



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 March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We welcomed our ski trip back last Saturday from the French Alps and today, 8 children and 3 staff are heading off to Dubai. This visit is part of our Turing Scheme funding and children will spend time in our two partner schools, whilst also experiencing some of the different culture over there too. We are also visiting the Grand Mosque in Abu Dhabi, going to the top of the Burj Khalifa, visiting the desert and making the most of the different climate and culture. We have some very lucky children (and staff) who have the opportunity to enjoy such fabulous experiences.

Thank you to all the parents and carers in Year 3 and Year 4 who came to the meetings about the forthcoming overnight residentials for these year groups. I know the children are starting to count down the days until they take place.

Year 1 were treated to a great athletics festival this week where they represented the school exceptionally well whilst also having a great time! We were very proud of them!

Transport to Consett Empire for Key Stage 2

Thank you to everyone who has filled in the form that was sent earlier in the week regarding transport to and from Consett Empire on Thursday 10th July. For those of you who may have missed the email, we are asking whether any parents of children in Key Stage 2 can drop off at or collect their child from Consett Empire on this day. Children will need to be dropped at the Empire at 9.00am and collected at 2.50pm. If you have yet to fill in the form, please do so via this link: [Transport to Consett Empire](#) by Sunday 6th April.

Year 5 & 6 Bike Ride Information

As you will know, each year we have a bike ride for children in Year 5 & 6. In order to plan the date and staffing for these trips, we are asking parents of children in Year 5 & 6 to fill in this online form: [Y5&6 Bike Ride](#) so that we know how many children will be participating. Please fill in the form by Sunday 23rd March whether or not your child will be joining in.

Bikes in the Bike Shed and on the School Yard

Please can we ask that you do not let your children ride the school bikes or scooters at drop off or pick up times, especially as not all of the bikes/scooters in the bike shed belong to school. Also, bikes and scooters should not be ridden on school property unless it is an activity supervised by members of staff. Thank you.

Food Waste

Did you know that more than 800 million people live in food poverty around the world? However, in the UK, we produce over 9.5 million tonnes of food waste per year, and it is estimated that each European throws away between 95 and 115kg of food waste each year.

As part of their courageous advocacy, the School Council have chosen to look at food waste on a local, national and global level, and to try and highlight this issue to their peers and to help Lanchester EP reduce our food waste. To do this, they have started to weigh the food waste from school dinners, and aim to reduce the amount of waste we produce each week. This is a brilliant campaign and we are really proud of the children.

Village Litter Pick with The Lanchester Partnership

The Lanchester Partnership are organising their annual Litter Pick on Saturday 15th March 9:30am until 12 noon. Equipment will be available on the Village Green, and as an extra bonus this year, all volunteers are being offered FREE breakfast butties at the Community Cafe afterwards. What a great incentive to lend a hand in tidying up our village!

Turing Application for 2025-2026

The deadline for applications is today and ours was submitted yesterday. I would like to thank Mr McLoughlin for all his hard work that has gone into this application again. We will now just have to be patient until we hear whether we have been successful again for this funding.

Year 1 and Year 2 Arts and Crafts Club

Apologies for the issues this week around the Year 1 & 2 Arts and Crafts club, as we are aware there were a number of disappointed children who missed out on a place on the club. Apologies too for the delay in the message reaching those parents whose children did not secure a place; the email was written on Monday afternoon to those who had not got a place prior to the email being sent on Tuesday to those who did still get a place.

However, due to an Arbor error, the message sent on Monday was stuck in drafts and this was not realised until Wednesday morning, meaning that parents and children did not get much warning. It has also been reported to us that it is difficult to see on Arbor whether you are still registered for a club once the place has been removed (this is something we have brought up with Arbor about both clubs and parents evening appointments).

Obviously, this is not an ideal situation and something for which we can only apologise. With hindsight, we can also see that to offer a club with only a small number of places to two large year groups is a mistake, as it means it is more likely that the number of children who miss out is much greater.

We do try to make club attendance as fair as possible, giving priority to those who are entitled to pupil premium, and then to those who have not had a place on a club in previous terms, or who have missed out on getting a place at an oversubscribed club. Unfortunately, when the demand for places is so high and the number of places available is so low, we cannot help but disappoint some children. This is also why we try and offer a variety of clubs and when possible, multiple clubs for the same year groups, so that there are more extra-curricular options for the children.

We have certainly learnt from this issue and hope that this will not happen again. We do apologise for any confusion, upset and frustration that this has caused you this week.

Weekly Big Question

This week's Big Question is: 'Can Kindness Change the World?' Talk about this with your child over the weekend!

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 Attendance Percentage (%)	Attendance Percentage to Date (%)	Year Group	Current Week Attendance Percentage (%)	Attendance Percentage to Date (%)
Reception	96.0%	93.9%	Year 4	94.5%	97.2%
Year 1	90.5%	96.1%	Year 5	98.8%	97.5%
Year 2	96.7%	96.6%	Year 6	95.9%	96.5%
Year 3	96.5%	97.3%	Whole School	95.6%	96.4%

Diary Dates for Next Week

Monday 17th March – Confirmation Classes

Revd Lesley will be coming into school on a Monday afternoon for the next three weeks to lead the Confirmation Classes for those children in Year 5 and Year 6 who will be confirmed in May this year. These will take place during the afternoon.

Monday 17th March – Year 5 RE Lessons with Revd Lesley

Year 5 will be starting their series of RE lessons around the Eucharist. Revd Lesley will be supporting staff with these lessons over the course of the next few weeks.

Thursday 20th March – Boys' Football Team at Consett Football Club 3.45-5.00pm

The boys' football team will once again be representing the school on Thursday after school at Consett Football club. Those taking part will be emailed separately. I'm sure they will all keep up the good work which sees them second in the league.

Friday 21st March – Red Nose Day

Friday is Red Nose Day so we are suggesting that children might like to come to school wearing their red nose and non-uniform in exchange for an affordable donation or an in date store cupboard item for the food bank. The theme for Red Nose Day this year is focusing on issues like lack of food and homelessness.

Friday 21st March – Dubai Residential Returns at 7.30pm

The children are due to land at Newcastle Airport at 7.30pm on Friday 21st March. Parents and carers are to collect them from Domestic Arrivals which is at the far end of the airport near the Metro Station.

Positive Thinking

*Life is a journey and we each travel our own path.
No one is ahead or behind.
We're all on our own unique timeline, so trust the process and
Celebrate every step you take.*

As always, if there is anything at all you would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best Wishes,

Jane Davis

Mrs Jane Davis
Head Teacher