



# 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 13<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been lovely to have the full week in school this week and even enjoy some pleasant weather too. Thanks to everyone who came along to Meet the Teacher – I hope you found it useful. The presentations are all now on the website for those of you unable to come along.

I would like to thank you all for your patience with the boiler situation. It has been incredibly frustrating having to wait so long for this to be sorted but I am delighted to say that the temporary fix to the boiler serving the kitchen was made on Wednesday afternoon and we will have the two boilers replaced during the half term holiday.

I would also like to thank the many of you who sent such lovely messages and emails to myself and the office this week during the difficult time we have had. We never expect this but it is greatly appreciated. Apologies if I have not replied to you – I will do so in due course. It has been one of those weeks!

I would just like to take this opportunity once more to remind parents and carers that if they ever have any concern or issue they would like to talk about, please just get in touch. I like to think that the success of our school is based upon open and honest communication and I am always contactable to discuss anything at all.

### **Questionnaire Results**

Thank you to all parents who took the time before the summer holidays to answer the parent and carer questionnaire. I have attached the results, which are overwhelmingly positive, at the end of this letter. We also received many free-written comments for which we are very grateful. These comments are in the process of being summarised and will be shared as soon as this has been completed.

Many parents and carers included some suggestions about a wide variety of things we can improve and as usual, there are some really good ideas! One that we will action immediately is for the two classes in each year group to mix more freely during the year. This is not something we did last year (not really sure why!) but makes perfect sense and will help the whole year group to bond even more. Another request was made about extending the hours for our wrap around care – you will see later in this letter that is something we will also be actioning. A further survey needs to be done around school trips and residential as you will see below. There was an overwhelming number of highly positive comments around this but a small number of comments expressing concern over the cost. Therefore, this is something we will be looking into further in the coming weeks.

### **School Trips and Residential**

The end of year questionnaires contained many comments about school trips and residential. Most comments were exceptionally positive about trips and residential and how invaluable parents and carers felt they were for their children. However, there were some who expressed concern about the cost of such trips and residential and we feel it is important to explore this further.

As a result of this, we have made the decision not to hold the school walk this month, until we survey parents to find out more about your opinions. A link to a survey will be sent out next week and we would really like to hear your thoughts and opinions about trips and residential.

### **Turing Scheme Visits to India, Dubai and Madrid**

Thank you to all parents and carers of Year 5 & 6 children who have expressed an interest in the forthcoming Turing visits. You have until midnight tonight to complete the form if you have not done so already. It is important for parents and carers to note that we do have certain criteria we have to fulfil for the visits so when names are drawn, there are always different 'hats' that the names have to go into. We have no choice in this because they are the conditions for the funding being granted. However, we hope to look at this next week as we will then need to start booking flights. We will email parents to clarify if their child has been successful in the draw or not. This will be on an evening so that it gives you the opportunity to talk this through with your child.

### **Extra-Curricular Clubs**

Please see the list of extra-curricular activities that are on offer this half term. I am very grateful to the staff for giving up their time to run so many clubs for the children. These clubs will change every half term to allow different options for different year groups. Please note that they will not run in the first and last week of every half term.

<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Activity Leader</b>	<b>Day</b>
<b>Year 1</b>	Story Club	Miss Butler	Monday
<b>Year 5 &amp; 6</b>	Boys' Football	Mr Stoker	Monday
<b>Year 5 &amp; 6</b>	Digital Leaders	Mr Stephenson	Monday
<b>Year 4</b>	Multi Sports	Mr Graham	Monday
<b>Year 4, 5 &amp; 6</b>	Senior Choir	Mrs Knighton	Tuesday
<b>Year 1</b>	Multi Sports	Mr Graham	Tuesday
<b>Year 2 &amp; 3</b>	Junior Choir	Mrs Knighton	Wednesday
<b>Year 4, 5 &amp; 6</b>	Netball	Mrs Smith	Wednesday
<b>Year 5</b>	Art Club	Miss Jackson	Wednesday
<b>Year 3</b>	Multi Sports	Mr Graham	Wednesday
<b>Year 4, 5 &amp; 6</b>	Girls' Football	Mr Taylor	Thursday
<b>Year 2</b>	Multi Sports	Mr Graham	Thursday
<b>Year 1 &amp; 2</b>	Eco-Rangers	Mr Adamson	Thursday
<b>Year 5 &amp; 6</b>	Multi Sports	Mr Graham	Friday

For any clubs that are oversubscribed, please note that your child will be removed from the club on Arbor so it will no longer show on your Arbor account, and all parents/carers will be emailed to let you know if they have a place or not.

