



LANCHESTER E.P. (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



Friday 14th October 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I find it hard to believe that next week is the final week of the half term. Our new starters are really well settled and we are looking forward to sharing lots of success stories with you all next week at parents' evenings. It was good to see some of you at our Accelerated Reader Workshops. I hope you found them informative and useful.

Four girls and two members of staff have had an amazing week in Latvia and return home today – these really are quite unique experiences of a lifetime and I know all girls have been amazing ambassadors for our school whilst also making some special friendships too.

We are already looking forward to next half term and are eagerly anticipating our first nativities in three years!

Staffing

I am delighted to inform you that Mrs Sandi Coyle has been appointed as a permanent full time teacher after being interviewed for the position this week. Mrs Coyle will replace Mrs Sant, who leaves us at the end of the week, and will continue to be the class teacher for her Year 3 class for the remainder of the year.

Health, Fitness & Parking

Sadly, I had three complaints yesterday all about the awful issues local residents are facing from our parents. One resident had his driveway blocked – not by one car, but two who had both double parked in front of his driveway preventing him from getting in or out.

What disappoints and upsets me is that some of our parents are being verbally abusive to the local residents when they challenge them about their parking. We are a small community and it is so important that we all work together. Life is hard enough at the moment without parking causing upset to local neighbours.

We all want our children to be healthy. We all want our children to be safe. We all want our children to breathe cleaner air. We all want to be part of a strong community. The roads outside any school during drop off and pick up time are a nightmare and Lanchester is no exception. However, with a little help from you, we can change that and help to make sure our children are healthier & safer on the way to and from school, whilst helping nurture our relationship with our neighbours.

Park & Stride – we have a parking agreement with The Kings Head and the Social Club so that parents can park in their car parks at pick up & drop off times. Please take advantage of this and walk your children part of the way to school.

Walk One Day A Week – if you live in the village, please walk to and from school when you can – this is really helpful as a large number of our pupils come from outside of the village, so may need to drive their children to school – even if you walk to and from school just one day a week this will help.

Breakfast Club – if your child is on Free School Meals, you can send them to Breakfast Club free of charge from 7.30am. Again, this will help reduce the number of children coming into school between 8.30-8.45am in a morning and should alleviate some of the congestion. For pupils not on Free School Meals the club is £4 per child per session.

We have spoken to the Road Safety Team and our issues with parking and the roads round the school are a high priority to them – there are proposals to extend the double yellow lines all the way down the side of school in order to help keep our children safe.

We have also signed up to their Junior Road Safety Officer Scheme as well as their Child Pedestrian Training. We will also have a competition in school for the children to design parking and road safety related signs to go outside school to remind parents of the importance of parking safely. We will also be working towards an Accreditation recognised by the National Schools Travel Award Scheme.

Any Suggestions/Volunteers – if you have any suggestions or ideas on how to help with our parking issues, please get in touch. Likewise, if you would be interested in volunteering to help with a Walking Bus then we would be really pleased to hear from you. Just email: school.office@lanchesterep.net

We can only get this right with help from everyone – staff, pupils, parents & carers – so please support us in making the area around school as safe and drama-free as possible for everyone.

Electric Scooters

Durham Local Authority have produced a leaflet reminding parents and carers about the law and electric scooters. This has been emailed along with this letter. Please note that it is illegal to use these in any public space unless they are part of a government scheme. They are not permitted on school premises either. Please read the leaflet for more information.

Flu Nasal Spray Consent for Reception – Year 6

Would you like your child to have their Nasal Flu Spray in school on Thursday 3rd November? If so, you need to go to [Immunisation Consent \(hdftsais.co.uk\)](https://hdftsais.co.uk) and type in the School Code: **HD131168**. Consent must be given online for this before 3rd November.

This year, school does have access to the portal so if you aren't sure if you have completed it, we will be able to let you know. So far, 147 have yet to respond (whether giving consent or not). If you would like your child to have their immunisation in school, please don't forget to click on [Immunisation Consent \(hdftsais.co.uk\)](https://hdftsais.co.uk) and type in the School Code: **HD131168**. Thank you.

Reception – Year 6 Parents Evening

Booking for Parents Evening appointments closes on Monday 17th October at 8.00am. If you have yet to book, please do so via your eSchools log in or get in touch with the School Office Team, who can book an appointment for you. The appointments will be held in the Junior Hall on Tuesday & Thursday next week with your child's class teacher, and for Year 1 upwards, you will be able to go down to your child's classroom to see their books.

Wrap Around Care – Tuesday 18th & Thursday 20th October

Whilst the Parents Evening Appointments are on for the whole school, Year 1 – 6 wrap around care will be held in the Reception Classrooms. If you need to collect your child from Wrap Around Care, please go to the Nursery entrance and ring the bell there.

Keeping Children Safe on School Grounds

Please remember that when dropping off or collecting your child, you are responsible for them until they have come into school or as soon as they have been delivered into your care. Please do not let them climb trees, climb on or walk along the walls, climb on the rope climbing frame in the playground or kick the bike shelter.

