



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 6th June 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been lovely to welcome everyone back to school this week, ready for the final half term of the year. There is a lot taking place this half term so please keep a careful eye on the diary dates. Our group of children have enjoyed a wonderful week in Madrid and were made to feel very welcome by our partner school. I know they have had an action-packed week and will be ready for a good rest over the weekend!

We were privileged to be able to take KS2 (apart from Y4 who were at Tynemouth Aquarium for the day) to see a wonderful play called 'Crystal's Vardo'. This was a play about a girl as she travels through time on an extraordinary journey through Romani history. The play brought to life the rich tapestry of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller history and culture. Held in All Saints' Church, it was certainly enjoyed by all our children.

Overnight Camp

Please remember that Monday 9th June is the deadline for any bookings for the Overnight Camp which will take place on Friday 13th June – Saturday 14th June (8.30am). This is always a really popular event with such a lovely atmosphere. Let's just hope the weather picks up a little more over the next week! For further information and to book your space, please complete our [sign up form](#). Bookings close on Monday 9 June 2025.

Messy Church

Prior to the half-term holiday, our Year 1 and Year 2 children enjoyed a wonderful afternoon of Messy Church with lots of parents, carers and grandparents. The next Messy Church session is due to take place on Sunday 15th June from 3pm – 5pm. It would be wonderful to see lots of our children there!

Lanchester Methodist Church Summer Holiday Club

Lanchester Methodist Church are holding a Summer Holiday Club from Tuesday 26th August to Saturday 30th August from 10am – 12.15pm. This is for ages between 4 – 11. There will be lots of activities such as games, crafts, stories, messy challenges, puppets and music. Please see the attached flyer of details about how to book a place.

Wrap Around Care for Year 1 children

We are beginning our transition in many different ways. As part of this transition, from Monday 16th June, our Year 1 children will be joining the main Breakfast Club and After School Club. They really are becoming slightly too big and boisterous for the smaller wrap around care club as they are becoming older. Next week will be the final week of them accessing the Early Years Club and following that, they will be joining the older children in the Main Hall for the whole session.

Donations Wanted for EYFS

In Nursery and Reception, our thoughts are turning towards the summer. We would like to ask for donations of summer-themed items such as sunglasses, summer hats, small suitcases, beach towels, flippers, flip flops, snorkels, goggles to enhance play in the home corner.

Playgroup

We are beginning our free playgroup from Monday 9th June for four weeks. Sessions will run between 1.30pm and 2.30pm and are aimed at children who are hoping to start with us next year as either 2 or 3

year olds. This is a great opportunity for your children to get to know the staff and for parents and carers to get to know each other. Please complete this form to register your interest:

<https://forms.office.com/e/xr7PPmjaBj>

Road Safety

We have had another near miss this morning with a child running out in between cars to cross the road. It is really important that all adults and children cross with the lollipop lady as her job is to ensure everyone crosses the road safely. Thank you.

Outstanding balances in Arbor

As we approach the end of this academic year, can we politely ask that any outstanding balances for meals and wraparound care are cleared no later than **Wednesday 16th July**. Wherever possible, we advise that these accounts are kept in credit to avoid debts building up. If you pay for your child's wraparound care using childcare vouchers, please ensure enough vouchers have been transferred to cover any outstanding balances.

Quebec Food Bank

We have received a plea from Quebec Foodbank as their supplies on many items are running low due to an increased demand from local families. Any food and toiletries would be very gratefully received. Children can either bring them into school or they can be dropped in our donations box outside the main office. Thank you for your help and ongoing support with such a worthy cause.

This Week's Big Question

Our Big Question for this week has been: ***'Why should we care about the environment?'*** This has really had quite an impact on many of our children, especially with starting the topic all about the Rainforests. Please take time to talk about this over the weekend – you will be amazed at their strength of feeling!

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 (%)
Reception	96.6	94.4	Year 4	96.8	97.3
Year 1	96.2	96.2	Year 5	99	97.7
Year 2	98	96.5	Year 6	97.6	96.9
Year 3	97.1	97	Whole School	97.3	96.6

Diary Dates for Next Week

Monday 9th June – Shakespeare Club Performance at Bishop Auckland Town Hall

Our Year 5 & Year 6 thespians will be at Bishop Auckland for the day, prior to their performance in the afternoon. They need to come into school and meet at the school office entrance at 8.30am. They will need to wear all black, and bring a packed lunch, drink and something quiet to keep them occupied whilst they wait for their turn to perform. The performance begins at 1pm at Bishop Auckland Town Hall. They will return to school in time for the end of the school day. They have worked really hard for this event and I know they will do us proud (once again) with their performance.

