



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 8th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been so lovely to welcome back all the children this week and see them come skipping and running into the building. To see all those happy and excited faces on Tuesday morning was just so special. Long may it continue! The weather certainly helps too.

The difference between being in school this week to coming into school in the holidays is vast. Without children, the place is soulless, devoid of laughter, chatter and character. That all returns with the children though and suddenly the life and spirit returns to the building!

Welcome to all our new families – this is the start of a long and happy partnership. We are here to help you all and answer any questions. Communication is key so please tell us of any changes in your circumstances or anything at all that might affect your child in school.

Contact Details

It is absolutely essential that we have current contact numbers and email addresses for all parents and carers of children in school. There are times when a child is poorly in school or has an accident and if we only have one contact number and there is no answer, it leaves us in a vulnerable position and is just not fair on the child.

Uniform

It has been wonderful to see the children return to school looking so smart in their uniforms, especially in their new PE uniforms. I am sure you will agree that they all look great in their team colours and it means that they all get a much longer PE lesson too.

However, please make sure that every single item of clothing has your child's name on it. We are determined this year to reunite lost property with their owner at the end of every day but can only do this if it has a name. Thank you!

Water Bottles

Please remember that we provide school water bottles for all children from Reception to Year 6. Nursery have their own water cups. These remain in school and are washed and sterilised by staff. Children are not allowed to bring in their own water bottles and only water is allowed to be drunk throughout the school day.

Packed Lunches

Please remember that we have a packed lunch policy (on the website) which states that we need to ensure packed lunches are healthy. This means that children should not have sweets or chocolate at all. They should also not have crisps every day. Please also remember that we are a nut free school and children must not bring in nuts of any type. Thank you.

Email Communication with Parents and Carers

We are keen to ensure we have good communication with parents and carers and emails can often be the quickest way to get in touch with your child's teacher. However, please remember that all adults are teaching during the school day and therefore cannot reply to them immediately. The staff will respond, usually within 24 hours, but are also instructed not to respond to emails out of working hours. I have included all email addresses below as well as mine.

Name	Role	Email Address	Name	Role	Email Address
Mrs Davis	Head Teacher	j.davis@lanchesterep.net	Miss Rippon	Finance	n.rippon@lanchesterep.net
Mrs Bowden & Ms Hawke	School Office	school.office@lanchesterep.net	Miss Butler	Nursery EYFS Lead	s.butler@lanchesterep.net
Mrs Burke	RJB	j.burke@lanchesterep.net	Mrs Lydon Miss Martin	RHL	h.lydon@lanchesterep.net c.martin@lanchesterep.net
Mr Innes	1GI Assistant Head	g.innes@lanchesterep.net	Mr McLoughlin	1SM SENDCo	s.mcloughlin@lanchesterep.net
Mr Osmond	2GO	g.osmond@lanchesterep.net	Mrs Tate	2TT	t.tate@lanchesterep.net
Mrs Coyle	3SC	s.coyle@lanchesterep.net	Mr Stephenson	3MS	m.stephenson@lanchesterep.net
Mr Adamson	4CA	c.adamson@lanchesterep.net	Miss Jackson	4SJ	s.jackson@lanchesterep.net
Mrs Grayson	5KG	k.grayson@lanchesterep.net	Mr Taylor	5PT	p.taylor@lanchesterep.net
Mr Knighton	6AK Deputy Head	a.knighton@lanchesterep.net	Mr Stoker	6AS	a.stoker@lanchesterep.net
Mrs Riddell	Cover Teacher	p.riddell@lanchesterep.net	Mrs Knighton	Music Teacher	j.knighton@lanchesterep.net
Mr Bailey	Digital Enrichment	m.bailey@lanchesterep.net	Mrs Hamill	French Teacher	l.hamill@lanchesterep.net

After School Club

We are making some changes to our after school club provision from next week. We are always seeking to improve our provision and make it the best experience possible for our children. So, this term we are going to include Year 1 in our EYFS club that is held in Nursery until 4.15pm. At this time, the children will be brought along to the main hall, as usual. We feel Year 1 children will be better suited to this for the first term as it will be much quieter for them.

We are also having two teaching assistants (as well as the sports coach) in the main hall due to our increased numbers. This means that we can facilitate more activities for the children. We will be following a timetable as below:

Monday Movement Monday
Tuesday Board Games and Jigsaws
Wednesday Arts and Crafts
Thursday Construction
Friday Film Friday

All children will also receive a drink, toast and snack as soon as the register has been taken around 3.30pm. We hope you approve of these changes and the increased enjoyment it should bring for all.

Vacancy for a Parent Governor

Our governing body has a vacancy for a parent governor. Being part of the governing body requires a time commitment as well as an eagerness to both support and challenge school leaders. Our serving governors are all friendly and keen to help and support anyone interested in joining us.