Our main priority is keeping your children safe, so we would be grateful for your help with this. You may have noticed that the rope climbing frame is taped off and out of action – we are getting this repaired as soon as we can but it is out of action due to safety concerns so we must stress that children must not climb it. Thank you.

Winter Wonderland Christmas Market

As part of our Winter Wonderland this year we are hoping to incorporate a Lanchester EP Christmas Market on Thursday 8th December from 4-7pm. If anyone would like a table to sell gifts, crafts, goodies etc or knows anyone who would be interested, please contact the School Office for more information no later than Friday 21st October.

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.

Friends of the School

Watch out next week for a letter from the Friends of the School – they have lots of brilliant things planned for this year. Lots to look forward to!

Letter from Consett Academy

We have received a letter from Mr Tom Urwin who is the principal of Consett Academy and will be sending that out to all parents and carers of children in Key Stage 2.

Polite reminder – Space Day meal payment (Nursery & Y3-6)

If your child is usually on packed lunch but joined us for a Space themed meal last week, the item is now available on ParentPay, unless your child is in receipt of free school meals. This will appear in your school dinner account. Please ensure this item is paid for by Friday 21st October.

Attendance

Here is the attendance for last week – we do celebrate good attendance in our Achievement Assembly every Friday morning and the children are always keen to be the best!

Year Group	Attendance Percentage	
	Week Beginning 3 rd October	Week Beginning 10 th October
Reception	94.3%	97.3%
Year 1	96.5%	97.1%
Year 2	96.5%	98.5%
Year 3	98.6%	98.8%
Year 4	97%	94.3%
Year 5	98%	98.3%
Year 6	96.5%	99.6%

Dates for Next Week

Sports Leagues

Monday after school: Girls Football at Consett Football Club
Wednesday afternoon school: KS2 Boys Football at Consett Football Club
Thursday after school: KS2 Cross Country at Greenland Primary School

Extra-Curricular Activities

Please remember that due to the parents' evenings next week, there are no extra-curricular activities taking place next week. The form for next half term's clubs will be sent out shortly.

Tuesday 18th October – House Cross Country Competition

We are holding a house cross country competition on Tuesday afternoon for all children in Key Stage 2. This is the first time we have held such an event but aim to hold a house competition at the end of every half term. Let's hope the weather is kind to us!

Tuesday 18th October – Year 1 at All Saints' Church

Year 1 classes will be visiting All Saints' Church on Tuesday afternoon as part of the R.E. work this half-term. You will probably hear them before you see them walking through the village on Tuesday afternoon!

Tuesday 18th & 20th October – Parents' Evening

Our parents' evening takes place between 3.30pm and 6pm. Unfortunately, we will not be able to let you into the building before 3.30pm as this time just allows the staff to set the books out and have a quick break before the meetings start. Please come to the Main Entrance and you will be directed to the Junior Hall for your appointment but are also free to go and have a look at your child's work in their classroom before or after your appointment. If your appointment is at 3.30pm, you will not be able to see your child's books before the appointment, you will need to do this after.

Wednesday 19th October - Fire Brigade with Years 5 & 6

We are delighted that some of the fire fighters from Consett Fire Station are coming to talk to Years 5 & 6 about keeping safe around Bonfire Night. They will have a fire engine on site (unless there is an emergency) and I am sure they will have the opportunity to ask plenty of questions!

Thursday 20th October – Year 6 at Newcastle Mosque

Year 6 are spending the day at the Mosque in Newcastle as part of their R.E. work this half term. They will all need to wear full school uniform and will return to school in time for the end of the school day. Please note: all children will now need to bring a packed lunch – this has been updated since the trip letter was sent out. I am sure they will all find it a very interesting and informative visit.

Friday 21st October - Afternoon

Mrs Moran and the Fair Trade Steering Group will be holding a Hot Choc Friday on Friday afternoon. Children are welcome to bring in 50p for a hot chocolate treat during the afternoon session.

Early Years News

Try this at home

Our EYFS children just love exploring the playdough areas in Nursery and Reception. Squeezing, stretching, pinching and squashing the dough are all great ways to get little fingers moving - and developing the muscles needed to make great writers! Making playdough is very simple and only needs four ingredients. You will need:

- 2 cups of plain flour
- 1/2 a cup of salt
- 2 teaspoons of vegetable oil
- Up to 1 cup of water
- Food colouring (optional)

To make the playdough, mix the flour and salt then add in the oil. Add the food colouring to the water then slowly add the water (a little bit at a time) to the mixing bowl, stirring until the dough comes together.

Your playdough should last for a good few play sessions if you store it in an airtight container between uses.

Autumn Treasure Hunt

Now that Autumn is upon us, it is time for the launch of our annual EYFS Autumn Treasure Hunt. Next week, your child will be bringing home a treasure hunt sheet. We would like them to complete their Treasure Hunt over the holiday and then return it to school to share their treasures. On the reverse of the sheet there is a sponsor form. If you would like to support us to raise money for the EYFS outdoor area, we would be very grateful as it would help us to buy some new equipment to develop our outdoor music and performance area. We hope that your child will enjoy completing their hunt!