Monday 9th June – Playgroup Session 1.30 – 2.30pm

This is a session for any interested parents and carers to bring their child along to the session on Monday between 1.30pm – 2.30pm. Please just make sure you have completed the [online form](#) which is above

Tuesday 10th June – Year 6 at The Forbidden Corner

Our Year 6 children are looking forward to their day at The Forbidden Corner on Tuesday. All children will need a packed lunch and plenty of drinks and will definitely need a towel and change of clothes as they do have a tendency to get rather wet on this trip! Non Uniform is to be worn – comfortable clothing according to the weather forecast with comfortable trainers (not crocs/sandals/flipflops) – and they will return to school for around 5pm. Updates will be posted on X but please be aware that there is no wifi or 4G at The Forbidden Corner itself.

Wednesday 11th June – Year 3 at Jarrow Hall

Year 3 are at Jarrow Hall on Wednesday for the day so will need a packed lunch and drink for the day. All children should wear school uniform for this visit and will return in time for the end of the school day.

Wednesday 11th June – Year 6 Leavers' Photographs

Year 6 will have their leavers' photographs taken in their leavers' hoodies on Wednesday. Please make sure they all wear them on Wednesday, or at least have them in school. They can wear their PE kit as usual, as long as they have their leavers' hoodie too.

Wednesday 11th June – New Reception Cohort Open Evening at 6pm

We are holding our Open Evening for all parents and carers of new Reception 2025 children. Please make your way to the Junior Hall Door where we will start the evening. Following this information sharing session in the hall, where you will have the opportunity to meet and put a face to all key staff, there will be time in the Reception classrooms to see the learning environment.

Many parents and carers prefer to come to this meeting without their children so they can listen to what is being said. However, we know that childcare for many is an issue, so please don't worry if your child has to come as well. There will be staff available to take them into the classroom during the information sharing session in the hall.

We are really looking forward to meeting you all as you start one of the most important journeys in your child's life!

Wednesday 11th June – Durham Dash at Beamish Museum – 4.30 – 8pm

We are thrilled that we have some children participating in the Durham Dash on Wednesday evening at Beamish Museum. This is a great event, but it is a very busy event. We will have four staff at the event but also rely on yourselves to be there too. Please meet Mr. Stoker & Mr. Adamson to drop your child off at the museum car park meeting point at 4.30pm. All parents/guardians of competitors have received a detailed letter regarding the evening.

Thursday 12th June – Year 6 at Durham Cathedral for Leavers' Service

Our Year 6 children will be at the Leavers' Service in Durham Cathedral on Thursday morning at 10.30am. All children are to come to school in their full school uniform – it would be good if they could all wear their leavers' hoodie. They will be transported by bus and will return to school in the early afternoon, well in time for the end of the school day. They must bring a packed lunch with a drink as they will not be back in time for a school meal. This is always a very special event for the children and I am sure they will thoroughly enjoy the experience. Parents and Carers often ask if they can attend and some have in the past. It is not encouraged due to space, but my understanding is that anybody who turns up would not be turned away.

Friday 13th June – Year 5&6 Netball Tournament at North Durham Academy

Emails will be sent to parents and carers of those children who will be taking part in this event. A packed lunch will be needed as it takes place between 10am and 2pm.

Friday 13th June – Overnight Camp on School Field

We are delighted that this event, organised by The Friends of the School, is taking place again. Many families have attended every year and keep coming back for more! Please note that the school field gates will be open from 5.30pm. We cannot open them earlier due to children still being on site. You are welcome to start pitching your tents anytime from 5.30pm. Let's hope the weather is kind to us all!

Sunday 15th June – Year 5 Depart for PGL

Our Year 5 children are really looking forward to their PGL residential and I know they are going to have a brilliant time! The bus will depart from outside the Black Bull at 9.00am. All children will need a packed lunch and drink which they will eat as soon as they arrive at Caythorpe Court and before they begin their afternoon's activities.

We have not held a parent meeting prior to this residential as once they are there, every day is the same. 2 activities, lunch, 2 activities, tea then an evening activity! Please keep an eye on X for photos of what they get up to!

They should arrive back to school between approx. 5.30pm – 6pm on Wednesday evening but again, we will update you on X with timings.

Positive Thinking

Life is like a book.

Some chapters are sad, some are happy and some are exciting.

But, if you never turn the page, you will never know what the next chapter holds.

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