



# 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 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am sure it is not just me who has felt a touch of spring in the air this week – and doesn't it give you a slight spring in your step? Let's hope it is a sign of better weather to come very soon!

We have had a busy week this week as we invited four local authority improvement partners into school on Wednesday to carry out a mini inspection. We hoped this would endorse our opinions on what we do well, agree with the areas we have identified for improvement and perhaps identify other areas where we can perhaps do even better. It was an incredibly useful day and they were all very complimentary about our school and especially your children. They were impressed with their behaviour, attitudes to learning, their resilience shown to their learning and care/respect of one another. We see this on a daily basis of course, but it is always reassuring when this is endorsed by those who visit numerous schools each week. They also commented that they wished more schools were like ours – a compliment that does mean a lot. Your children continue to make us very proud!

It is hard to believe that we break up for half term next Friday – half way through the academic year. We are closed for the week and look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February.

### **Turing Visit to Dubai**

We have a group of 24 children visiting Dubai, leaving on the Friday of half-term. This is another amazing opportunity for our school, thanks to funding from the Turing Scheme. During our week there, we will visit two of our partner schools, enjoy a unique learning experience at the mosque, enjoy an Emirati meal and cultural experience, as well as visiting some of the landmarks including the Burj Kalifa and the desert. I will be leading this visit and the other staff accompanying the children will be Miss Jackson, Miss Corper, Mr Knighton, Mr Bailey and Mr Southern. Mrs Tate will be teaching Mr Knighton's class whilst Mr McLoughlin will be teaching Miss Jackson's class. Mrs Grayson will be back to work full time after half term so she will be teaching her Year 5 class.

### **Parents' Evenings**

We are looking forward to seeing you all next week for our termly parents' evenings. Please make time to look at your children's work either before or after your allotted appointment time – it will be worth it! If you still have not made an appointment, please contact the school office who will be able to organise one for you.

### **Global School Alliance Blog**

We were thrilled to be asked to write a blog for the Global School Alliance website which has members from all over the world. This was published two weeks ago and was how we organised the trip to India. Last week, they asked some of our parents to write a blog from their perspective and this was published on their website last week – here is the link: <https://www.globalschoolalliance.com/education/parents-in-lanchester-thank-the-school-for-their-global-outlook/> I do hope that reading these will help to reassure the parents and carers of children travelling to Dubai next week as well.

### **Cleaners Needed**

We are currently advertising for two new cleaners to join our successful support team. Each position is 10 hours per week and the working hours will take place after school, for example, 4:15pm-6:15pm each day,

although we would be open to discussions if anyone is interested but can only work before school hours i.e. 6:30am-8:30am. The positions are both permanent, whole-time contracts with at least 25 days holiday (which must be taken during the school holidays).

We offer a competitive salary, a friendly team in which to work and a supportive wider community to be part of! We do ask that you are supportive of our Christian ethos and are willing to have a DBS check. If you, or anyone you know, is interested please contact Miss Rippon for more information. Closing date is noon on February 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **Reminder – No Extra-Curricular Activities on Week Beginning 13<sup>th</sup> February**

Don't forget, as was mentioned in the extra-curricular club letter at the beginning of term, there are no extra-curricular clubs on next week after school – only wrap around care.

### **New Dinner Menu**

We will be sending a new dinner menu out on Monday, which we are hoping to start on the 20<sup>th</sup> March. If your child would like a school meal, please make sure you look out for the menu in your emails and fill in the online form. If you want to change from school meals onto packed lunch, or vice versa, you must inform the office, either by popping in, sending an email or via a phone call.

### **New MIS System**

Our new data system is up and running in the School Office. We are hoping for this to become a one-stop shop for all information, such as homework, parents evening appointment booking, wrap around care booking and even choosing your child's menus. We are hoping to have everything up and running by Easter, so keep a look out for an email with your user information on it, which we are hoping to send out next half term.

### **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.

### **World Book Day**

World Book Day is now just a few weeks away - 2nd March 2023. We have a really exciting day of activities planned for children in school, including live lessons, extra story times and secret readers in school. We also wanted to give you plenty of warning, as the children will be invited to bring in their favourite books and dress up as their favourite characters.



### **Secret Reader**

As part of our World Book Day celebrations on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March we would like to invite parents to join us in school as **Secret Readers**. The idea is that throughout World Book Day each secret reader would bring in a short story that would take 5-10 minutes to read to their child's class. The idea is that it would be a surprise for the children so if you would like to take part please keep it a secret!

If you would like to volunteer to be a secret reader please contact your child's class teacher and arrange a time to come and visit during the day.

