



# LANCHESTER E.P. (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Once again, we have had a very busy and enjoyable week in school with Year 4 visiting the Jorvik Viking Museum, Captain Chemistry working with Year 3 and Year 5, Year 5 staying overnight in Tamworth whilst visiting Cadbury World and the National Space Centre and also welcoming parents into Nursery for Family Story Time and Songs.

I returned from a long weekend in Dubai during which I visited the hotel and venues we are taking the children to in February, carried out risk assessments and also visited Mr Keeton's school where we will be spending a day. On Wednesday, we also welcomed OASES for their network meeting and offered a Temple Spa Well-Being session in school for staff, and we finished the week by having some staff trained by the RSC for the Associate Schools Programme. Just a normal week in the life of a primary school!

We would also like to thank you all for your generosity and your donations for the poppy appeal. The children were so keen to contribute that we had to ask them to bring another box down by the middle of the week so we could sell more! Remembrance has been the theme for our Worship this week and it has been quite humbling to listen to the children talking about this very moving subject.

## **Christmas Gifts and The Biggest Ever Christmas Toy Appeal**

As we all start to think about Christmas and the enjoyment and festivities, I thought it appropriate to make a suggestion to you all.

Although they are never expected in any way at all, we are always quite overwhelmed to receive so many lovely Christmas gifts from the children and we are so appreciative of the kindness and generosity shown to us all. Whilst these are all lovely to receive and greatly appreciated, teaching your children is our job and seeing your child happy, smiling and making progress whilst enjoying their learning is more than enough of a gift to us all.

This year, we are suggesting that instead of buying for us, you might like to buy a gift for a child who is far less fortunate than ourselves. The Genome Centre, Station Road, Lanchester (just up from Lilydale Pet Supplies) are a drop off point for the biggest ever Christmas Toy Appeal. This appeal needs your help to make Christmas extra special for local children. They are all working alongside social workers, schools and refuges in our area to ensure the toys go to children who really need them. There will also be a group of people travelling to Poland to a Ukrainian orphanage to deliver toys to them too.

Any unwrapped toys and gifts, suitable from birth to 17 would be greatly appreciated. They need to be donated before 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022. If you have any questions about this, please contact Kathryn Rooney on 07859 896478. With your help, we can make a difference.

## **Winter Wonderland**

The initial allocation of tickets went on sale this week and we sold out almost immediately. We will make another allocation available from 9am on Monday morning on ParentPay so please look out for that. It is a very popular event and we do expect to sell out!

## **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.

### **Nursery Admissions – Important Information**

We have always offered places to children in Nursery following the Local Authority criteria, which is based on age. All children have equal access to places in Nursery regardless of race, gender, religious belief, intellectual, physical, social or cultural background, and there is no catchment area for places.

This year, in order to help a smoother transition into our Nursery, we are in the fortunate position to be able to offer children a place at our Nursery as soon as they turn three. It is anticipated that they will have a number of induction sessions and look to start their full 15 or 30 hour place within two weeks of their third birthday. However, the place offered to your child will be dependent on the number of places we have available.

In the past, we have offered our January places to anyone turning three between 1st September and 31st December. This year, because we were unsure how many people would want their children to start before January, we offered places out to those children on the waiting list for January at the end of September, with the option to start prior to January as soon as their child turned three. A number of parents took up the offer to start early, whereas other parents asked to defer the start to January. Once the places are offered out and have been accepted, we are unable to offer them to anyone else.

We occasionally have parents who want to change their child's place through the year for a number of reasons. We try to accommodate this where we can, but this is not always possible. Because of when we offer places to the children on our waiting list, it may seem like we have places for children to swap to, but as previously mentioned, once we have had a place offer accepted, we can't take this away.

Likewise, we are sometimes in the position to offer 30 hour places to children who are attending Nursery for 15 hours. However, this again is dependent on the number of spaces we have, and in which groups. For example, to offer a 30-hour place to someone who currently attends the Monday – Wednesday session, we would need to have a space in the Wednesday – Friday session. To offer a 30-hour place to someone who currently attends 5 Morning Sessions, we would have to have a space in the 5 Afternoon Sessions. This is because there is a limit to the number of children we can have in Nursery at one time.

Because of the places we have already had accepted by children on our waiting list, the only places we currently have available for Nursery are 5 Afternoons. Therefore, if someone was to apply for a place who had already turned three, we would still only be able to offer them 5 Afternoons, even if someone starts later in a different session. This is because we try to offer the places to parents in advance so that they have the chance to give notice to current Nursery providers and can plan childcare. This is why we have a waiting list so that your child can be put on from the beginning of the Academic year your child turns two.

If you have any questions about places in Nursery, please direct them to Ms Hawke in the School Office, or email [school.office@lanchesterep.net](mailto:school.office@lanchesterep.net). As the administrator for Nursery places, she is in the best position to answer any questions about how places are allocated, and whether there are spaces available. Please rest assured that the only thing that we look at when allocating your child's place is their date of birth and what places we have available.

