



Spring Newsletter (3)



A warm welcome back to everyone this year; particularly those children who have just started their school life in Nursery with us. It has made a huge difference having children starting Nursery as soon as they turn three years old as it means all starts are staggered, helping all children to settle so much more quickly.

Christmas celebrations seem a long time ago now and whilst I am sure I mentioned it in December, I want to reiterate how wonderful it was to see so many of you back in the school building. Full churches, packed halls and time spent at parties and theatres was something so many of us have craved for such a long time. For some children, the experience of standing on a stage performing was totally new and they all managed exceptionally well. I know there were lots of very proud parents and carers and rightly so. I am sure none of us will ever take those special occasions for granted again.

We were thrilled to hear at the end of last term that we have been successful in being included on the Schools Rebuilding Programme. We have fought for years to have something done about various aspects of our building which could just never be funded from a 'normal' school budget such as new hall windows (in both halls), a new roof and an overhaul of our drains.

I believe it will take a little while before we find out just exactly what this will mean for our school and community. For some schools on the programme, it is a completely new school building. For others, it is a partial re-build. There will no doubt be months of visits by surveyors, builders, planners and engineers before we have any idea what will happen to our school. However, it is very exciting knowing that our children will be part of a 21st century, energy efficient building with excellent facilities. I even have hopes of some solution to our parking issues too – or perhaps that is just wishful thinking...

Our school twitter page continues to be as popular as ever – don't forget to follow us: @LanchesterEP. You will find out all sorts of things that happen in your child's class on a daily basis as well as being well-informed about different events taking place across the whole school.

As usual, there are some important diary dates at the end of this newsletter, but of course, dates are continually being added to the diary (and changed), so please look out for any additional weekly letters that come out during the course of the term. Also, please remember that all our letters are also posted on our website and if you have the app for eSchools, they will also be sent directly to your device.

As usual, if there is anything at all that you want to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Jane Davis

Staff News



I am delighted to inform you that Miss Martin was married during the Christmas holidays and I am sure you will all want to share the staff and governors in congratulating her. She will continue to be known as Miss Martin for the foreseeable future so at least it won't confuse our youngest children who she teaches. We wish her and her husband a long and happy marriage!



We have recently appointed two cleaners to join our hardworking and dedicated team of cleaners in school. Mrs Karen Gohery and Mrs Olha Zavorotko joined us towards the end of last term and are a really great addition to the team.



School Holidays



As you may be aware, our families travel from all over to attend our school and at the age of 11, many transfer to secondary schools closer to their homes. We have many children whose siblings attend St Bede's Academy, Consett Academy, Wolsingham School, Tanfield School, St Leonard's as well as Framwellgate Moor and Durham Johnston schools.

This Christmas was the first time that many families were affected by a difference in school holidays with some schools breaking up on Friday 16th December, us on Tuesday 20th December and others on Friday 23rd December.

October week and Christmas holidays this year are both going to be problematic for families too as I believe some secondary schools are not in keeping with our holidays. The issue is that academies can choose their own holiday dates and as we are part of the Local Authority, we have to follow their holiday dates. The Catholic Multi-Academy Trusts (of which St Bede's are a part) all are told when to take their holidays.

There is nothing I can do about this unfortunately but I am going to make enquiries with the Head of Children's Services to see if something can be done to help families in this ridiculous position. I cannot promise any changes but I will certainly make my opinion clear on behalf of you all.



Strike Action



As you will no doubt be aware, strike action has been called by one of the teaching unions, the NEU. We do not yet know what this will mean for our school but I aim to tell you on Monday which classes will be affected. We will have as many children in school as possible, but obviously it all depends on the numbers of teachers who have been called out to strike action by their union.



Visit to India



This week has been a really memorable one for our school in that we have had 16 children and 5 adults travel to Rajkot, India for a truly incredible week visiting our partner school. The funding received from the Turing Scheme last year was for this purpose, but due to high levels of Covid in India last January, we were unable to travel there and then had to make plans to travel to Dubai at the last minute (otherwise we would have lost the funding). This makes the visit this week so much more special as we have waited so long for it to be able to take place!

It has not been without its problems though and you may not have been aware of the high stress levels of myself and Mr McLoughlin last term with the change in the visa rules. Our children featured on the BBC TV Programme, Rip Off Britain last week which documents the issues we faced. We feature in the first 10 minutes and the link is here if you want to watch it: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m001h09t/rip-off-britain-holidays-series-11-episode-7>

It has been wonderful to hear of the amazing time they've had with time spent in Rajkot, a day in a state school in the countryside (which was very humbling), mixing with the royal family, immersing themselves into the Indian culture with the bindi on their foreheads, mehndi patterns on their hands and curry for breakfast!