Last year we raised enough to be able to purchase a large outdoor castle and sandpit.

Applying for Reception places

Applications for Reception School Places are now open and close on Sunday 15th January 2023. Please don't forget that children who attend our Nursery do not automatically transfer up to Reception

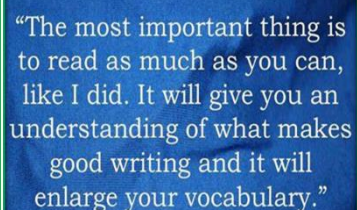
Please follow this link to apply for a school place: <https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/2189/Apply-now-for-a-primary-school-place-deadline-15-January-2023>

Key Stage 1 News

It has been another busy week in KS1. Year 2 have been working really hard and continue to enjoy their pirate topic. It is wonderful to see how the children are making progress in reading this term. Our parents training session this week on Accelerated Reader highlighted how much the children in Year 2 are enjoying their reading and relishing the freedom to choose their own books.

The highlight of the week for Year 1 was an exciting trip to the Hancock Museum on Tuesday as part of our Dinosaur Planet topic. We took part in a fossil workshop and had to identify different plant and animal fossils. We then toured the museum, exploring the different fossils and dinosaur skeletons. However, the highlight for many was the huge fossilised Dinosaur poo which caused great hilarity with the children! Thank you again to all the parents who gave up their time to come and help us, it is much appreciated.

Key Stage 2 News



"The most important thing is to read as much as you can, like I did. It will give you an understanding of what makes good writing and it will enlarge your vocabulary."

— J.K. Rowling

This week, we thought we would like to share what each Key Stage 2 class is focusing on in their writing in school. **Writing is such an important form of communication and a key part of what we teach in schools.** Teaching the art of writing is even more important in today's technology-driven world. Children are developing a new language of their own through messaging, texting and email etc. In school, we aim to choose engaging writing tasks, linked to the children's topics.

Year 3 are travelling back to the Stone Age for their writing. They have been reading Stone Age Boy in class and are now looking at how they could write an alternative version of the story. Native American Myths are the focus of our Year 4 writers. They are using the story of the Enchanted Moccasins as the basis of their own stories. The story follows Onwee as he tries to find other humans that inhabit the world.

Year 5 are developing their skills for the future! They are writing formal letters of application to Tim Peake and the UK Space Agency to become astronauts. They are thinking of the key skills that they would need to be part of a manned mission to Mars. Finally, Year 6 are developing their reporting skills as they write a newspaper article about the death of Medusa, linked to Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief. This is somewhat of a gruesome article that gives Greek mythology a modern day twist!

You can help your child at home with their writing in many ways. Here are a few ideas you could try:

Read Up

Regular reading is a stepping stone to better writing and helps children strengthen their writing skills. It helps expand children's vocabulary and shows them different ways of using words. This also makes it easier for them to use these words in their own writing.

Make It Fun!

Play games and activities that encourage writing. Crossword puzzles and word games are great for everyone. Younger children will especially like the "write the word" game: where they search for items and write down the word when they find each item.

Write Letters

Today, writing letters is a bit of a lost art. Encourage your child to write letters to friends or family members. Distant family members will especially love receiving handwritten letters and it's a great way to work on improving writing skills for kids.

Pen-pals are also a fun idea, or you can even write letters to each other and leave them around the house to find.

Encourage your child to keep a reflective journal or diary

A 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. When reading your child’s journal (only if your child invites you to, of course), share your own feelings and ideas paired with positive feedback about your child’s writing.

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

Confirmation for Years 5 & 6

Revd Stephen Martin will be joining us from next week to lead the confirmation classes for those children wishing to be confirmed. It is great that we are able to offer these special classes, once again, to our children.

Advance Notices

Holiday Club Dates – October & December

LJG Coaching will be running the holiday clubs in school on the following dates:

24th – 26th October

21st – 22nd December

If you would like to book onto any of these dates, please fill in the online form here: [Holiday Club Booking](#), or email ljgsportscoaching@gmail.com for more information. Please note, children must be 4 years old to attend.

Diary Dates

Monday 7 th November	Year 4 trip to Jorvik – early drop off to school required
Thurs. 10 th & Fri. 11 th November	Year 5 at National Space Centre, Cadbury World and Birchwood School
Sunday 20 th November	Confirmation Service at Leadgate St Ives Church—time to be confirmed
Wednesday 23 rd November	Year 1 visit Centre for Life
Tuesday 13 th December	Year 6 visit to Tyne Theatre
Monday 12 th -Friday 16 th December	Erasmus+ Visit to Ajka, Hungary

I hope you all have a lovely half term holiday with your children. I think they are all ready for a break and it just gives us all a little time to re-charge our batteries in preparation for a very special Christmas half term.

Positive Thinking

When things feel overwhelming, remember:

One thought at a time

One task at a time

One day at a time

Please do not ever hesitate to get in touch if there is anything at all that you would like to talk about or discuss.

Best Wishes,

Jane Davis

Mrs Jane Davis
Head Teacher