### **Attendance Information**

Week Beg. 31 <sup>st</sup> October	Attendance
<b>Reception</b>	98.0%
<b>Year 1</b>	96.3%
<b>Year 2</b>	98.5%
<b>Year 3</b>	91.4%
<b>Year 4</b>	96.0%
<b>Year 5</b>	94.3%
<b>Year 6</b>	96.2%

Week Beg. 7 <sup>th</sup> November	Attendance
<b>Reception</b>	96.8%
<b>Year 1</b>	95.0%
<b>Year 2</b>	98.5%
<b>Year 3</b>	99.2%
<b>Year 4</b>	96.0%
<b>Year 5</b>	98.7%
<b>Year 6</b>	97.1%

# **Diary Dates for Next Week**

## **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2022 - Open Morning from 10am – 12noon**

We are looking forward to welcoming any parents or families who would like to come and look round school tomorrow morning. We will be open between 10am and 12noon and staff will be here to answer any questions you may have and also to show you round our lovely environment. Just come along to the Main Reception area where we will be waiting to greet you.

## **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2022 – World Kindness Day**

World Kindness Day is celebrated annually on 13th November. On this day, participants attempt to make the world a better place by celebrating and promoting good deeds and pledging acts of kindness, either as individuals or as organisations. We will be talking to the children about this in Worship next week.

## **Week Beginning Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November – Road Safety Week**

The theme of Road Safety Week 2022 is SAFE ROADS FOR ALL, bringing together communities and professionals to shout out for everyone's right to make safe and healthy journeys on safe roads. The children from our Road Safety Group will be out and about towards the end of next week observing our roads and seeing what we can do as a community to make our roads safer. Let's see if we can all make a change to our habits next week and work together to make the roads a whole lot safer around our school.

## **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022 – Pupil Photograph Day**

All children in school will be having their individual photographs taken in school on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November, including Nursery children. Siblings who attend school will also be sent to get joint photographs.

In addition to this, the photograph company has agreed to come in early to take photographs of pupils with siblings who do not attend Lanchester EP. If you would like to take advantage of this, please fill in the [Online Sibling Photograph form](#). This needs to be filled in by Tuesday at 3.30pm, so the photographers know how many people to expect. On the day, you will need to come to the School Office at 8.10am. You will then be taken down to the Infant Hall, where the photographers will be ready to take the photographs. Please be aware, you may need to wait for a while. Once the photographs have been taken, you should come back through to the Main Office where you will be let out, and your children will be sent to their classes.

Please note, children who have siblings in school will not need to come in early, as these photographs will be taken during the school day.

## **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022 – Year 5 World War 2 Day**

Mr Bailey will be working in Year 5 on Thursday to bring to life and enrich their WW2 topic this half term of 'A Child's War'.

We are asking all Year 5 children to come into school in WW2 themed-clothing if they want to (evacuees, land girls, soldiers, Churchill etc) and they will do green screen, animation, colorsplash photography linked to remembrance and they will also participate in the Now Press Play WW2 experience which works brilliantly when the children are in costume as well as completing an art activity linked to WW2 as well.

If your child is not keen to get dressed up, then many just enjoy wearing some raggy clothes and coming as evacuees. However, any child not coming in costumes will not be left out as they can simply take off their school jumper/cardigan and just wear their white polo shirt and trousers/skirt for the green screen. We will also have a small selection of costumes available for them to use as well. We just ask that they avoid green costumes where possible as that does not work well with the green screen!

### **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022 – Meeting about Dubai Residential at 6pm**

We are looking forward to welcoming all parents and carers to school on Thursday evening when we will be sharing more information with you about the forthcoming residential in Dubai. I have just returned from a few days there where I have been finalising our itinerary and completing risk assessments. Come along on Thursday to find out more and see some photographs from our visit last year.

### **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2022 – Children in Need Day**

We will be raising money for Children in Need Day by asking children to come to school wearing something bright and colourful in exchange for a suggested donation of £1.

### **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2022 – Confirmation and Baptism Service at 6pm**

This very special service will take place at 6pm on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November at Leadgate St Ives' Church. All are welcome to attend to support those children in school who are making their next, very important step in their Christian faith. It is some time since we have had been able to hold such a service and I know there will be a packed church for such a special occasion.

### **Sports Events**

We have had another very busy week for sporting events this week. The Boys' Football Team played again on Wednesday after school and won two games whilst drawing their other. However, what pleases us more than anything with this group of boys is their amazing sportsmanship and attitude. Well done boys and keep it up!

We then had a Cross Country Event on Thursday afternoon and had a number of children competing. Their attitude and resilience was amazing! Well done to them all. Their results are below. This is from competing against children from all over Derwentside. I am very proud of each and every one of them!