Newcastle Airport posted the photograph we took for Twitter on their Facebook page along with a comment about the trip that started at the airport and consisted of 3 flights. The post has attracted a lot of interest from members of the public with many being quite amazed and in awe of them travelling so far at such a young age. We believe it opens their eyes to the world out there and raises their aspirations for the future. It is only possible due to the £76,000 of funding received - let's hope we are successful with our application next year as well!

I must also add how much I respect the parents and carers of the children who have gone on this trip. It is quite unusual for primary schools to take such young children on a residential quite so far away but all credit to the parents and carers for putting their trust in the school and staff with their most precious possession, remaining so positive (certainly on the surface anyway!) and enabling their children to participate a once in a lifetime experience. After residentials, children return with increased independence and confidence, greater resilience and hopefully having made memories that will last a lifetime.



Road Safety Group



Whilst our Road Safety Group has not met this term, a group of Y6 girls were accompanied this week by the Local Authority Road Safety Officer and our local PCSOs to observe the parking in and around school. They observed some very considerate parking by parents and carers but they also observed some dangerous and thoughtless parking too. Thank you so much to those who always park away from the school – it does make a big difference. It is chaotic outside school, especially at pick up time and we all need to continue to take great care at this key time.

It does look like double yellow lines will be put on the whole road outside the field gate. With this in mind, perhaps now is the time to start finding somewhere else to park in the village in readiness for the arrival of these double yellow lines?



Climate Friendly School



We all enjoyed a really thought-provoking assembly by OASES last week about how to become a Climate Friendly School. We are currently carrying out an audit and we will then be in a position to start looking at an action plan about what we can put in place to help address some of the issues affecting the climate. It is at that stage we will be meeting with governors and parents to look at how this can be put into action. I will email the interested parents and carers with the suggested date once we reach that stage.



School Uniform



We really appreciated the time taken by so many parents and carers to complete the form with comments and thoughts about our current school uniform. We are starting to analyse these in more detail and hope to be able to share some ideas to you about suggested changes in the near future. Please bear with us as this is really important and crucial that we get it right!



Contact Details and Email Addresses



Once again, we would just like to remind you about updating the School Office with your contact details. It is so important that all your emergency contact details are kept up to date, especially any new mobile numbers for both parents and additional contacts. Also, if you move house, it is essential that you inform the office. We would particularly urge you to let us know if you no longer use your landline number as I know many families just use their mobile numbers now.

It is also essential that the school office is informed of any change of email addresses. All letters and newsletters are now emailed to all parents and carers. It has become apparent that some of these are landing in spam or junk boxes. Please make sure that you check this. However, please also remember that all letters can also be found on our website and will also drop into your app if you have a smartphone. Help us become more efficient and environmentally friendly as we become increasingly paperless. Thank you!



Year 3 & Year 4 Residentials



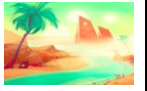
The letters with all the information about these residentials have now gone out to all Year 3 & Year 4 parents and carers. If you have not received one, please get in touch immediately.

Please do not forget the meetings about the residentials which will take place in person, in the school hall:
Year 3 parents' meeting about the Birdswald residential will be held on Wednesday 25th January at 6pm.
Year 4 parents' meeting about the Seahouses residential will be held on Tuesday 31st January at 6pm.

These one-night residentials are a perfect way of your child experiencing staying away from home for a night and for many it may be the first time too! If you have any questions at all about these, or if your child is slightly reticent about going, please speak to us. They are amazing overnight visits which often end up being the highlight of their year!



Dubai Trip



As soon as the India trip return, I will be able to turn my attention to the Dubai visit.

This is taking place with the same funding as the India trip – all from The Turing Scheme. We are taking 24 children to Dubai, visiting two partner schools as well as having an adventure in the desert, a trip up the Burj Kalifa and some time on the beach.

The kit list will be sent out next week to parents and carers of all children going. We are also starting to collect all the children's passports. Please hand their passport into the school office (DO NOT send it in with your child) and we will store these in the school safe. Parental consent forms will be sent home with the children next week – please include mobile numbers on there that you would like included in the WhatsApp chat – this is just for parents and carers of children going on the trip.

Please do not forget that Dubai Club continues every Monday night after school, in preparation for their once in a lifetime visit!