The three core functions of a school governing body are to:

- Ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Hold leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils and the effective and efficient performance management of staff
- Oversee the financial performance of the school and make sure money is well spent.

Anyone who is interested in this role should email me no later than 4pm Wednesday 13th September at: j.davis@lanchesterep.net to express their interest. I received responses from three interested parents last term and still have those on file but as we now have a group of new parents, it is important to give everyone the opportunity once again. As there is more than one parent interested, a parental ballot will take place once new parents have had the opportunity to express an interest.

School X (formerly Twitter) Account

X (or twitter!) is our social media platform that we use to share details about what the children have been up to on a daily basis. In addition to this, we do share important information and news through this platform. Class Teachers will tweet daily and I post a weekly update at the end of every week. Follow us and you will not regret it! (@LanchesterEP)

Extra-Curricular Clubs

We are so fortunate to have such a wide range of extra-curricular clubs in addition to our wrap-around care. We have athletics, choir, girls football, multi-sports, boys football, art club, forest schools and eco rangers this half term. This is thanks to the dedication and commitment of our great staff – thank you all!

Cost of Living and School Trips and Residentials

We are all very aware, as I am sure you are, of the recent increase in the cost of living and realise that many of our families will be budgeting quite tightly to make ends meet in the coming months. We aim to keep any additional costs to families as low as possible and want to help you budget for additional activities.

We believe that bringing the children's learning to life by arranging visitors to come in, going on visits to the local area and also attending overnight residentials is a really important part of a child's life. This is also something that the majority of parents and carers commented on in the end of year questionnaires – how important and enjoyable these are which also bring learning to life.

We aim to keep the cost as low as possible and subsidise as much as possible from the school budget. But inevitably, there will still be a cost for these to parents. We only charge for trips out of school. We do organise a mixture of trips out and visitors into school and obviously there is never any charge when we have visitors coming to school. The governing body have also agreed to subsidise all educational trips for children eligible for Free School Meals. Residentials for those eligible for Free School Meals have been subsidised for many years, but we now also reduce the cost for children eligible for Free School Meals for day trips too.

The costs below are the full price costs charged last year. I thought it would be useful to highlight the trips and residentials that took place last year, along with the cost of them last year, so that it gives you an idea of what to expect and also gives you as much notice as possible as to what will take place and when. Residential trips are now set up in Arbor so that you can pay smaller amounts more frequently, meaning that you can more easily split the cost of the trips across the year.

Early Years:	1 – 2 Trips per academic year	Approx: £15 - £30 (Total)
Year 1:	6 Trips per academic year	Approx: £60 - £75 (Total)
Year 2:	6 Trips per academic year	Approx: £60 - £75
Year 3:	5 Trips per academic year	Approx: £60 - £70 (Total)
Year 3:	Overnight Residential to Birdoswald	Last Year: £75/£35 for FSM pupils
Year 4:	5 Trips per academic year	Approx: £60 - £70 (Total)
Year 4:	Overnight Residential to Seahouses	Last Year: £90/£45 for FSM pupils
Year 5:	5 Trips per academic year	Approx: £60 - £70 (Total)
Year 5:	Overnight Residential to Birchwood	£65/£32.50 for FSM pupils – this year
Year 5:	4 Day Residential to PGL	Last Year: £290/£150 for FSM pupils
Year 6:	5 Trips per academic year	Approx: £60 - £70 (Total)
Year 6:	5 Day Residential to Northern Ireland	Approx: £360/£200 for FSM pupils
Year 6:	Leavers' Hoodie & Events	Approx: £50

Attendance

Reception	94.5%
Year 1	97.9%
Year 2	96.3%
Year 3	97.5%
Year 4	99.5%
Year 5	97.1%
Year 6	95.1%

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.

Online Safety

Our school has an account with the National College and this allows parents and carers to have access to a whole range of online safety resources. It is free for you all – just follow this link and you will find a whole range of resources available to you: <https://nationalcollege.com/enrol/lanchester-endowed-parochial-primary-school>

Office News

Outstanding debts

As you may be aware, from Tuesday 2nd May, you have only been 'allowed' to have a debt of £15 maximum on your child's account. This limit will also now be applied to school meals. Once this limit is reached, unfortunately your child will not be able to access school lunches and/or wrap around care until payment is made (please note that this does not apply to those of you who pay via childcare vouchers). We employ a company to provide the staff for our Wrap Around Care and have our food bills to pay and can only pay these if parents and carers have paid us. Any parent or carer with an outstanding debt will receive an email with the amount outstanding and with the expectation that it is cleared by **Monday 18th September**.

