attendance drops to 90% or under need to be monitored very carefully and these children are now recorded as persistent absentees. It is really important that you are aware of your child's attendance as only a few days off school can make a big difference to the overall percentage.

90% attendance = ½ day missed **every week!**

90% attendance = 1 day missed **every other week!**

90% attendance = **4 whole weeks of lessons missed!**

90% attendance over 5 years of school = ½ **a school year missed!**



### Punctuality



Please remember that the doors to Reception and the Main School close at 8.55am. There seem to be an increasing number of children arriving at school after this time. It is really important that all children are on time to school every day as teaching starts at 9am prompt and if children arrive late into their classes, it does have a detrimental impact on both their education and their self-esteem. Please make every effort to arrive early each day, never mind on time!



### Parent Governor



Mrs Karen Deaville has resigned from her role as parent governor. We would like to thank her for the time and commitment she has shown to our school during her time as parent governor. We are fortunate that Ms Denice Atkinson has been appointed in her place. I am sure that she will fulfil this role both competently and with great enthusiasm.



### School Choir



Our school choir continue to have a very busy term ahead! Our very committed group of children are currently busy rehearsing to compete in Ryton Music Festival in both the hymn singing and unison song class which takes place on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020. Their enthusiasm is really quite catching – I am sure you will be hearing all their songs at home shortly! More information regarding the times of the classes will be shared as soon as we have received them but parents and carers are more than welcome to come along and support!



### Tuck shop and Snacks



We are changing the way we organise our tuck shop in school from next week. We have used Fruit to Suit for a while but our Rotakids have rightly been questioning the amount of plastic and waste that is associated with these products. I realise that the different days for different classes has also caused some confusion with some parents and children.

So, as a result, we are opening a newly formed 'healthy tuck shop' every morning. Children will be able to access this tuck shop every day if they wish. Miss Brierley will be running this along with some of our responsible older children and snacks will cost 20p each.

On offer will be a range of fresh fruit, raisins, fruit and cheese. Children are to bring their money and come to the Junior Hall where the snacks will be on sale.

Please note – we are more than happy for children to bring in their own healthy snack on a daily basis. All we ask is that it is healthy and that it is not stored in their packed lunch.

In addition, please remember that Early Years and Key Stage One children receive a piece of free fruit every morning.



### Juice Fund



We are continuing to provide our children with juice and biscuits once a week. For this, we do ask for a contribution of 50p per week. We are asking for £3 for this half term and payment can be made either on ParentPay or in cash to the office. This does help us to provide so many additional resources and visitors to school so thank you for your support with this.



### Homework



Please remember that homework is given to your child every Thursday to be handed in on a Tuesday. However, in Year 2 and Year 6, it will be given on a Monday to be handed in on a Friday. Please encourage your child to look after their homework folder and to make sure that homework is completed and handed back to their teacher on time. Thank you.



### Head Lice



We receive a number of requests to inform parents when there is an outbreak of head lice in different classes. However, we follow the NHS Guidelines for this and their recommendation is that parents and carers should be checking their children's hair at least once a week with the special combs. Only acting when there is an outbreak in your child's class will not help prevention. Like many schools, we do have outbreaks from time to time and this is the only way to prevent it occurring regularly.



### **Money raised at KS2 Nativity and Christingle**



I would just like to thank you all for your wonderful generosity at our K2 Nativity and Christingle which took place in All Saints Church on the last day of term. We raised a terrific £415.83 in aid of NECCR – North-East Children's Cancer Research – our charity of the year. This is a super total which has been donated to such a worthwhile cause – thank you all so much!



### **Pupil Parliament**



We are re-launching our school council this term as we want them to have a bigger say in the decisions and running of the school. They are now going to be known as our Pupil Parliament and will have regular meetings with both Mr Knighton and Miss Butler while Mrs Grayson will also have an input in her role as our Rights Respecting Schools Leader. Watch this space for their news!



### **Messages From the School Office**



Parents of the our starters in Nursery should have by now received log in details for eSchools and ParentPay. If these have not been received or you have any questions at all, please contact the school office.

#### **PGL**

At least £170 or £100 for those eligible for Free School Meals should have been paid towards this exciting trip in July. Please ensure that you are up to date with your payments. We are unable to pay our invoices if any instalment is missing and this also jeopardizes your child's place on the trip. We appreciate your co-operation with this.

#### **Payments**

Once again we are unfortunately experiencing a high number of parents and carers who are in arrears with dinner money and wrap around care payments. We do pride ourselves in being able to offer ad-hoc wrap around care but can only continue to do this if sessions are paid for in advance or at least on the same day as the late booking is made. Can I please once again remind you all to check your ParentPay balances and ensure your child's dinner money and wrap around care accounts are kept up to date. Thank you.



