



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 7th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome back to you all for the busiest and most exciting half term of the year. Christmas will be here before we know it!

I would like to say a huge thank you to all the Friends of the School who worked so hard to organise the discos which took place yesterday. There was a real buzz around school all day and the children just had a wonderful time. Thank you to all who helped supervise at each of the four discos. I think it is safe to say that a good time was had by all!

Thanks also must go to our Rotakids for organising a great Wacky Hair Day on the final day of last half term. We had every possible hair style amongst the children and every possible wig amongst the staff! In addition, we managed to raise an amazing amount of **£315**.

Christmas Shoe Boxes

Thank you so much to you all for the shoe boxes you have packed over the last few weeks. We have received an amazing total of **62** shoeboxes. It was so good to watch the children bring them in with such pride, talking about who they had packed them for. I hope you agree that it is a really lovely thing to do together and is such a more meaningful thing to do rather than just making a donation. If you would still like to do a shoebox, we have managed to extend the deadline for these until **Tuesday 11th November** next week, so don't worry if you were unable to get them in last week.

Friends of the School Christmas Shop – Orders Now Open!

It's that magical time of year again! Orders are now open for the annual Christmas Shop.

All orders must be made and paid for by **Monday 17th November**. Please note that this deadline is final, as there is a great deal of organisation and preparation that needs to happen before the shop opens. Unfortunately, we will not be able to accept any late orders.

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

Thank you!

This Week's Big Question

In Worship this week, we have been thinking about Remembrance Day and our big question is linked to this: **Why do we wear poppies and what can they remind us about kindness and hope?** Ask your children about this at the weekend – you will be surprised at their comments!

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	93.5	96.1	Year 4	96.7	96.2
Year 1	94.2	96.8	Year 5	97.3	97.9
Year 2	98.9	98.7	Year 6	96.4	97.1
Year 3	96.1	98	Whole School	96.2	97.3

Diary Dates for Next Week

Monday 10th November – Thursday 13th November – SMS Bikeability Sessions

This week is the turn of Mr Stephenson's Class to do some Bikeability training. Any children who have signed up will need to come into school on Monday – Thursday in PE kit or suitable warm sports clothes and gloves that they can wear while riding their bikes. They will also need to bring their bikes and helmets into school each day.

Monday 10th November – Meeting about India Turing Trip at 5.30pm

A meeting for all parents and carers of children going to Delhi in January is being held on Monday evening at 5.30pm. Please make your way to the Junior Hall Door. We will talk to you in more detail about the week itself, share the itinerary, travel and accommodation details as well as photographs from last year's trip. One of our Year 6 children who went last year will be sharing her thoughts about the week as well as hearing from a parental perspective too. We look forward to seeing you there.

Wednesday 12th November – Park Safe Initiative Meeting



We have members of Durham Constabulary coming to school on Wednesday to talk to the children about the new Park Safe Initiative Scheme taking place around our school in the coming weeks and months.

Park Safe is a new initiative to try and address parking issues at the school. Illegal and inconsiderate parking around school is causing hazards for both road users and pedestrians. Poor parking also increases the likelihood of an accident occurring and someone being hurt. We don't want this to happen.

Park Safe allows the public to identify a vehicle parked dangerously or inconsiderately and film it on their mobile phone. Signage around the schools includes a QR code. Using the phone camera on the QR code will link to a website where the footage can be uploaded. The footage will be reviewed by the Police or the County Council and the outcome could be education or enforcement.

The scheme has been funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner, Joy Allen who, following success at three schools around County Durham, has now extended the scheme to 11 more schools – Lanchester EP being one of them. Inspector

Andrew Howarth said, 'This is a partnership initiative between the Police, Council and School. We all receive regular complaint about dangerous and inconsiderate parking around schools. This is preventable and what we are aiming to do is change behaviours. It is not about punishing people or issuing penalties. This is an opportunity to safeguard children and reduce the risk of a collision.'

Police understand that in some instances, drivers are unaware of their responsibilities around school parking. The Highway Code Rule 243 states that you should not park near a school entrance – as well as anywhere that would prevent access for emergency services. In addition, yellow zig-zag lines outside schools indicate the length of road where stopping or waiting is strictly prohibited. The Highway Code states 'You MUST NOT wait or park or stop to set down and pick up passengers on school entrance markings. This means you cannot stop there at all – even if the engine is still running and you are letting your child jump out quickly.

Wednesday 12th November – Book Fair in School

We take delivery of a Scholastic Book Fair on Wednesday 12th November. There are books for all ages in cabinets that parents and children can peruse and purchase. Our school receives up to 60% commission on all books sold. Payment can be made with either cash or card via the online QR code. Please note we do not have access to much change, so please try to bring in exact money, or pay via the QR code provided. The book fair will be open from 3.15pm until 3.45pm on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons.

Thursday 13th November – Year 4 at Jorvik Viking Centre

Our Year 4 children are going to Jorvik Viking Centre on Thursday for the day. Please note, that children need to be at school for 7.45am as we need a prompt start to the day. All children need to be in full school uniform with a packed lunch. They will return to school for 3.30pm, but any delays or updates of timings will be posted on 'X'.

Thursday 13th November – Cross Country County Event

We had a number of children from all year groups who qualified for this event. Unfortunately, Year 4 are unable to attend due to the clash of dates with their trip to York. However, there will be plenty of other cross country events in the future for them.

Parents of the children who qualified will be emailed. Children should come to school in PE Kit. They will travel by coach to East Durham College in Peterlee. They will return in time for their lunch. We wish them all the best for this event!

Friday 14th November – Non Uniform Day for Children in Need/Hurricane Melissa Relief Fund

As always, we will be supporting Children in Need Day on Friday and asking children to come to school dressed in yellow, or spots, or pyjamas or non-uniform for the day. We will also be sharing any money raised with UNICEF's Hurricane Melissa Emergency Appeal for Children, as a number of our children, including some with family links there, have asked us to raise money for the children in Jamaica who have been impacted by the devastation the hurricane has caused. Any donations will be gratefully received.

Friday 14th November – Coffee Afternoon and Book Fair Open 2.30pm – 3.45pm

We are having a coffee afternoon on Friday afternoon from 2.30pm when parents and carers can browse at the book fair and make some purchases. While you are enjoying a browse and a cuppa, you will be treated to a wonderful concert by our junior and senior choirs, who have been working very hard all term.

Positive Thinking

*Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries.
Without them, humanity cannot survive.*

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