### **Diary Dates**

Please look carefully at the Diary Dates at the end of this letter. Each week, a list of diary dates will be included and more dates may be added. Any different or additional dates will always be in bold so you know that they are new dates. These can also be seen on the school website as well.

### **Sweets and Cakes**

We have thought very carefully about the fact that many children bring in a cake or sweets for their class when it is their birthday. I am sorry to say that we can no longer allow this to happen for a number of reasons. We have an increasing number of children who have various allergies making it very tricky when children bring in homemade or bought cakes. In addition to this, there are times when classes can have 2 or 3 birthdays in quick succession, meaning children are given sweet treats too regularly. We have had a number

of complaints about this in the past which we totally understand and therefore have decided that we can no longer allow this to happen. Children's birthdays are always celebrated in school and this will continue as usual. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

### **Wrap Around Care**

One comment that did come up on the end of year questionnaires from a number of parents was the request for longer hours for wrap around care. Again, we do listen to your requests and we are pleased to inform you that we will be increasing our hours to provide wrap around care from 7.30am until 6pm after October half term. We will let you know the price of this additional time in due course.

### **Parking**

It has been noticed that very few parents and carers seem to be parking in the Kings Head as their car park is empty at drop off and pick up times. Please remember that we have use of the Kings Head car park as well as the Social Club car park to ease congestion in the village.

### **Year 1 – Year 6 Parent Information Leaflets**

Today, you will receive an information leaflet which tells you all about what your child will be learning in this half term. Please refer to it so you know what is being taught. Parents and Carers often tell us they aren't aware of what their child is being taught, but if you read this Information Leaflet, you will!

### **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.

### **Parent Workshops**

The parent workshops we held last year were very popular and parents said they found them very useful in helping their child at home. So, please look at the Diary Dates for the dates these will be held.

### **Email Addresses**

Please find below the email addresses of all class teachers in case you need to contact them. Please note that obviously the teachers are teaching all day so have minimal time to check emails. They have also been instructed not to respond to emails out of normal working hours. Therefore, if it is anything urgent, this communication should always go through the school office email or by a phone call into the school office. Thank you.

Nursery	Miss Sara Butler	<a href="mailto:s.butler@lanchesterep.net">s.butler@lanchesterep.net</a>
Reception	Mr Gordon Innes	<a href="mailto:g.innes@lanchesterep.net">g.innes@lanchesterep.net</a>
Reception	Mr Graham Osmond	<a href="mailto:g.osmond@lanchesterep.net">g.osmond@lanchesterep.net</a>
Year 1	Mr Simon McLoughlin	<a href="mailto:s.mcloughlin@lanchesterep.net">s.mcloughlin@lanchesterep.net</a>
Year 1	Miss Jane Wood	<a href="mailto:j.wood@lanchesterep.net">j.wood@lanchesterep.net</a>
Year 2	Mrs Tracey Tate	<a href="mailto:t.tate@lanchesterep.net">t.tate@lanchesterep.net</a>
Year 2	Mrs Jadine Burke	<a href="mailto:j.burke@lanchesterep.net">j.burke@lanchesterep.net</a>
Year 3	Mrs Sandi Coyle	<a href="mailto:s.coyle@lanchesterep.net">s.coyle@lanchesterep.net</a>
Year 3	Miss Rebecca Watt	<a href="mailto:r.watt@lanchesterep.net">r.watt@lanchesterep.net</a>
Year 4	Mr Peter Taylor	<a href="mailto:p.taylor@lanchesterep.net">p.taylor@lanchesterep.net</a>
Year 4	Mr Callum Adamson	<a href="mailto:c.adamson@lanchesterep.net">c.adamson@lanchesterep.net</a>
Year 5	Miss Sarah Jackson	<a href="mailto:s.jackson@lanchesterep.net">s.jackson@lanchesterep.net</a>
Year 5	Mr Mark Stephenson	<a href="mailto:m.stephenson@lanchesterep.net">m.stephenson@lanchesterep.net</a>
Year 6	Mr Andrew Knighton	<a href="mailto:a.knighton@lanchesterep.net">a.knighton@lanchesterep.net</a>
Year 6	Mr Aidan Stoker	<a href="mailto:a.stoker@lanchesterep.net">a.stoker@lanchesterep.net</a>
School Office		<a href="mailto:school.office@lanchesterep.net">school.office@lanchesterep.net</a>
Head Teacher	Mrs Jane Davis	<a href="mailto:j.davis@lanchesterep.net">j.davis@lanchesterep.net</a>