### **PGL Residential**



We have a record number of children from Year 5 & 6 going to PGL at Dalguise, Perthshire. This is always a wonderful experience for the children and our most popular residential! Please just make sure that all payments are made on time so that we are able to pay the invoices when required. More information will be shared nearer the time about this residential. The next payment of £120 is due by the end of February 2020.



### **Year 3 Overnight Visit to Birdoswald Roman Fort**



Further information will be shared at the parents' meeting on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January at 5.30pm in the main hall. The children will stay in the accommodation at Birdoswald Roman Fort and enjoy a march/walk along the Roman Wall, meet a Roman soldier and hear about life in Roman times, have a tour of the fort and also enjoy a storytelling session at one of the half castles. This will be a wonderful experience for them all and one which has always been a great success! Mr Stephenson's class will go on Tuesday and Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> March and Mrs Grayson's class will go Wednesday and Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> March 2020.



### **Year 4 Overnight Visit to Alnwick Castle, Gardens and Seahouses**



Further information will be shared at the parents' meeting on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January at 6pm in the main hall. The children will stay in accommodation at Seahouses and enjoy two workshops in Alnwick Castle as well as a guided tour, a guided tour of the Poison Gardens as well as a tour of Alnwick Gardens and a visit to the beach at Seahouses too! This is the first time we have organised this residential but I am sure it is going to prove exceptionally popular! Mrs Sant's class will go on Monday and Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> March and Mr Stoker's class will go on Tuesday to Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March – 1<sup>st</sup> April.

### School Walk



A few parents have already asked about the date for this year's walk in Northumberland! This year, on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020, all children from Reception to Year 6 will be taking part in our annual walk and beach day. We always book an additional bus for any parents wishing to join us on what has really become a 'Family' Day Out! The seats do get booked up fairly quickly so if you would like to put your name down for a seat, please contact the school office to reserve a place.



### Ski Trip to the French Alps



This trip is approaching very quickly and 26 very excited children and adults will shortly be heading to the French Alps and the slopes in Les Menuires. The hoodies are about to be ordered (once we have agreed upon a colour and design!) and please do not forget that the final payment is due by the end of January. I am currently in contact with the hotel sorting out the rooms and apres-ski activities. The snow is falling thick and fast at the moment so there should be some excellent conditions by the time we go! Watch out for all the photographs on Twitter!



### Parents' Evenings



Our parents evenings for this term take place on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February between 3.45pm and 6pm. Booking for Parents' Evenings will open via your eSchools account on the school website from **12 noon on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January** and will close on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February at 4.00 pm**. This can be done through the app. Please note that you must use your parent account to do this, as a number of people attempted to book through their child's login which will not work. If you need a reminder of your username and password, please contact the school office. For those of you who are unable to book an appointment via the eSchools platform, you can make a booking by emailing the school office at [school.office@lanchesterep.net](mailto:school.office@lanchesterep.net).

Please note however, Nursery parents will take place after half term and these will take place during the second week back after half term.



### Statutory Tests – Years 1, 2, 4 & 6



It is really important that all children in these key year groups are in school during the weeks the tests must take place. If they are absent at these crucial times, they cannot take their tests any other time. This can also have a detrimental impact on our school data. So I urge all parents to please keep a careful note of these dates so that nothing interferes with them!

**Year 1 children** – their KS1 Phonics Screening takes place during the week beginning **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020**.

**Year 2 children** – their KS1 Statutory Tests will take place during the **month of May**. These children will not even know they are taking tests as we keep them very low key for such young children. However, it is essential that they are in school during May so that they take them at the same time as their peers.

**Year 4 children** – this is the first year of the **Multiplication Tables** Check. This will take place from **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020** and all Year 4 children are required to sit this 'test'. As this is a new test, details are still being released but we will let you know exactly what is expected of them nearer the time.

**Year 6 children** – their KS2 Statutory Tests take place during the **week beginning Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May** and again, it is essential that they are all in school during this week.

We really do appreciate you supporting us at these crucial times in school. Thank you. A meeting will be held next half term for parents of our Year 6 children so that we can talk you through the tests and expectations.



### World Book Day and Reading Week



I thought you might appreciate some advance notice of our Reading Week which is the week beginning Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. During this week, we have a number of different events planned including a dressing up day when we ask children to come to school dressed as their favourite book character. This was very popular last year and something which the children have asked for again. However, I thought you might appreciate some advance notice of this so you can be prepared for it.





### Erasmus Projects



At the end of January, Mr McLoughlin, Mr Knighton, Mrs Sharron Davis and Miss Honan will be visiting our partner school in Sundsvall, Sweden. During their time there, they will be undertaking some training for outdoor education lessons.

At the beginning of March, four boys from Year 5 will head off to Ajka in Hungary with Mr Bailey and Mr Wilson to enjoy a week in our partner school there, finding out more about the country's culture and enjoying some lessons around reading, traditional tales and the country's famous authors. Mrs Davis and Mr Gill will also be joining the group part way through the week for the transnational meeting.

