



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 27th January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another busy week in school with our Indian travellers returning, children singing at Durham Town Hall, Chinese New Year celebrations, the Reception children enjoying an exciting trip to the Laing Art Gallery and plenty of action taking place in the classrooms too! No two weeks are ever the same in our school and next week sees Mr Innes, Mrs Knighton and Mrs T. Clark visit Brussels for a teacher training event with our partner schools from Istanbul, Athens, Lisbon and Madrid. They will come back full of ideas and plans about how to teach some songs from all the countries in preparation for participation in the European Choir. Some of our oldest children will have the opportunity to be part of this.

It was wonderful to welcome our 16 children back from a life-changing visit to India. We do plan on holding an International Event later in the year when we will celebrate all the visits which have taken place this year. I am sure you will thoroughly enjoy hearing all about their experiences. I was also asked to write an article for Global School Alliance about how we got the funding and organised the visit. You can read the article here: <https://www.globalschoolalliance.com/education/16-pupils-at-lanchester-ep-primary-school-return-from-a-life-changing-trip-to-india/>

I have also been made aware that there has been a lot of discussion on social media over letters sent out to all households in Lanchester by Richard Holden, MP, about our school receiving funding from the Schools Rebuilding Programme. Obviously I was unaware of these going out and am keen not to antagonise the local community. No decisions have been made about anything to do with the programme yet and I am sure it could well be some time before the first conversations take place. The Local Authority will continue to be at the forefront of everything to do with this project.

Lunar New Year Celebrations

I would like to say a huge thank you to those children and parents who turned out on Saturday morning at Durham Hall to participate in the Lunar New Year celebrations. As usual, these children were a real credit to the school and performed beautifully. We really do appreciate your support with such events – they are such special events and so memorable for the children. Thank you so much!

Office Information

We are very excited to announce that from February we will be moving to a brand new MIS system across school called 'Arbor'. Arbor will gradually replace ParentPay and eSchools. Parents and carers will be able to use Arbor to view their child's attendance, book and pay for meals and trips, sign up to clubs and book parents' evenings, meaning everything can be done from one central hub. Our office team are busy migrating to the new system as we speak and you will receive a log in to the new system in due course once everything is up and running. Please be aware, the move will be done in phases with the aim of completing the move around Easter time. Further updates will be communicated in future weekly letters.

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.

School Absences

This is a polite reminder that all absences must be reported to the school office, even if you have let either myself or the class teacher know. It is not always possible for these messages to reach the office in time and can result in parents receiving texts or calls to ask where their child is. Please leave a message for the office on the phone or email: school.office@lanchesterep.net Thank you.

Attendance Information

Week Beg. 16 th January '23	Attendance
Reception	97%
Year 1	98.3%
Year 2	99.1%
Year 3	95.5%
Year 4	96%
Year 5	95%
Year 6	97.1%

Week Beg. 23 rd January '23	Attendance
Reception	95.3%
Year 1	95.8%
Year 2	97.6%
Year 3	90%
Year 4	96%
Year 5	95.8%
Year 6	96.2%

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.

Early Years News

Reception had a wonderful first school trip to the Laing Art Gallery yesterday. The children explored the works of art in the gallery, created a huge abstract piece of art together and started to make their own model art galleries, which they will finish off in school. The bus trip there and back and the dinner time were, however, the undisputed highlights of the trip! Many thanks to our parent helpers and to all those who volunteered to support our trip. The children's behaviour was exemplary – they really were a credit to the school and to you.



We are already busy planning our trips for after the February half term break. Please look out for more information about this next week. We hope to run trips for both Nursery and Reception, but will need lots of volunteers to ensure our trips can run safely, especially to support our younger children. Your help is always very much appreciated!

Can we remind Reception parents to check that all reading books are returned to school in bookbags on Fridays? We do have a limited number of books to match each Sounds Write unit and this can mean that if books are not returned, we are not able to offer enough books at the appropriate level for your child.

KS1 News

The children have been working very hard in Maths this week. In Year 1, we have been learning about 2D and 3D shapes and how to describe them using mathematical vocabulary. To support this at home you could do a shape hunt round the house, finding different 2D and 3D shapes in different rooms. There is also a great episode of Numberblocks called 'Flatland' where the Numberblocks visit the land of flat shapes.

Next week we will be moving on to look in detail at numbers up to 20, learning to count forwards and backwards and how to write the names of these numbers. Series 3 of Numberblocks also has an episode on each of the teen numbers, which are great for helping children understand the structure of the teen numbers.

In Year 2 the children have been working hard on multiplication. They are in the middle of a unit of work that involves making equal groups and counting in groups of 2, 5 and 10. To support this at home you could practise counting in groups of 2, 5 and 10, perhaps counting concrete objects or money to help the children's understanding of multiplication.