All payments for dinner and wrap around care must be paid on Arbor. Any issues, please contact the office. If you already owe over this amount and it is not cleared by Monday 18th, I am afraid that your child **cannot** attend wraparound care or receive a school lunch until it is cleared. Ideally, all accounts should be kept in credit to stop this happening. It is not a nice situation for anyone. Our admin staff are not debt collectors. It is not at all pleasant for the members of staff having to call to say that your child's account is in arrears or for you to be receiving that call. I am sure that you understand and if you are facing financial difficulties, please contact myself or Miss Rippon for discreet support.

Absence reporting

If your child is absent from school for any reason, it is vitally important that you contact the **school office** as soon as possible on the first day of absence, ensuring you give a specific reason for absence. If your child is unwell, please give brief details of the illness (e.g. cold, chicken pox, sickness etc) so that we can keep track of anything that may be going round school. If your child is going to be absent for a planned absence (i.e. funeral), please complete and return a Leave of Absence Form which you can collect from the office.

Lost property

We have an increasing number of lost property around school. Please ensure your children's clothing is labelled to help us return them to their owner (even if you have embroidered items as we have numerous children with the same initials!) Unlabelled lost property will be kept at the office for 2 weeks, after which time they will be recycled in our clothing bank.

Diary Dates for Next Week

Monday 11th September 2023 – Captain Chemistry

Captain Chemistry will be working with Year 5 on a variety of experiments around their current topic of 'space'. I know the children will thoroughly enjoy their day!

Monday 11th September 2023 – Keyworks Demonstration

Key Stage 2 children will have a demonstration from Keyworks sharing more information about their guitar and keyboard lessons. Your child will have more information about this once they have had their demo.

Monday 11th September 2023 – Meeting for Year 6 Parents

Mrs Hammill (not our French Teacher!), Head Teacher of St Bede's and the SENDCO will be coming to school for 3.15pm to talk with parents of Year 6 children. Please come to the bottom yard where you collect your children as usual. Pupils are also welcome to stay to the talk as well.

Tuesday 12th September 2023 – Captain Chemistry

Captain Chemistry will be working with Year 4 on a variety of experiments and investigations around their current topic of 'digestion'. I am sure you will enjoy hearing all about these when they return home!

Wednesday 13th September 2023 – Padma Kapoor Visit

Our additional uniform provider from January, Etika Uniforms delivers ethically sourced, high quality, durable school uniforms. Etika believes that every child should have the opportunity to wear and learn about ethical clothing that creates positive impacts across the globe.

All garments are made in India, at their own factory, so they have full traceability of the supply chain, ensuring all workers are paid higher than average, treated fairly and have excellent working conditions. They are also actively working to reduce plastic within the garment industry by supplying school uniforms in fabric bags rather than plastic.

These bags are very special, as they offer an opportunity for local communities in India to become 'empowered by enterprise', creating employment opportunities for those who would otherwise struggle to find employment, due to a number of reasons, and a better standard of living for themselves.

We are thrilled that Padma Kapoor, who has set up the factory in India and works closely with the workforce in this country, is currently visiting England and coming into our school to talk to the children about how the uniforms are produced and shipped over to the UK. I am sure the children will find this fascinating.

What is even more exciting is the fact that the factory where the uniforms are produced, is located near Rajkot, Gurjrat, where our partner school is located so we also hope to arrange a visit in person to the factory in India when our children go out on a visit in February.

Monday 18th September - Meet the Teacher at 3.30pm or 4.15pm (Nursery)

On Monday 18th September we are holding our annual Meet the Teacher sessions when you have the opportunity to come into your child's classroom, meet their new teacher, see their learning environment and learn more about your child's routines and topics over the next year. There will be two sessions – one straight after school at 3.30pm followed by another at 4.15pm. We hope you may be able to come along.

Tuesday 19th September - Meet the Teacher at 3.30pm or 4.15pm (Reception – Year 6)

On Tuesday 19th September we are holding our annual Meet the Teacher sessions when you have the opportunity to come into your child's classroom, meet their new teacher, see their learning environment and learn more about your child's routines and topics over the next year. There will be two sessions – one straight after school at 3.30pm followed by another at 4.15pm. We hope you may be able to come along.

Thursday 21st September – Whole School Walk

This is always a very popular day and one which the children and staff both thoroughly enjoy. It is part of our curriculum and school calendar and like any other educational visit, is not optional. Parents and grandparents are very welcome to join us for this trip but we have to ask you to make your own way there due to limited bus spaces. We will share more precise timings and locations nearer the time.

Early Years News

Welcome to all our new and returning families in Nursery and Reception. We have loved meeting all your children this week and are very much looking forward to working with them this year. Please look out for updates about how they have settled with on X (formerly known as twitter) and on our online learning journal, Evidence Me.