At the end of March, four girls from Year 5, along with Miss Butler, Mrs Startup and Mrs Sharron Davis will head off to Northern Denmark where they will also enjoy outdoor education sessions. These are wonderful opportunities for our children and staff – we only wish we could take more...



### Early Years News



A warm welcome to our new families. If there is anything you feel we can do to support your child settling into Nursery with us, please let us know. Remember to follow us on Twitter: @Lanchesterep to see what we get up to on a daily basis in EYFS and follow our Facebook page: Lanchester EP Early Years to see updates on ways you can support your child's learning at home and articles which explain our pedagogy.

We are always on the lookout for bits and pieces we can use in school. Our Junk Modelling Area is constantly in need of refilling, so please save your boxes, washed out yoghurt pots etc. Old pans and kitchen utensils are invaluable for the mud kitchen and playdough area and your old cards, gift bags, buttons and ribbons add interest to our creative areas. If you have anything that you think might be useful to us, let us know.

With the new children starting in Nursery, we have had to move some of the children around into new groups. We will let you know who your child's Key Worker is as soon as possible. Our Family Groups will also be changing so that Mr Osmond will oversee the Dolphins, the Hedgehogs are with Mrs Davis and the Elephants with Miss Dawson; Mr McLoughlin will oversee the Leopards and the Goldfish in the morning with Mrs Nash, Mrs Riddell will oversee the Leopards and the Starfish in the afternoons with Mrs Evans and Miss Butler will oversee the Eagles and the Robins are with Mrs Moran.

## School Holidays - Academic Year 2019 - 2020

Holiday	Closing Date	Date re-open for teaching purposes
February Half Term	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2020
Easter Holiday	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2020	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April 2020
May Day	Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> May 2020	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> May 2020
Summer Half Term	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> May 2020	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2020
Summer Holiday	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2020	Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2020

## Important Dates for 2019 - 2020

***KS1 Statutory Assessment Tests - May 2020***

***KS2 Statutory Assessment Tests - Week Beginning Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020***

***Year 1 & Year 2 Phonics Screening Test - Week Beginning Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020***

***Year 4 Multiplication Test - Week Beginning Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020***

## DIARY DATES

Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	All Day	Year 3 Forest Schools
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> January 2020	All Day	Environmental Day with SAFC for Year 5
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	All Day	Digital Leaders presenting at the Bett Show, London
Week Beg. Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	All Week	Erasmus+ Visit to Sweden for Staff Training
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	Afternoon	Holocaust Survivor Sigmund 'Sigi' Ciffer Visiting School
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	5.30pm	Meeting for Year 3 Parents re Residential to Birdoswald
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	6pm	Meeting for Year 4 Parents re Residential to Alnwick and Seahouses
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2020	All Day	Tree Planting Day with Year 2
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	All Day	Year 5 Forest Schools
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	3.20 – 4.30pm	Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Disco
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	4.45 – 6pm	Year 3 – Year 6 Disco
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	All Day	Year 6 Forest Schools
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	All Day	Year 4 Forest Schools
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	All Day	Time To Talk Day – Mental Health Day
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	All Day	Year 1 Forest Schools
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	3.45pm – 6pm	Parents' Evening
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	All Day	Safer Internet Day
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	3.45pm – 6pm	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	All Day	Year 2 Forest Schools
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	All Day	Year 3 Forest Schools
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	All Day	Year 4 Forest Schools
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	Afternoon	Bake Off for Key Stage 1 and Coffee Afternoon
<b>February Half Term Holiday</b>		
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> , Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2020 LJG Holiday Club in School		
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	7.30am	School re-opens
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	9am	Year 6 leave for Ford Castle Residential
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	9am & 12.45pm	Early Years Stay and Play Sessions
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	3.30pm	Year 6 Return from Ford Castle
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2020	Afternoon	Erasmus+ Trip to Ajka, Hungary
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2020	All Day	Year 6 at Safety Carousel, Newton Aycliffe
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March 2020	3.30pm	Full Governing Body Meeting
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2020	Afternoon	Choir competing at Ryton Music Festival
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> March 2020	4.15am	Ski Trip Departs from School
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2020	Afternoon	Mother's Day Afternoon Tea in School
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2020	Afternoon	Erasmus+ Trip to Denmark
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> March 2020	All Day	Mr Stephenson's Class at Birdoswald Residential
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2020	All Day	Mr Grayson's Class at Birdoswald Residential
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2020	All Day	Mrs Sant's Class at Alnwick & Seahouses Residential
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2020	All Day	Mr Stoker's Class at Alnwick & Seahouses Residential
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April 2020	Afternoon	Easter Service in All Saints Church
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2020	Afternoon	Easter Coffee Afternoon
<b>Easter Holiday</b>		
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> – Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> April 2020 LJG Holiday Club in school		
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> April 2020		
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April 2020	7.30am	School Re-opens for Summer Term