Year 3 & 4 Girls Distance: 1.5 miles		Year 3 & 4 Boys Distance: 1.5 miles		Year 6 Girls Distance: 2.25 miles		Year 6 Boys Distance: 2.25 miles	
Place	Name	Place	Name	Place	Name	Place	Name
5 <sup>th</sup>	Chloe	1 <sup>st</sup>	Tom	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Annabel	4 <sup>th</sup>	Matthew
7 <sup>th</sup>	Zenê	4 <sup>th</sup>	Harley	8 <sup>th</sup>	Grace	11 <sup>th</sup>	Teddy
8 <sup>th</sup>	Betsey	5 <sup>th</sup>	Max	12 <sup>th</sup>	Ella	13 <sup>th</sup>	Fraser
9 <sup>th</sup>	Penny	8 <sup>th</sup>	Joe	14 <sup>th</sup>	Imogen	19 <sup>th</sup>	Joshua
10 <sup>th</sup>	Eleanor	9 <sup>th</sup>	Joshua	18 <sup>th</sup>	Violet		
11 <sup>th</sup>	Freya	11 <sup>th</sup>	Felix	28 <sup>th</sup>	Kate		
14 <sup>th</sup>	Ivy	15 <sup>th</sup>	Flynn				
15 <sup>th</sup>	Phoebe	18 <sup>th</sup>	Jake				
19 <sup>th</sup>	Elissia						

## **Early Years News**

It was wonderful to welcome our Nursery parents to our Family Story Times this week. We hope that you enjoyed your visit to Nursery.

Thank you for all the returned Treasure Hunts. We hope that your child enjoyed the task and it helped to encourage some interesting vocabulary about the natural world. There is still time to return your Treasure Hunt if you would like to participate. All money raised will go towards improving our outdoor music provision.

Reception Staff have been very impressed by this week's engagement with phonic books. Thank you for your home support - it is invaluable in helping your child to make good progress in reading. We will be collecting books on Thursdays until further notice to allow us to allocate books to come home on Fridays.

Applications for Reception School Places are now open and close on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023. It is essential that you apply within these timescales as late applications are not guaranteed a school place. We are full in Reception this year with a waiting list so it really is essential that you apply for a school place on time.

Please follow this link to apply for a school place: <https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/2189/Apply-now-for-a-primary-school-place-deadline-15-January-2023>

## **Key Stage 1 News**

In KS1 we have enjoyed a great start to this Half Term.

In Year 1 the children are enjoying their new topic 'Splendid Skies'. So far we have done some fantastic writing based on 'Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs'. In Science we have observed seasonal changes by collecting and drawing Autumn leaves and in Geography we have been exploring the Equator and Poles and finding out about the weather and climate in different parts of the world.

Year 2 are really enjoying their new 'Frozen Kingdom' topic and have been enjoying writing a Penguin story in English and learning how Penguins are adapted to survive in Antarctica in Topic.

Both year groups continue to impress us with how hard they are working.

On a practical note, as the weather gets colder and wetter please ensure the children have a pair of wellies in school so they can continue to play outside on the field. Also, just a reminder that children should not be bringing in footballs from home to play with in school - we have footballs to play with at break time.

## **Key Stage 2 News**

We have had a busy two weeks back at school since the half-term break. Each year group has started a new topic for the coming weeks. Year 3 are travelling downtown to the city in their 'Urban Pioneers' topic and will be immersing themselves in urban environments. Meanwhile, Year 4 will be travelling back in time to meet the bloodthirsty Vikings from Scandinavia in their 'Raiders and Traders' topic. The Second World War is the focus for Year 5 as they prepare to see the war through the eyes of an evacuee in 'A Child's War'. Finally, Year 6 will be heading back to the Victorian era during their 'Revolution' work. They will be finding out about life in a Victorian slum and the workhouse during the Industrial Revolution.

Each year group will be reading a new novel linked to their topic:

Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
			

All children in our Key Stage 2 classes use these texts to take part in whole-class shared reading lessons. We teach comprehension skills using the reading domains from the National Curriculum. These are taught to children through our VIPERS approach to reading (vocabulary, infer, predict, explain, retrieve and summarise.)

Why not ask your child about their whole class book and how they are using it to learn about their topics?

## **Advance Notices**

### **School Closed**

Please do not forget that the school is closed for teaching purposes on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2022 for a teacher training day. Thank you.

### **Holiday Club Dates – December**

LJG Coaching will be running the holiday clubs in school on 21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> December. If you would like to book onto any of these dates, please fill in the online form here: [Holiday Club Booking](#), or email [ljsportscoaching@gmail.com](mailto:ljsportscoaching@gmail.com) for more information. Please note, children must be 4 years old to attend.

### **Positive Thinking**

*Sometimes, it takes only one small act of kindness and caring to change a person's life.*

Best Wishes,

*Jane Davis*

Mrs Jane Davis  
Head Teacher