For parents of children who have joined us from other settings, please look out for an email inviting you to set up your account. This may come from noreply@evidenceme.com or from 2Eskimos. Please see here for a guide to using Evidence Me: <https://help.evidence.me/evidence-me-help-for-parents/> If you need any further support in accessing Evidence Me, please speak to your child's teacher, who will be happy to help you.

Please can we remind everyone that all your child's clothes and footwear should be clearly named. They need a pair of wellies to keep in school and should also have a spare clothes bag to keep on their coat peg in case of accidents.

Children should not bring any toys in from home. If your child needs a transitional object such as a comfort blanket or soft toy, please talk to their teacher about this before sending it in to school.

Reception children need to bring their book bag with them every day – please make sure that these are checked regularly, as they may contain notes about first aid or party invitations as well as lots of works of art!

In EYFS, we try to expose the children to a wide range of experiences to build their understanding of the world around them. One of the strands of **Understanding the World** in the EYFS curriculum is **People and Communities**, through which we support the children to learn about:

- their immediate and wider family and community, and their past and present experiences in their own lives.
- their individuality and therefore to be sensitive to the individuality of others.
- observing the similarities and differences of the people in their family and their community and to learn about their traditions.

A crucial part of how we deliver these learning opportunities in EYFS is through visits and visitors. We aim to plan experiences which allow the children to feel part of their local community through visits, both around the village and further afield, and also by inviting in people to share their skills, interests and jobs with the children. We would be very interested to hear from any parents or other family members who would like to come in to school for half an hour to share their expertise with the children. Maybe you have a job that you could talk to the children about, such as hairdresser, dentist, nurse or gardener – all of you have the capacity to spark the imagination of a Nursery or Reception child and bring their learning to life!

Equally, you may know of a local place that we could visit with a small group of children to help them learn about the local area. In previous years, we have taken small groups of children to visit a garage to watch a mechanic work with a car up on the ramps, an opticians, a supermarket... all these experiences are invaluable in broadening a child's experience. If you think you might be able to help, please let Miss Butler know s.butler@lanchesterep.net so that we can start to plan for the year ahead. **Miss Butler**

Key Stage One News

It has been a fantastic start to the new year. The children have settled in really well and are enjoying getting to know their teachers and explore their new classrooms. We have been particularly impressed with how quickly all the children in Year 1 have settled in. We know it is a big step from Reception to Year 1 but they have been amazing and many staff have commented on the lovely, calm atmosphere in Key Stage 1.

The children are starting to explore their new topics and are loving their learning! In Year 1 we are learning all about Dinosaurs and the Year 2 topic is 'Land Ahoy' learning all about Pirates. The children are very excited

by the topics and cannot wait to find out more. If children would like to bring in anything related to their topics to show the class, please feel free to send them in for show and tell.

Just to reiterate, on PE days children are now to come to school in their PE kits. Their PE uniform is black shorts, leggings or joggers with their PE t-shirt in their team colour and hoodie in their team colour too. PE days are; Year 1 - Monday and Friday, Year 2 - Tuesday and Thursday.

Year 1 will be having their first trip to The Great North Museum in Newcastle on the 19th October. We will require some parent helpers on the day. If you are interested in helping out on the trip, please send an email to Mr Innes. Please be aware there are only places for 6 adults so names may have to be drawn from a hat.

I am looking forward to getting to know you all over the next few weeks. Please do come and say hello on the yard and if you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch. **Mr Innes**

Key Stage Two News

On behalf of everyone in Key Stage 2, we would like to welcome you back to school for the new academic year. It has been a busy and exciting few days since Tuesday. There has been a real buzz in the classrooms, with the children returning to school full of enthusiasm.



Ready, Respectful and Safe Learners

During the summer, we have refined our behaviour procedures in school and are working with the children to ensure they are 'Ready, Respectful and Safe learners.' The staff have been extremely impressed with the children's positive attitude and impeccable behaviour during the first week. The behaviour policy is currently being updated to reflect this and we will be holding an information session at the end of the month for any parents and carers to learn more about the changes.

Year Group Topics

In class, each year group is starting their new autumn term topic. Year 3 have travelled back in time to the Stone Age as part of their Tribal Tales topic, whilst Year 4 have been finding out about life across the Atlantic Ocean in 'Road Trip USA.' Our Year 5 children are launching themselves into Space with 'Stargazers' and finally, Year 6 will be learning about the voyage of Charles Darwin and his work on Evolution as they encounter 'Darwin's Delights.' If you would like more information about our topics or want to know how you can support your child's learning, please refer to the 'Parent Information' leaflets that will be sent out this week. **Mr Knighton**

Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6

Positive Thinking

***Do your little bit of good where you are.
It's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.***

As always, if there is anything at all you would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact me. Diary Dates will be shared next week and also uploaded to the school website.

Best Wishes,

Jane Davis

Mrs Jane Davis (Head Teacher)