



# Lanchester E.P. (Cont.) Primary School & Nursery

## *A Caring Community Where All Can Flourish*



*'Through God's love, we are the rich soil  
where roots grow and seeds flourish.'*  
Luke 8:4-15



Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had some very excited Nursery children this week who have been to Hall Hill Farm for a wonderful educational visit. For many, this was their first trip out of school and yet they all took it in their stride. In fact, Ms Butler came back so pleased with how well it went, she was organising another trip the very same night! Watch this space...

Our oldest children from Year 5 and Year 6 joined some of the local community for a very special VE Service of Remembrance on the Village Green yesterday. It was lovely that the three schools from the village were all involved and all were so respectful. Our children spoke with eloquence and confidence and represented our school admirably.

### **Year 6 Statutory Tests**

Next week is an important week in the life of all primary schools with Year 6 children across the country sitting their KS2 statutory tests. We have reassured the children on countless occasions that these tests are really a measure of the school rather than them but obviously they want to do their best for their own sense of pride.

As you all know, we care passionately about the well-being of every single child in our school and just want them to be happy and fulfilled. We have regularly reminded the children that these tests measure just a very small part of their skill set and do not measure all their other talents which should also be celebrated.

Our wonderful Year 6 cohort have worked so very hard this year. They are unique individuals who are resilient, compassionate and caring with an abundance of wonderful talent. We have some superb sportsmen/women who excel in football, netball, swimming, cricket and rugby. We have some magnificent musicians and actors who are such great singers and performers and play so many different instruments so well. We also have some amazing artists whose creativity never ceases to impress us!

These are just a few of their talents which will not be measured next week and it is our job to make sure that our exceptionally skilled children know they are all successful in ways that the statutory tests will never show. We need to keep reminding them of this and ensuring they know how special and talented they all are – each and every one of them. Year 6 parents, please remind your children that their health and happiness outweigh by far, the importance of the tests next week.

We still hope to make next week one to remember for our Y6 children – in the past, they have always said it was the best week of the year! So, we are asking them all to come into school for a special breakfast at 8.15am every morning. Please send them through the Junior Hall door where they will make their way down to the classrooms for a party breakfast each day, free of charge!

### **Yanomamo**

The staff met yesterday to start planning the finer detail for the KS2 show which will take place in Consett Empire on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July. We have different teams of staff overseeing all the different roles – soloists, narrators, costumes, photos, PowerPoint, scenery, ticket sales, programmes – it really is a real team effort.

### **Donation Requests for Yanomamo**

However, we are asking for your help as we need a large number of WHITE t-shirts – polo shirts, t-shirts and vests. They are all going to be dyed different colours for different parts so please don't worry about the state of them. We can make use of them! If you have any WHITE t-shirts that no longer fit or are not needed, please send them into the school office and the costume department will work their magic on them! Please watch this space as we may be requesting for more items in the coming weeks.

Just so you are aware of some the roles, Year 3 are our ants, Year 4 have been very well cast as the monkeys(!!!), Year 5 are our Forest People with the boys also taking on the role of the Texans whilst Year 6 are the loggers (boys) and city people (girls).

We also will be casting our soloists – a sloth and a jaguar. If we have any talented parents/carers who might be willing to volunteer some time and skills to make these costumes for us, please get in touch! We all know the limits of our skills in school...

### **Auditions**

Please remember that auditions will be taking place on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May for soloists, small groups of singers and for our narrators. Children auditioning for the singing parts are asked to prepare a song of their choice (unaccompanied) to sing. They may also be asked to sing part of the final song from the show as well. Children auditioning for the narrator roles are asked to prepare to read a short paragraph of writing about any topic. Please complete this [online form](#) if your child would like to audition for any parts.

### **This Week's Big Question**

This week's Big Question has been *'Is World Peace Possible?'* Ask your children about this over the weekend!

### **Leave of Absence Requests**

All schools find at this time of year there is a marked increase in the number of Leave of Absence requests. If your child has a planned absence, you should fill in the Leave of Absence form, which is available from the school office or via our website on the downloadable forms tab. Your form will then be reviewed and you will be informed via email as to whether the absence has been granted or not.

Please note that we are not allowed to authorise holidays in term time, and that any other leave of absence requests would need to be exceptional circumstances for a request to be granted. Please also be aware that Fixed Penalty Notices may be issued for unauthorised leave of absence in term time where the absence amounts to five school days or more in a minimum ten rolling school week period, and that a fixed penalty notice will be issued to each person with parental responsibility.

### **Safeguarding**

Keeping children safe from harm is our number one priority. We will always act upon any concerns individuals have, or any disclosures from children. However, if you have any concerns outside of school, or if you have a concern about a child or young person's welfare, it is essential that you call First Contact on: 03000 267979.