### **Applying for a Secondary School Place**

Parents of children in Year 6 should have received an email last week regarding their application for a Secondary school place. Applications opened on 1<sup>st</sup> September and close on 31<sup>st</sup> October. It is imperative that you read the School Admissions online guidance for parents, which will help you to make your application. For the guidance, and to apply for a place, go to [www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions).

### **Applying for a Reception Place**

If your child was born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 and the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021, you will need to start applying for a primary school place. Applications for Reception places close on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Please note that even though your child attends our Nursery, you must still apply to the Local Authority for a place in Reception. To apply, please visit [Primary school places - Durham County Council](#).

### **Weekly Attendance**

Each week we share on the newsletter the weekly attendance percentages for each year group, as well as including what the attendance percentage is of the whole school (excluding Nursery). Our whole school attendance target for the year is 97% or above. As you can see, this week's attendance has set a very high standard – let's hope this continues! Please also see the letter sent out to all parents today from our Attendance Officer, Lesley Sabourn.

Reception	98.7%
Year 1	98.4%
Year 2	99.4%
Year 3	98.9%
Year 4	98.8%
Year 5	99.6%
Year 6	98.3%
<b>Whole School</b>	<b>98.9%</b>

### **Diary Dates for Next Week**

#### **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September – Year 4 America Day**

Year 4 are holding an 'America' Day to help to kickstart their topic 'Road Trip USA!' for this half term. I am sure that this will be a memorable day for them all.

#### **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September – Consett Academy Open Evening for Year 5 & Year 6**

Consett Academy are holding their Open Evening on Monday and this is for all parents and carers of children currently in Year 5 and 6. This is between 4pm and 6.30pm.

#### **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September – North Durham Academy Open Evening for Year 5 & Year 6**

North Durham Academy are holding their Open Evening on Thursday and this is for all parents and carers of children currently in Year 5 and Year 6. This is between 4pm and 6pm.

### **Advance Notices**

#### **Reception Classes Welcome Services**

We are delighted to be holding a service in All Saints' Church for each of our Reception classes. Revd Abbey Hughes will be leading a short service to welcome the children to our school. They will walk to church with their buddies from Year 6 who will support them during the service. All families of Reception children are very welcome to attend this service too. Mr Innes' Class Service will be held on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September at 2pm and Mr Osmond's Class Service will be held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October at 2pm. All children MUST walk back to school with us afterwards and be collected as usual from school at the end of the day. We hope you are able to join us for these special events.

### **Head Teacher of St Bede's talking to Year 6 and Parents/Carers**

On Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September, Mrs Catherine Hammill, the head teacher of St Bede's will be coming into school to talk to Year 6 and this will be followed by a meeting with Year 6 parents at 3.20pm in school. Please come to the back of school as normal where you collect your child and you will be taken into the classroom with your child then. This was a very well-attended event last year and I am sure you will find it very useful if you are able to make this date and time.

### **Secondary School Open Days for Year 5 & 6**

St Bede's Catholic School	Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> September, 5.30 – 7.30pm
Wolsingham School	Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> September, 5.00 – 7.30pm

### **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September 10am – 12pm – Open Morning for Nursery and Reception**

On Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September between 10am and 12pm, we will be holding an Open Morning in our Early Years for prospective Nursery and Reception starters to come along and have a look at our environment and meet the staff. If your child will be school age next year, come along and have a look, or if your child is due to start Nursery soon, come and see what is on offer. We look forward to welcoming you all. Some of our Year 6 children will also be available to show you around and give you the honest truth about life in our school!

