



*'Through God's love, we are the rich soil
where roots grow and seeds flourish.'*

Luke 8:4-15



KEY STAGE NEWS

Early Years News

We have had another busy week in EYFS, celebrating World Nursery Rhyme Week. Thank you to all the parents and family members who have spent time with us exploring our classrooms. We have loved showing you what we do in Nursery and Reception.

Many thanks for the donations of dressing up clothes after last week's appeal. We are looking forward to adding these to our dramatic play areas and will let you know how much fun our children have taking on different roles in costume!

Reception Trip

This week Reception had a fantastic visit to the Laing Art Gallery. It was very exciting to get on a coach and travel to Newcastle. When we were at the Gallery the children took part in a workshop exploring the shapes they could see in the art. They also looked at their favourite paintings and discussed why they liked them. The highlight of the day (after lunch) was making our own art galleries in the workshop room and choosing and creating which pictures we would like in our own galleries.

We were so proud of the children; their behaviour was amazing and they were so sensible and respectful throughout the day. The staff at the gallery commented several times at how impressed they were with our children and their behaviour. We were so proud of all the children!

Busy Things

Remember that we have a Busy Things subscription for you to use at home. Busy Things can be found at www.busythings.co.uk and offers a collection of educational activities which support the curriculum from Nursery through to Year 6, available on computers, laptops and tablets. Our login details are as follows:



Your Home access login details:

Username: **home17573**

Password: **lanchester**

Key Stage One News

This week in Key Stage 1, we have been learning about Anti-Bullying Week and Children In Need in our PSHE lessons. The children have had lots to say about why we have these special days in school and we have had some very mature discussions.

The children in Year 1 have spent time this week producing some beautiful watercolour paintings of Lanchester in winter. We are sure you will agree that we have some budding artists in our midst!



On Friday next week, Year 1 will begin weekly Forest School sessions. Most children have wellies in school already and they will also need to have some extra pieces of clothing, especially as the forecast is for very cold weather next week. They will need:

- Waterproof trousers/suit (if you already have them - we have some spares in school if you do not have some)
- Hat
- Gloves
- Warm, waterproof coat
- Wellies (if they do not already have these in school)

In Year 2, the children have been busy choreographing their own dance in their PE lesson. They have been pretending to be toys that come to life - look out for some videos on Twitter over the next few weeks to see what they have been up to!

Key Stage Two News

This week, we thought we would like to share what each Key Stage 2 class is focusing on in their writing in school. Our whole school writing cycle begins with an assessment of the last 'Gold Write' that the children wrote to see what skills we need to work on next. We then read, analyse, discuss and interrogate a model piece of writing so we can identify the key features that the children need to include in their own work. Staff teach these features before the children plan their next 'Gold Write.' The class teachers model the writing process at all times to enable the children to understand what is expected. Finally, once the 'Gold Write' is completed, the children 'polish' and improve their writing. This is assessed by their teacher before the cycle begins again.

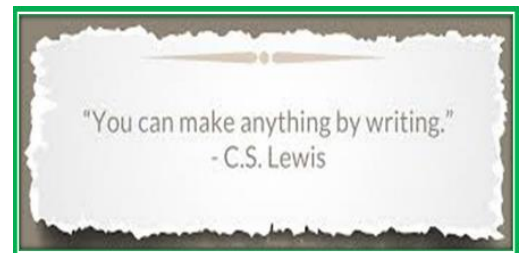
Our current writing tasks are as follows:

Year 3 are reading Scribbleboy this half term and are currently writing a diary recount based on their work, whilst Year 4 are writing an alternative ending to Viking Boy. Year 5 are also writing a diary recount from Willie, an evacuee in Goodnight Mr Tom. Finally, Year 6 are writing a multi-sensory setting description of a workhouse based on Street Child.

You can support your child at home with these writing strategies.

Provide a place for your child to write

The area should be an area that is quiet and well lit. Stock the area with supplies such as paper, pencils and crayons. You can also gather family photos and magazines that can be used as story starters.



Read, read, read

The best activity to improve writing is reading. If your child reads good books, they will be better writers. Reading exposes children to general vocabulary, word study and content-specific vocabulary. Through reading, children see a variety of authors' techniques that they can use in their own writing.

Encourage your child to keep a reflective journal with writing

This is excellent writing practice, as well as a good outlet for venting feelings. Encourage your child to write about things that happen at home and school. This reflective journal can be used to develop the "senses" of writing. Have your child write about what they saw, heard or felt on a trip or adventure. Encourage your child to write about personal feelings — pleasures as well as disappointments.

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