### **Attendance**

Year Group	Current Week Attendance Percentage (%)	Attendance Percentage to Date (%)	Year Group	Current Week Attendance Percentage (%)	Attendance Percentage to Date (%)
<b>Reception</b>	95.1	95.0	<b>Year 4</b>	97.2	97.4
<b>Year 1</b>	96.6	96.3	<b>Year 5</b>	98.0	97.7
<b>Year 2</b>	97.6	96.6	<b>Year 6</b>	97.0	96.8
<b>Year 3</b>	95.2	97.1	<b>Whole School</b>	<b>96.7</b>	<b>96.7</b>

## **Diary Dates for Next Week**

### **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May – Open Morning for Nursery and Reception – 10am - 12pm**

We are looking forward to our Open Morning which takes place on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May between 10am and 12pm. This is open to all families who would like to come and see the Early Years environment. Whether your child will be starting Reception in September or Nursery at some point next year, or you would like to come and talk about our 2-year-old provision which will be in place from September, please feel free to come along. Staff will be on hand to answer all your questions too!

### **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May – Confirmation Service at 6pm**

We have a number of our young people being confirmed in a special service at St Andrew's Church in Stanley at 6pm on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May. Families of those being confirmed should be there by 5.30pm. All are welcome to come along and support our children as they take a very important and special step in their Christian faith.

### **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May – Service at 10.30am in All Saints' Church and Woodland Worship**

Due to only 6 children being able to sing in church and no interest at all in our Woodland Worship, we have had to cancel both events. We do hope to organise another Woodland Worship at some point – perhaps at a different time on the weekend.

### **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May - Messy Church for Years 1 and 2**

On Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May, Year 1 and Year 2 will be going to All Saints' Church for an hour of Messy Church where parents/carers/grandparents are also invited to join us. Year 1 will be there from 1pm – 2pm and Year 2 from 2pm –

3pm. Children will need to return to school for normal dismissal. We hope you can join us. Please complete [this form](#) if you are able to join us for these Messy Church sessions on Monday.

### **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May – Year 1 Disney Festival at Burnopfield Primary School**

All our Year 1 children will be going to a special Disney Festival with a sports theme on Friday afternoon. Children can dress up as their favourite Disney character for this event, but this isn't required so please don't buy anything especially for this. They can either come to school as a Disney character or change into their outfit after they have had lunch. I am sure this will be another very exciting and fun-filled festival for the children. The children will be having lunch in school as normal and then leaving by coach at 12.10pm. They will be back in school for the end of the school day.

### **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May – Coffee Afternoon at 2.15pm**

We are absolutely delighted to be holding a coffee afternoon on Friday afternoon next week focused on supporting families of children who are anxious. This will take place from 2:15pm until 3:15pm. The coffee afternoon will be attended by Helen Sellars, who is an advisory teacher with the Durham County Council Communication and Interaction Team, as well as by Jen Hall and Rebecca Tallentire, who are specialist nurses from the Emotional Health and Resilience Team. This will be a useful afternoon for many families in our school community and it will hopefully help to signpost to different services that are available in our community to support families of children who are anxious.

## **Advance Diary Dates**

### **Fun and Fitness Week**

The week beginning Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May is our Fun and Fitness Week. Children can come to school in sportswear all week (either PE kit or any sportswear) as they will be participating in different sporting events every day. We will also be completing some work on our Courageous Advocates and some interesting First Aid work across all year groups.

Also, we have our Wheels Day on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May. On this day, every child can bring a wheeled item to school and we will have a timetable for every year group to spend time on or in their wheeled items. This can be a bike, scooter, pram or pushchair. However, please note that if your child is riding a bike or scooter, then they **MUST** wear a cycle helmet. Please note, children will not be permitted to use skateboards, roller skates/blades, hoverboards on any electronic wheeled items.

Year 5 & 6 have their bike ride on the Thursday. Please start checking bikes to ensure brakes are in working order, tyres are blown up and the bikes are fit for purpose. Again, no child (or adult volunteer) will be allowed to take part in this ride unless they are wearing a cycle helmet. All parents/carers of children in Year 5 & 6 will have received an email this week to ask if they would like to volunteer to accompany us on this bike ride. If you would like to help and have yet to sign up, please do so via this form: [Bike Ride Volunteers](#).

We just hope the weather will be kind to us for the week!

### **Positive Thinking**

***Success is not final.***

***Failure is not fatal.***

***It is the courage to keep going that counts.***

As always, if there is anything at all you would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best Wishes,

*Jane Davis*

Mrs Jane Davis  
Head Teacher