### **Autumn Disco – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November**

The Friends of the School are organising an Autumn Disco for all children from Reception to Year 6. This will take place on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November. Tickets will be available to buy on Arbor for £2, and each ticket includes refreshments. Tickets will go on sale from 4.30pm today and will remain on sale until we break up for half term on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October. Please note, your child will not get a physical ticket, but names of all of those with tickets will be given to staff manning the disco. Please put this date in your diary for the following times:

**Reception:** 2:15pm - 3pm

**KS1:** 3:15pm - 4:15pm

**KS2:** 4:30pm - 6pm

### **Early Years News**

The number of children who are eligible for a funded childcare place has recently increased. You can now apply for 15 hours of funding if you are working, if you are receipt of certain benefits or if your child is looked-after, has an EHCP or gets DLA. With this in mind, we are starting to think about how we might go about offering places for 2 year olds at Lanchester EP. This is something which needs careful planning and organisation, as the needs of 2-year olds are very different to those of our 3-4s. Please help us by completing the following form, which will help us to gauge the possible level of interest in and around the village. Thank you for your help. <https://forms.office.com/e/atC4K3P16U>

Our Nursery has been selected to take part in some exciting training to enhance children's language development, which will hopefully lead to us being accredited as a Communication Friendly Setting. In order for us to go ahead with this, the University of Leeds needs permission to assess the language skills of at least 12 of our Nursery children. If you would be willing for your child to take part in this assessment, which will take place in Nursery with the staff supporting them, please could you complete this very short survey: <https://cfsinfo.leeds.ac.uk/> by next Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> September. We know that the children and staff will all benefit hugely from this project and thank you in advance for your support.

Over the next few weeks, your Reception child's teacher will be administering the Reception Baseline checks with all the children. This is a simple set of assessments which all children in the country take part in. For more information, please see [here](#).

Nursery and Reception parents should all now be set up on Evidence Me. If you have any problems with accessing Evidence Me, or if you would like to have an additional email address added on to the system,

please let your child's teacher know. If you are uploading anything to Evidence Me via the app, please remember to keep the app open until you see a green dot on the corner or your post. For further help, please see [here](#).

### **Key Stage 1 Children**

It would be really appreciated if, once you have collected your child, you leave promptly through the field gate. There has been an increasing number of children playing on the school field once children have been collected but the field gates need to be closed and locked promptly as staff then have meetings to attend after school. We also have children in extra-curricular activities or wrap around care who need to use the school yard and are not able to whilst the gate is open and parents and carers are on site. We would really appreciate it if you would refrain from allowing your children to play on the field and just leave once they have been collected. Thank you for your help with this.

### **SEND News**

For parents and carers of children with an EHCP, Mr McLoughlin will be in touch with you next week to book in your child's annual review for this academic year. SEN Support Plans and EHCP termly plans will be reviewed by class teachers after half-term. We would like to invite parents and carers to discuss these with their child's class teacher after school on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Positive Thinking**

***Please see attachment for this week's positive thoughts...***

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)



# Parent/Carer Questionnaire Results and Analysis

## Summer 2024



<b>Lanchester E.P. Primary School 2024 Parent Questionnaire</b>		<b>86 Responses</b>			
		Strongly Agree/ Agree	Disagree/ Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	N/A
1.	Everyone is made to feel welcome at this school.	98%	2%		
2.	My child likes coming to Lanchester EP School.	96%	3%	1%	
3.	Teaching is good at this school.	97%	2%	1%	
4.	The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year.	98%	1%	0%	1%
5.	My child is making good progress.	93%	5%	1%	1%
6.	I am kept informed about my child's progress.	93%	7%	0%	0%
7.	Staff expect my child to work hard and do his/her best.	97%	2%	0%	1%
8.	The school provides appropriate homework.	75%	6%	3%	16%
9.	There are a good range of subjects and opportunities available to my child at this school.	96%	1%	1%	2%
10.	Parents are encouraged to play an active part in the life of the school.	97%	1%	2%	0%
11.	I feel comfortable about approaching the school with questions, suggestions or a problem.	94%	5%	1%	0%
12.	The school's website and twitter feed are useful.	92%	5%	1%	2%
13.	The school is well led and managed.	99%	1%	0%	0%
14.	The school achieves high standards of behaviour.	96%	2%	2%	0%
15.	My child feels safe at this school.	98%	2%	0%	0%
16.	The school's values and ethos have a positive impact upon my child.	97%	1%	1%	1%
				<b>I have not raised concerns</b>	
17.	When I have raised concerns with the school, they have been dealt with properly.	69%	9%	22%	
				<b>My child has not been bullied</b>	
18.	My child has been bullied and the school has dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively.	13%	3%	84%	
				<b>My child does not have SEND</b>	
19.	My child has SEND and/or disabilities and the school gives them the support they need to succeed.	11%	2%	87%	
		<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>		
20.	I would recommend this school to other parents.	100%	0		