Skiing Trip to France



With only 7 weeks to go before the ski trip leaves for France, we are now starting to make the final arrangements. Please feel free to hand your child's passport into school anytime. The ski hoodies have now been ordered and the snow is beginning to fall too!

All children and adults who are going on the trip need to make sure they have a GHIC card (the old European Health Cards). The old European Health Cards can still be used as long as they are valid. If you or your child needs a new card, please apply here – they are FREE OF CHARGE. Do not pay for this – some websites do charge, but use the NHS website, where this website will take you, and you do not pay a penny:

<https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/apply-for-a-free-uk-global-health-insurance-card-ghic/>



BETT Show



We will be taking four of our Digital Leaders again to the BETT Show at the Excel Centre in London from Thursday 30th March – Saturday 1st April. BETT is the largest education technology conference in the world (over 30,000 people attend over the three-day event) and our pupils will have the opportunity to see the latest products and help to inform future purchases. They will also be presenting in one of the theatres – quite a daunting prospect for adults but not for our children!

The children work hard to plan and prepare for their presentation and time here so we do try to thank them! As well as attending BETT, pupils will also be taken to see Frozen in Drury Lane, enjoy some nice meals out and enjoy some sightseeing too. It is an action-packed few days!



LJG Coaching Holiday Club



Mr Graham will once again be running LJG Coaching's holiday club during February half term from Monday 20th February until Wednesday 22nd February. If you would like more information or to book your child in to any of the dates, please email LJGSportscoaching@gmail.com or fill in this online form: [February Holiday Club](#).

We also have all the dates of future holiday clubs to help you with your forward planning:

Easter Holiday: 3rd, 4th 5th & 6th April 2023

Whit Holiday: dates will be released in next newsletter

Summer Holiday: dates will be released in next newsletter



Year 2 Visit to Life Science Centre, Newcastle



This term, children in Year 2 will be going on a visit to Life Science Centre in Newcastle on Thursday 16th February. The trip will consolidate the work they are learning about the moon and space exploration for their 'Moon Zoom' topic and they will also have the opportunity to visit the planetarium. A letter has already been sent to Parents & Carers of Year 2 children and the trip is now available on ParentPay.

Early Years News



This half term, our Nursery children will be exploring the wintry weather with lots of activities themed around snow and ice. They will also be exploring and sharing favourite foods. These are some of the books they will be getting to know over the next few weeks:



In Reception, the children will be learning about New Year Celebrations, including Lunar New Year and will be learning how to be meteorologists and astronomers. Our core books for this half term will be:



Across EYFS, we will be using Tales Toolkit to explore story structure and develop our storytelling skills. If you would like to find out more about this, here is a short video which gives you a taste for what it is all about <https://youtu.be/OaMF9rLyhRU> You can also sign up to the Tales Toolkit Home Learning Portal, which has lots of ideas for how you can support your child to join in with Tales Toolkit at home. If you are interested in accessing this, see here: <https://talestoolkit.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/family-login.pdf> Our school code for you to register is LANCHDH70HU.

The Reception children are very excited about their trip to the Laing Art Gallery next Thursday. Please ensure that your child arrives promptly and brings a packed lunch and drink with them. Children should come in uniform as normal.

All children in EYFS take part in the Squiggle Early Writing Programme. For further information about this, see here: <https://youtu.be/wmG6jaDFrDk> We are going through lots (and lots!) of paper during Squiggle sessions, so if you have any unwanted rolls of wallpaper, we would be very grateful of them in EYFS as they are perfect for big squiggle movements with crayons, chalks and pens.

Key Stage One News



There has been a real buzz around KS1 this week! The children in Y2 were amazed when their classrooms were invaded and trashed by Aliens this week. They not only left behind a big mess but also some slimy handprints. The children were soon solving the mystery and it has led to some amazing writing this week. It was wonderful to feel the buzz and excitement in the classes and see the children so engaged in their learning.

Y1 have also produced some amazing pieces of art this week making lion collages using a range of materials. The classrooms looked slightly messy!! But again the children had a wonderful time being so creative.



We are already looking ahead to our next topic in Y1 'Bright Lights Big Cities' and we have a trip to Newcastle planned on the 9th March. We will be walking through Newcastle down to the Quayside to see the landmarks of the city. We need 4 parent volunteers to help with this trip. If you are interested, please send an email to Mr Innes.



