



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 14th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a dull, dreary week it has been outside. However, inside school, it has been happy, lively with Christmas songs starting to be heard around the building! Watch out next week for information about our nativities and Christmas events.

Retirement of Long-Standing Staff Members

Two of our long-standing support staff are retiring at Christmas this year. Mrs Mandy Crozier, our school crossing patrol (or lollipop lady as she is affectionately known), has been here for 35 years! She has seen children come and go, then return as parents and sometimes even grandparents! She stands outside on Front Street in all weathers, greeting everyone as they cross the road. Mandy really has been a highly respected and liked lollipop lady with a smile for us all. I know I speak for us all when I say how missed she will be. However, she certainly deserves a very long, happy, healthy and dry retirement and we wish her all the best!

Mrs Allison Moralee, our Assistant Cook, is hanging up her apron strings at the end of this term after working in the kitchen here for 27 years, but prior to that, she also worked in the old Infant School here. She is a friendly figure to all the children and always goes out of her way to make sure the children have a meal they enjoy! Mrs Moralee is more than ready to retire after all these years of cooking, washing dishes, making sandwiches and preparing the salad bar – I wonder how many school meals she has actually made after so many years! It doesn't bear thinking about really. She has more than earned her retirement and I know you will join me in wishing her all the best for her retirement and hope she enjoys cooking for a more 'normal' number in the years to come.

Job Vacancies

The Local Authority are advertising the School Crossing Patrol vacancy in Jobs NorthEast and can be accessed by this link: https://www.northeastjobs.org.uk/job/School_Crossing_Patrol/288352.

We have a vacancy for a kitchen assistant for 10 hours per week between 11.30am and 1.30pm. This vacancy is on our website in the Job Vacancies section.

Switching on the Christmas Lights – Saturday 22nd November from 5.30pm

The countdown to Christmas begins on the Village Green on Saturday 22nd November. From 5.30pm there are Christmas Carols, Lanchester Brass Band will be playing and mulled wine and refreshments served.

I am also delighted to inform you that some of our Year 5 girls felt moved to 'Stand Up and Take Action' after Jane Dancer led an assembly in school about Henry Dancer Days. They have been busy making bracelets which they will be selling on the Village Green on Saturday to raise funds for Henry Dancer Days. We are so impressed with their compassion and courageous advocacy shown. Make sure you pay them a visit in the Gazebo next Saturday.

Two of our Year 6 children will be helping to switch on the lights. We will keep their names a secret for a little while longer but I know they will be very proud to have been nominated by staff!

Support for Willowburn

Here at Lanchester EP, we are lucky to have so many talented children, both past and present. This was highlighted recently when, on behalf of the school, Mrs McGilvray delivered some crocheted items and knitted baby clothes to Willowburn Hospice to be sold in their 'Potting Shed'. With all proceeds going to

Willowburn, our children and their adults (some of whom also donated items) should be immensely proud. Thanks to you all and especially Mrs McGilvray who continues to motivate our children with the wonderful crocheting, hand knitting and knitting craze in school!

Friends of the School Christmas Shop – Orders Close on Monday!

This weekend is your last chance to place your orders for the Christmas Shop which will be taking place in school in December. The form and payment link will close on Monday and unfortunately, no orders can be taken after this deadline due to the sheer amount of admin, shopping, wrapping and label writing there is for volunteers to do. Orders can be placed by visiting: <https://forms.gle/YHhuo3WozntPuLzx7>

If you have any problems or questions, please email the Friends on: friendsoflanchesterep@gmail.com

Christmas Dinner Ordering Deadline – Thursday 20th November

Our annual Christmas Dinner will be held on Wednesday 10th December. This is open to anyone who is in school for a full day on Wednesdays, whether they are on packed lunch or on school dinners.

The only people who need to fill in the form are:

1. Children who are usually on Packed Lunch
2. Children who are on School Meals and want the Vegetarian/Vegan option

If your child has a special dietary requirement that the school has not been informed of, please email school.office@lanchesterep.net.

The online form is here: [Christmas Dinner 2025](#), and closes on Thursday 20th November.