## **Diary Dates**

### **Nursery Parent Evening Appointments**

Nursery parents evening appointments will take place each afternoon after school. Please see the table below for details:

Keyworker/Teacher	Group Name	Date	Time	Location
Mrs Moralee	Dolphin	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	3.30 – 5.00pm	Meeting Room
Mrs S Davis	Starfish	Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	3.30 – 5.00pm	Meeting Room
Mrs Newby	Seahorse	Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> February	3.30 – 5.00pm	Intervention Room Orange Corridor
Mrs Evans	Jellyfish	Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	3.30 – 5.00pm	Meeting Room
Miss Tilney	Turtle	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> February	3.30 – 5.00pm	Meeting Room
Miss Brown	Shark Nursery Lead	Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	3.30 – 6.00pm	Junior Hall
		Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> February	3.30 – 6.00pm	Meeting Room
		Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	3.30 – 6.00pm	Junior Hall

For your appointment please come into school through the main office.

### **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2023 – Ashing Service**

Revd Lesley and Revd Stephen will be in school to lead Worship as usual on Tuesday and we will be holding a special 'Ashing' service for children from Year 1 – 6. All parents and carers should have received a letter about this. We have never had such a service before and are all really looking forward to learning so much more about Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday which both fall in the week of the half-term holiday.

### **After School Club on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February**

This will be held in the Nursery so please come to the Nursery door and ring the bell to collect your child next week. Thank you.

### **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2023 – Reception – Year 6 Parents' Evening**

Our first parents' evening takes place on Tuesday between 3.30pm and 6pm. All teaching staff will be based in the Junior Hall but please feel free to go to see your child's work in their classrooms before or after your appointment. Please note, you will not be able to get into the building before 3.30pm to look at your child's work for safeguarding reasons. The doors to the main entrance and Junior Hall will open automatically at 3.30pm. Please wait outside on the top yard before this time.

### **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023 – Year 2 at The Centre for Life**

Year 2 are really looking forward to their visit to The Centre for Life on Thursday when they will visit the planetarium and take part in a workshop – it should be a great day for them all. All children are to come to school in full school uniform and with a packed lunch.

### **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023 – Athletics Competition**

We are delighted that some of our pupils from Year 5&6 have got through to the finals of the Athletics competition at Newton Aycliffe after winning the district event at the Louisa Centre before Christmas. They are amazingly talented and I know they will do us all proud!

### **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023 – Reception – Year 6 Parents' Evening**

Our second parents' evening takes place on Tuesday between 3.30pm and 6pm. All teaching staff will be based in the Junior Hall but please feel free to go to see your child's work in their classrooms before or after your appointment. Please note, you will not be able to get into the building before 3.30pm to look at your child's work for safeguarding reasons. The doors to the main entrance and Junior Hall will open automatically at 3.30pm. Please wait outside on the top yard before this time.

### **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023 – Meeting about Bett Show**

We look forward to meeting the parents, carers and children going to the Bett Show at 6pm on Thursday when we will talk about what the children will be doing during their time in London. The meeting will be held

in the Meeting Room. School will be open so please make your way to the meeting room which is to the left of the staff room. Thank you.

## **Early Years News**

We have recently re-subscribed to Busy Things, which we use in school to support the children's learning across the curriculum. Your child has access to this at home too. Go to <https://www.busythings.co.uk/> and log in with following details:

**username:** home17573

**password:** lanchester

Many thanks to the Reception parents who have volunteered for our trip to Hardwick Park next month. We will let you know next week if you have a place on the trip. If anyone does not get a place on the bus but would still like to join us, you are more than welcome to drive to Hardwick Park and meet us there. We are very much looking forward to this after the success of our last trip!

Our staff have been working very hard over the past week or so to develop the indoor environment in Nursery and give it a cosy, inviting ambiance. The children have loved exploring the newly set up areas and we are sure that you will agree that it looks fabulous.



This term, children in Nursery will be going on a visit to Wharton Park in Durham where they will take part in a workshop called 'We're going on an Egg Hunt' and they will have the opportunity to explore the park itself. Parents and carers should have received an email informing you which day your child will attend. Thank you to those who have already volunteered to come along - we do appreciate your support. Please be aware this trip is only for the children who will be moving into Reception in September 2023. The remaining children will have the opportunity to go next year.

If you have any further questions about the trip, please contact Miss Brown via email on: [h.brown@lanchesterep.net](mailto:h.brown@lanchesterep.net) Thank you.

## **Advance Notice**

On Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March some of our children will be leading Worship in All Saints' Church at 10.30am. During this service, presentations to our confirmation candidates from November will also be made. Please make a note of this date in your diaries. Thank you.

## **Positive Thinking**

***When everything seems to be going against you,  
remember that the airplane takes off against the wind, not with it.***

I hope you have a lovely half term holiday when it comes – I think the children are all more than ready for a break.

Best Wishes,

*Jane Davis*

Head Teacher