Key Stage Two Writing



I CAN SHAKE OFF EVERYTHING AS I
WRITE
 MY SORROWS DISAPPEAR,
 MY COURAGE IS REBORN
 -ANNE FRANK

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 travelling back to Pompeii in AD79 for their writing. They have been reading Escape from Pompeii and are writing about the eruption of Vesuvius from the point of view of one of the main characters.

Year 4 are writing persuasive letters for their 1066 topic. The children are writing letters of application for the vacant King of England post!

Year 5 are working on their ability to write a multi-sensory setting description based on the Secrets of the Sun King.

Finally, Year 6 are re-writing a chapter of their novel Wonder from the point of view of another character. This will help them develop empathy as well as supporting their writing.

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

School Council



Our school council has been reinstated following a break after Covid and Mrs Coyle is now having regular meetings with the children when they can bring their ideas (on behalf of the class) about improvements they would like to make about the school.



The first suggestion made is about having a tuck shop again. Discussions are now in place about this and how to make it work in school. The second topic being debated is the treat to take place for the winning team from last term. It is so important to give the children a voice in school and they are certainly taking it very seriously!

Erasmus+ Visits



We are coming to the end of our final two Erasmus+ projects but still have five visits to our European partners. We have two trips to Brussels (one with each project), and one to Athens, Istanbul and Madrid to take place. We will be sending letters to Year 5 and Year 6 parents shortly asking for names of any children who would like to participate in any of these mobilities.

For the 'European Choir to Prevent Bullying' project, we will be asking for children who are keen to sing in a large European Choir in both Athens and also in a big concert during our last mobility in Istanbul – that should be quite a tremendous experience for everyone, singing in a choir with pupils from Turkey, Greece, Spain and Latvia!

These are unique experiences for children which have been enjoyed by so many over the last 13 years.

Worship Leaders



Mr Osmond will be working with volunteers from Year 6 to lead Worship in school once a week. They will tell or enact stories from the Bible and be empowered to lead the Worship in whatever way they would like. He will work with Year 6 first and then open this up to younger children as the year progresses. I am sure we will have lots of children who are keen to take on this role and I am really looking forward to seeing them take on this leadership role. We hope to be able to invite parents to share with us in some of these Worship sessions too.



Parents' Evenings



Our parents evenings for this term take place on Tuesday 14th February and Thursday 16th February between 3.30pm and 6pm. These will take place in school and you will also have the opportunity to look at your child's work when in school as well.

Booking for Parents' Evenings will open via your eSchools account on the school website from 12 noon on Monday 30th January and will close on Friday 10th February. This can be done through the app. Please note that you must use your parent account to do this. If you need a reminder of your username and password, please contact the school office.

For those of you who are unable to book an appointment via the eSchools platform, you can make a booking by emailing the school office at school.office@lanchesterep.net.

Please note, Nursery parents' evenings will take place during the final week of this half term and appointments will be available both during the day and on the two evenings as above.

Statutory Tests – Years 1, 2, 4 & 6



It is really important that all children in these key year groups are in school during the weeks the tests must take place. If they are absent at these crucial times, they cannot take their tests any other time. This can also have a detrimental impact on our school data. So I urge all parents to please keep a careful note of these dates so that nothing interferes with them!

Year 1 & some Year 2 children – their KS1 Phonics Screening takes place from **Monday 12th June 2022**.

Year 2 children – their KS1 Statutory Tests will take place during the **month of May**. These children will not even know they are taking tests as we keep them very low key for such young children. However, it is essential that they are in school during May so that they take them at the same time as their peers.

Year 4 children – Multiplication Tables Check. This will take place from **Tuesday 6th June 2023** and all Year 4 children are required to sit this 'test'.

Year 6 children – their KS2 Statutory Tests take place during the **week beginning Tuesday 9th May** and again, it is essential that they are all in school during this week.

We really do appreciate you supporting us at these crucial times in school. Thank you. A meeting will be held next half term for parents of our Year 6 children so that we can talk you through the tests and expectations.

Chinese New Year Celebrations



Some of our children are taking part in the Lunar New Year Celebrations in Durham Town Hall on Saturday morning. There is a whole programme of activities taking place in Durham on Saturday, starting with a Lion Dance from Milenium Place to the Market Place at 12.30pm. Our children will be singing at 11.30am in Durham Town Hall. This is a wonderful opportunity for our children to showcase their super singing voices and I am sure they will enjoy seeing the Chinese students demonstrate some dancing and singing too. If you are in Durham on Saturday, it looks like it is going to be a great day of celebrations!