This is the beginning of learning the times tables which is a central part of children's mathematical knowledge as they move through school and underpins so many other mathematical areas. Anything you can do at home to support the learning of times tables will be hugely beneficial to your child

KS2 News

Maths Update



At Lanchester EP we use White Rose Maths as the basis for our teaching of Mathematics across the school. The White Rose Maths scheme of work aims to show pupils that everyone can do maths! It strives to inspire children's love for this fascinating subject, aiming to develop pupils' reasoning, fluency and problem-solving skills.

Our current Key Stage 2 topics are:

Year 3	Measurement
Year 4	Multiplication and Division
Year 5	Fractions
Year 6	Algebra

To find out more about the White Rose approach to teaching and how you could support your child at home, visit the parents' section of the White Rose website: <https://whiterosemaths.com/parent-resources>

Multiplication Tables

In Key Stage 2, we are having a real push on supporting the children to learn their multiplication tables. Knowing the times tables (and their associated division facts) supports mathematical learning and understanding and those children who have a strong grasp of them tend to be more self-assured when learning new concepts. As part of the National Curriculum, every child is expected to know their multiplication tables up to 12 x 12. This is broken down across school as follows:

- **Year 1:** count in multiples of **2, 5 and 10**.
- **Year 2:** be able to remember and use multiplication and division facts for the **2, 5 and 10** multiplication tables, including recognising odd and even numbers.
- **Year 3:** be able to remember and use multiplication and division facts for the **3, 4 and 8** multiplication tables, including recognising odd and even numbers.
- **Year 4:** be able to remember and use multiplication and division facts for the multiplication tables up to **12 x 12**.
- **Year 5:** revision of all multiplication and division facts for the multiplication tables up to **12 x 12**.
- **Year 6:** revision of all multiplication and division facts for the multiplication tables up to **12 x 12**.

Helping Your Child at Home

Here are a few ideas to help your child learn their tables:

Chant the table being learnt over and over, but using a different silly voice each time. Or take it in turns with a partner to say one fact each, again in a silly voice. Or try singing the tables along with your favourite song!

Make a multiplication grid. Use squared paper to create a 13 x 13 grid. Across the top row write the numbers 1 to 12, and down the left hand column write the same numbers. Your challenge is to fill in the squares in the middle by multiplying the number at the far left by the number on top. To make an easier version, use numbers 1 to 3 or 1 to 5, depending on the tables being learnt.

Play tables bingo. Write the multiplication questions on separate pieces of paper and place in a bowl. Make a 4 by 3 square bingo card each and write 9 of the answer numbers onto it. Take it in turns to draw a question out – if the answer's on your card, cross it off. The winner is the first to cross off all their answers.

Here's a handy trick for learning the 9x tables using your fingers. Hold all ten fingers up, palms facing you, then lower the finger relating to the number you are multiplying 9 by – for example, for 2×9 you would lower the index finger of your left hand. The fingers to the left of the lowered finger are the tens digit of the answer, the fingers to the right of the lowered digit are the units digit. So $2 \times 9 = 18$ (one finger to the left, 8 fingers to the right).

Make it real. Look for areas in everyday life where we need to use multiplication skills. For example, 'everyone wants three potatoes with dinner so how many potatoes do we need to get ready?'

Have a speed challenge – how many questions can you answer correctly in 30 seconds? Try mixing up the tables you know or throwing in some division questions too.

Once your multiplication grid is completed, used coloured pencils to find number patterns e.g. all numbers ending in a zero, or all even numbers.

Practise saying the table in different ways, e.g. '1 times 3 is 3, 2 times 3 is 6', or 'one 3 is 3, two 3s are 6', or '3, 6, 9 etc'.

Look at the way the different digits work in the 9 times table. What happens when we add the digits of each answer? Challenge: does this continue even past 12×9 ?

There is a multitude of brilliant interactive games and apps to help with learning tables. Search on the internet and see what you can find.

Look for patterns in the answers to the different tables. Do any tables have only even answers? Do any share a common digit?

If you have any questions about Maths in school or at home, please contact your child's class teacher.

DIARY DATES

Monday 30th January and Tuesday 31st January 2023

Please note that **ALL** extra-curricular activities and clubs are cancelled on Monday and Tuesday due to staff training. Apologies for the disappointment this causes.

Tuesday 31st January at 6pm – Year 4 Meeting about Seahouses Residential

We are holding a meeting on Tuesday 31st January at 6pm in the Junior Hall to share more information about the forthcoming residential to Seahouses in April. More information about accommodation and activities will be shared at this meeting.

Wednesday 1st February 2023 – Strike

Please remember that on Wednesday, the following classes will be **CLOSED** due to the strike called by the National Education Union:

Year 3 – Mrs Coyle	Year 3 Mr Stephenson
Year 4 – Miss Jackson	
Year 5 – Mr Taylor	Year 5 – Mrs Tate/Mrs Grayson

Positive Thinking

*There are 97 days in January.
And all of them are Mondays!
Welcome February.
I am so ready for you!*

Best Wishes,

Jane Davis

Mrs Jane Davis
Head Teacher