



## 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 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been lovely to see the children very settled and back into their normal routines again this week. Crazy Creatures were a huge success with Year 1 on Tuesday morning – the squeals of delight were a pleasure to hear! Wednesday was the turn of Year 4 and they enjoyed their afternoon Problem Solving and Team Building at Tanfield School – the staff say they were excellent ambassadors for the school with exemplary behaviour and attitudes.

On Thursday it was the turn for some of Year 5 & 6 children as they flew out to Delhi, India. As I write this, they are currently flying over Azerbaijan, hopefully sound asleep! What an amazing week they are all going to have.

While the group are in India, Miss Honan will cover for Mr McLoughlin for most of the week with Miss Brierley supporting. If any of Mr McLoughlin's parents have any questions, please email the school office who will make sure the message is passed on. Mr Innes is teaching in Nursery for the week which helps to support transition for next year. Mrs Donna Watt will be responsible for Mr Innes' class for the week with Mrs Knighton and Mrs Nash (both known adults) working alongside them during the week too. We know all children in Nursery, Reception and Year 1 will thoroughly enjoy their week with known but different adults.

### **Our Christian Vision and Values**

Staff and governors have spent a long time discussing our vision and values and whether we think they are still relevant to our school. We would also like to consult you, our parents and carers about this so please look out for a survey which we hope to send out on Monday. Thank you.

### **Smartphone Free Parent Pact Community**

Parent Pact is a growing community of parents locally choosing to wait to get their children a smartphone. The website gives you more information about this organisation and includes a link to a form. The form is there for parents who feel strongly about childhood being too short to be spent on a smartphone: <https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/>.

### **Year 5 Bikeability**

This is taking place next week in school for 2 hours every day. Cycling is a life skill – one which we have recently introduced into our curriculum for Reception children. Please remember that to take part you must have signed your child up, via the online form: <https://forms.office.com/e/mZvJ9bdTUP>. Children must also have a roadworthy bike and must wear a helmet for the training too. Children will be able to leave their bikes in the Bike Shed for the duration of the training, which the caretaker will lock each night. Children taking part in the bikeability sessions should come into school in suitable sports clothing.

### **Year 5 Performance of The Fairy Queen at Consett Empire Theatre**

We are thrilled that our Year 5 children were asked to take part in a production of The Fairy Queen, working alongside professional musicians from the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and students from Consett Academy, as well as two other primary schools. Their performance will be on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February at 6pm. Tickets are available from: [www.empireconsett.co.uk](http://www.empireconsett.co.uk) or by phoning their Box Office on 03000262400.

### **RSC Performance of The Tempest**

We are thrilled that the Royal Shakespeare Company is coming to our school to perform an abridged version of The Tempest on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February. They will perform to our Year 5 and 6 children in the afternoon

but we are also opening this up to the local community for a 6pm performance on the evening. Tickets will be available from the school office at a cost of £5.

### **School Holidays 2025 – 2026**

Apologies for the incorrect dates included in last week's letter. These have been amended and are at the end of the Diary Dates. Thank you for your understanding.

### **Residential Meetings for Year 3 and Year 4**

Our overnight residentials are approaching for Year 3 and Year 4 and we have added a meeting for parents and carers so you can come along and find out more about exactly what they will be doing. The meeting about the Year 3 residential to Birdoswald will take place on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March at 5.30pm. The meeting about the Year 4 residential to Seahouses will take place on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 5.30pm

### **Food Bank**

Some of our boys go to Cubs in Waterhouses and came to me to express their concern about how low food supplies are in the local foodbank. Please read their message below. If anyone feels they are in a position to donate to the foodbank, then we have a box outside the Main Office where donations can be dropped.

*'Can you please donate food to support the homeless and those without much money? Donate to help people not go hungry. Thank you.'*

### **Blue Monday – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January - Message from The Friends of the School**

Did you know that the third Monday in January is known as Blue Monday - supposedly one of the most depressing days of the year. January can be a particularly difficult time of the year, with long dark and cold days and the return to school or work after the Christmas festivities.

SO! We're hoping to turn Blue Monday into a 'Bright Monday' at Lanchester EP!!

Children (and staff) can come dressed to school with a bright flair to their usual school uniform. What about a bright scrunchie or headband, bright tights and socks, or perhaps a bright hat or scarf?

The Friends have also organised a little surprise for the children during school drop off to brighten up their day...

### **Attendance**

Year Group	Current Week Attendance Percentage (%)	Attendance Percentage to Date (%)	Year Group	Current Week Attendance Percentage (%)	Attendance Percentage to Date (%)
<b>Reception</b>	95.6%	93.4%	<b>Year 4</b>	98.3%	97.6%
<b>Year 1</b>	98.8%	95.9%	<b>Year 5</b>	97.5%	97.3%
<b>Year 2</b>	97.5%	96.3%	<b>Year 6</b>	98.6%	96.9%
<b>Year 3</b>	98.5%	97.3%	<b>Whole School</b>	<b>97.8%</b>	<b>96.4%</b>

### **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.

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

#### **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2025 – Woodland Worship at 2pm**

We are looking forward to our first ever Woodland Worship on Sunday afternoon at 2pm. If you would like to attend, please sign this form: [Woodland Worship](#) so that we have an idea of numbers involved. Entry to the woodland will be through the Main Car Park and through the gate at the side of the MUGA. We look forward to seeing you there on Sunday!

#### **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025 – Bright Monday**

We would like everyone to come dressed to school with a bright flair to their usual school uniform. What about a bright scrunchie or headband, bright tights and socks, or perhaps a bright hat or scarf? There will also be a little surprise for the children during school drop off to brighten up their day...

### **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2025 – Swimming Gala**

Some of Key Stage 2 will be taking part in the district Swimming Gala on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January. It is taking place in the Louisa Centre during the morning. Children will be back to school in time for their school dinner.

### **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> & Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025 – Captain Chemistry in school**

Captain Chemistry will be working with Year 1 on Wednesday and Year 4 on Thursday to support their Science work this half term. I am sure they will thoroughly enjoy carrying out our numerous experiments!

### **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025 – Digital Leaders at the Bett Show, London**

Four lucky digital leaders will be heading to London on the 7.43am train from Durham. During their time in London, they will be spending two days at the Bett show, trialling out new products. They will also enjoy some sightseeing, the London Eye and going to see 'Back to the Future' at the Adelphi Theatre in the West End. I am sure you will see updates of what they get up to during their time there.

### **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025 – Girls' Football Team at Consett Academy**

The Girls' Football League is starting up again this half term, with fixtures starting on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January and continuing for four weeks. The matches will take place at Consett Academy and will run from 3.45 – 5.00pm. If your child is taking part, you will receive a separate email.

### **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025 – Children return from India**

Our group of travellers will land at Newcastle Airport at 8.30pm. I am sure there will be some tears of joy and exhaustion from both children and adults when they reunite!

### **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2025 – Digital Leaders return from London**

The children will return at 5.15pm into Durham on Saturday afternoon at Platform 2.

### **Positive Thinking**

***A positive attitude brings much gratitude!  
Think positive! Be positive! Speak positive and stay positive!  
Do it every day and do it big!***

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)