Reception 2026 Intake

Parents of pre-schoolers in Nursery, please remember that school places for Reception intake in September 2026 need to be applied for by midnight on 15th January 2026. It is essential that places are applied for in time to ensure the school of your choice. Please note, children will not automatically get a place in our school if they have been in the Nursery, so it is imperative you apply for a Reception place by going to [Apply now for a primary school place - deadline 15 January 2026 - Durham County Council](#).

Parent Governor

We have a vacancy for a parent governor on our governing body. Governors play a very important part in both supporting and challenging school performance. We have termly full governor meetings and all governors also sit on sub-committees who meet at least once a term. If you think you might be interested in this role, please email myself: j.davis@lanchesterep.net by Friday 21st November to express your interest. We will then organise a meeting with the current Co-Chairs and Vice-Chairs of governors so that they can talk in more detail about what the role entails. Following this, if there is more than one parent who is still interested, than a parental ballot will be held.

Meetings

Please note, all parents and carers of children going on the Ski Trip or to Dubai should have received an email with the dates of the forthcoming meetings. The Ski Trip Meeting will be held on Wednesday 26th November at 5.30pm and the meeting about the Dubai Trip will take place on Wednesday 3rd December at 5.30pm.

This Week's Big Question

We have been thinking about Remembrance this week (as well as last week) but it has also been Anti-Bullying Week too. With both of these national events in mind, we tasked the children this week with the Big Question of: ***'If you could create a new school value for Lanchester EP, what would it be?'*** If you ask your children about this at home, I am sure you will be very surprised and impressed with their thoughts, ideas and suggestions.

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 (%)	to Date (%)	Year Group	Current Week (%)	to Date (%)
Reception	94.3	95.9	Year 4	92	95.8
Year 1	94.8	96.6	Year 5	97.5	97.9
Year 2	95.2	98.4	Year 6	96.1	97
Year 3	96.4	97.8	Whole School	97.1	95.2

Diary Dates for Next Week

Sunday 16th November – Messy Church at 3pm

Messy Church on Sunday takes place in All Saints' Church at 3pm and is entitled, 'All Things Advent'. Come along and enjoy some songs, stories, crafts and a free Messy tea! Rev'd Sutherland will warmly welcome you all!

Monday 17th November – Flu Vaccination Catch Up Sessions

On Monday the flu vaccination team will be back into school to catch up with any of the nasal flu spray/injections that didn't take place last half term. You will get a notification via the phone number/email address you provided to the immunisation team when filling in the form.

Wednesday 19th November – Fair Trade Group leading Worship

We have a very active Fairtrade Group this year and they are leading Worship to help share the impact Fairtrade has on so many people across the globe.

Thursday 20th November – Junior Choir Singing at the Lunch Club

The Junior Choir have been asked to sing for the local Thursday Lunch Club in the community centre. This is something that they have done for a number of years, and it is a testament to their skills that they keep being asked back; I'm sure they will do us proud once again.

Thursday 20th November – Year 5 & Year 6 Athletics

On Thursday, some of our Year 5 & 6 children will be attending a Sports Hall Athletics Event at Consett Leisure Centre for the day. All parents/carers of children involved will be emailed with more information by Tuesday.

Thursday 20th November – Girls Football League Matches

The girls' football team will be playing in the football league at Consett Football Club on Thursday. Those playing will need to be collected from school and taken up to Consett Football Club for 3.45pm. Matches should be finished by 5.00pm. Anyone whose children are involved in this will be emailed today. Good luck girls!

Saturday 22nd November – Christmas Lights Switch On

This event, involving two of our Year 6 children, takes place from 5.30pm on the village green followed by the switching on of the Christmas lights at 6pm. Can you believe that Christmas is approaching?!

Monday 24th November – School Closed

Please remember that the school is closed on Monday 24th November due to a teacher training day. We will re-open on Tuesday 25th November for the remainder of the half-term.

Positive Thinking

*To be kind is more important than to be right.
What people need is not a brilliant mind that speaks
but a special heart that listens.*

As usual, if there is anything at all that you would like to talk about, please do not hesitate to contact us. Hope you have a lovely weekend.

Best Wishes,

Jane Davis

Mrs Jane Davis
Head Teacher