Important Dates for 2023

KS1 Statutory Assessment Tests - May 2023

KS2 Statutory Assessment Tests - Week Beginning Tuesday 9th May 2023

Year 1 Phonics Screening Check - Week Beginning Monday 12th June 2023

Year 4 Multiplication Test - Week Beginning Tuesday 6th June 2023

School Holidays - Academic Year 2022 - 2023

Holiday	Closing Date	Date re-open for teaching purposes
February Half Term	Friday 17 th February 2023	Monday 27 th February 2023
Easter Holiday	Friday 31 st March 2023	Monday 17 th April 2023
May Day	Friday 28 th April 2023	Tuesday 2 nd May 2023
Bank Holiday	Friday 5 th May 2023	Tuesday 9 th May 2023
Summer Half Term	Thursday 25 th May 2023	Tuesday 6 th June 2023
Summer Holiday	Friday 21 st July 2023	Tuesday 5 th September 2023
October Half Term	Friday 27 th October 2023	Monday 6 th November 2023
Christmas Holiday	Tuesday 19 th December 2023	Tuesday 4 th January 2024
February Half Term	Friday 16 th February 2024	Monday 26 th February 2024
Easter Holiday	Thursday 28 th March 2024	Monday 15 th April 2024
May Day	Friday 3 rd May 2024	Tuesday 7 th May 2024
Summer Half Term	Thursday 23 rd May 2024	Monday 3 rd June 2024
Summer Holiday	Friday 19 th July 2024	To Be Confirmed

Positive Thinking

***Don't cry over the past, it's gone.
Don't stress about the future, it hasn't arrived.
Live in the present and make it beautiful***

DIARY DATES

Saturday 21 st January 2023	11.30am	Our school singing at Durham Town Hall for Lunar New Year Celebrations
Wednesday 25 th January 2023	6pm	Year 3 Parents & Carers Meeting for Birdoswald Residential
Thursday 26 th January 2023	All Day	Reception Trip to the Laing Art Gallery, Newcastle
Sunday 29 th January 2023	All Week	Staff in Brussels for Teacher Training with Erasmus+
Tuesday 31 st January 2023	6pm	Year 4 Parents & Carers Meeting for Seahouses Residential
Wednesday 1 st February 2023	All Day	NEU on Strike – more details to follow
Thursday 2 nd February 2023	2.15pm	Climate Friendly Schools Action Team Meeting for Governors, Parents & Eco Rangers
Week Beg. Monday 6 th February 2023	All Week	Children's Mental Health & Growth Mindset Week
Thursday 9 th February 2023	2.15pm	Coffee Afternoon organised by children in aid of WWF and Fairtrade
Friday 10 th February 2023	All Day	Wear Your Scarf to School Day to celebrate Children's Positive Mental Health
Tuesday 14 th February 2023	3.30-6pm	Parents' Evening
Thursday 16 th February 2023	All Day	Year 2 at The Centre for Life
Thursday 16 th February 2023	3.30-6pm	Parents' Evening
Friday 17 th February 2023	5pm	School Closes for February Half Term Holiday
<i>LJG Holiday Club Monday 20th February - Wednesday 22nd February</i>		
Friday 24 th February 2023	Morning	Dubai Trip Departs from Newcastle Airport
Thursday 2 nd March 2023	All Day	World Book Day
Monday 6 th March 2023	All Day	Captain Chemistry in School
Tuesday 7 th March 2023	All Day	Captain Chemistry in School
Thursday 9 th March 2023	All Day	Year 1 in Newcastle for Trip
Friday 10 th March 2023	All Day	Paul Cookson, Author, in School
Saturday 11 th March 2023	7am	Flight Departs for Ski Residential
Friday 17 th March 2023	Afternoon	Coffee Afternoon for Mothering Sunday
Sunday 19 th March 2023	TBC	Erasmus+ Visit to Athens
Wednesday 22 nd March 2023	Overnight	Mr Stephenson's Class depart for Birdoswald Residential
Thursday 23 rd March 2023	Overnight	Mrs Coyle's Class depart for Birdoswald Residential
Thursday 23 rd March 2023	3pm	Mr Stephenson's Class return from Birdoswald
Friday 24 th March 2023	3pm	Mrs Coyle's Class return from Birdoswald
Thursday 30 th March 2023	All Day	Digital Leaders at the Bett Show, London
Friday 31 st March 2023	All Day	Digital Leaders at the Bett Show, London
Friday 31 st March 2023	5pm	School Closes for Easter Holidays
Saturday 1 st April 2023	Afternoon	Digital Leaders return from Bett Show, London