



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 21st March

I am writing this letter as the sun is setting after another beautiful, hot and sunny day in Dubai. I have had the immense privilege to accompany a wonderful group of children this week visiting our two partner schools in central Dubai as well as experiencing some of the great culture here. It has been a week of non-stop action with two days in our partner schools, a trip to the desert, driving to Abu Dhabi to visit the Grand Mosque and Presidential Palace as well as some down time in the sea, pool and water park. Excitement and wonder have been in the faces of these children all week whose behaviour and manners have, once again, been exemplary. They have been a real credit to our school, complimented by others as well as ourselves.

However, we have once again been hit with the curse of the delayed return, this time due to the closure of Heathrow airport due to the electrical outage. After waiting at the airport, we have now been put up in a five star hotel and plan to spend a lovely afternoon by the pool whilst rearranging our flight home. The children have taken this all in their stride once again, and their resilience has been incredible to see.

School has been relatively quiet this week with the children also enjoying some better weather at home too. It gives you a real lift and the children love it when they can play on the field too.

We have three weeks left before we break up for a late Easter holiday and lots to pack in. I know Year 3 and Year 4 are really excited about their forthcoming residential with Year 3 counting down the days until they go on their first ever overnight trip!

Boys' Football League

Congratulations to our boys football team, who played incredibly well over the last few weeks and came third in the Spring League overall. They showed fantastic teamwork, sportsmanship, winning five out of their seven games. Well done to all involved.

Rocksteady

This has been a very popular addition to our music offer in school. They now have five bands covering Years 1 to 6, and we are very excited to find out what band names they all pick and to hear them progress.

End of Financial Year

As we approach the end of the financial year in school, please can we ask that any outstanding debts for school meals and wraparound care are cleared by Monday 31st March. If you pay for wraparound care using childcare vouchers, can you please take the time to check your Arbor account in case you need to adjust your voucher payments.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that we advise everyone to keep their child's meal and wraparound care balances in credit wherever possible to avoid the build-up of debt and money owed to the school.

If your child is in Year 6, we ask that you regularly check your child's account over the coming months to ensure there is nothing outstanding when they leave us in the summer. Thanks for your co-operation.

Easter Activities

This year in school we are looking at how we can stand up and take action about issues in our society. As a school council we decided we would like to focus on the issue of food poverty. We have talked about lots of ideas including trying to reduce the amount of food we waste in school.

At the last school council meeting we discussed our Easter Celebrations and the food waste that happens as part of it. We realised that as part of our Easter Egg decorating competition there are around 500 eggs being wasted. In a time when there is so much food poverty in our country we thought it was not fair to do this again.

So, after discussion with SLT we have decided not to hold the Easter egg decorating competition this year. But do not worry! Instead, we are planning a fantastic Easter celebration in school, which will include a parade, decorating Easter crowns or bonnets and a zero waste Easter egg hunt! We will be inviting parents in for a Coffee Afternoon and would love it if parents came to watch us take part in the Easter bonnet parade.

The Easter Celebration will take place on Friday 11th April. So put the date in your diary! We will also be giving people the opportunity to give a donation to our local Foodbank. To do something to help people who are struggling at this time of celebration. We hope it will be an egg-cellent day!

From the school council



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%	94%	Year 4	97.9%	97.3%
Year 1	95.6%	96%	Year 5	97.2%	97.5%
Year 2	95.4%	96.6%	Year 6	97.7%	96.5%
Year 3	96.7%	97.3%	Whole School	96.6%	96.5%

Diary Dates for Next Week

Monday 24th March - School Council leading Worship

The School Council will be sharing their work on food waste with the rest of the school on Monday.

Monday 24th March – Confirmation Classes in School

Confirmation classes will once again be held in school on Monday afternoon with Reverend Lesley for those in year 5 & 6 who have signed up to be confirmed.

Tuesday 25th March – Year 6 at the Centre for Life

Children in Year 6 will be going on an educational visit to the Centre for Life, in Newcastle. The trip is called Learning Lab: Powering the Future with Life Science Centre. During the day the children will take part in interactive workshops linked to their Science and Geography topics. They will need to come into school in their school uniform and bring a packed lunch. They will be back in time for the end of the school day.

Tuesday 25th March – Captain Chemistry with Year 3

Captain Chemistry will be in school on Tuesday to work with Year 3, looking at Roman Engineering and STEM.

Tuesday 25th March – Friends of the School AGM

The Friends of the School will be holding their meeting at 7pm on Tuesday in the Community Centre. If you will be attending, please let them know via this online form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1NxvjMVITVlie4Bzik89XWhKskWh4ysq2bWGax7hsHoM/edit>

Wednesday 26th March – Captain Chemistry with Reception

On Wednesday, Captain Chemistry will be working with Reception, where he will be introducing them to the wonders of Science, with some interesting investigations and some extraordinary experiments.

Wednesday 26th March – Rugby Skills Festival for 5MS

Mr Stephenson's Year 5 class will be taking part in a Rugby Skills Festival on Wednesday afternoon at Consett Rugby Club. They will have an early lunch in school before getting a coach to the rugby club, and will be back in school for the end of the school day.

Thursday 27 March – Friends of the School Pop Up Flower Shop

Thank you to all those who have ordered their flower gifts from our pop up shop. Please collect your flowers from the main hall between 3:15pm and 5pm- we will also be providing tea/coffee and sweet treats for a small donation for our school fund. If you didn't order but need a gift, we have a selection of plants to buy on the day - so please pop in and support our school.

A huge thanks to Harperley Garden Centre for providing the flowers!

Friday 28th March – Year 1 at Newcastle

As part of their Bright Lights, Big City topic, the Year 1 children will be spending Friday on a tour of Newcastle. On this trip the children will take a tour to the Quayside in Newcastle looking at some of the major landmarks of the city including the Baltic and Tyne Bridge. We will also be learning about the Great Fire of Gateshead and Newcastle which links to our work in class on the Great Fire of London. Children will need to wear school uniform with sturdy shoes as there will be a lot of walking, and will need a coat and potentially a sunhat.

Advance Dates

- Monday 31st March – Year 6 Parents Meeting about the Statutory Tests
- Wednesday 9th April – Year 4 Parents Meeting about the Multiplication Check

Positive Thinking

***A bird sitting on a tree is never afraid of the branch breaking,
because her trust is not on the branch but on its own wings.
Always believe in yourself.***

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