



# 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 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope your children have enjoyed their first week back after the half term break. It was great to see World Book Day being such a wonderful success. Thank you so much to the secret readers who came into school to share a story with your child's class. The children always absolutely love it! What was very special for me is that even though I was nearly 4,000 miles away in Dubai, I could still feel part of the day through all the tweets.

The second residential has taken place this week, with funding received through the Turing Scheme. 24 children and 6 adults have enjoyed an absolutely amazing week in Dubai. The children have, once again, been brilliant ambassadors, not only for our school but also for our country. They have made friends for life through spending time in our two partner schools, have a very good understanding first-hand how different life is for children in Dubai compared to Lanchester and have learnt so much about Islam through their visit to the mosque and the cultural centre. Their visit to the desert allowed them to experience for themselves what life used to be like in Dubai as well.

What always amazes me is the resilience of our children. For some, apart from their one-night residential, this is the only other time they have been away from home. Yet they totally embrace the experience and I can count on one hand the number of times we have had tears. That speaks volumes about our children. I also highly commend the parents and carers of those travelling. They place enormous trust in school staff accompanying the children, allowing their children to have these totally memorable and life-changing experiences.

Technology makes the world a smaller place, allowing us to keep in touch so regularly. It also means that I can write the weekly letter from 37,000 feet up on the flight home!

### **SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools)**

I am delighted to inform you that I have recently completed all my training and assessment and am now a qualified SIAMS Inspector. This means that I will be asked to inspect schools in their role as an Anglican or Methodist Church School. This is work that will be done in addition to my normal Head Teacher duties. However, the governors agreed that undertaking the training and inspecting schools would complement the work done in our own school around SIAMS.

### **School Leading Church on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

Some of our children who have recently been confirmed along with some Worship Leaders are leading the service in All Saints Church on Sunday morning at 10.30am. We would like them all to wear school uniform for the service please and arrive at 10.15am. All are welcome to join us for the service too.

### **Schools North-East Patron's Dinner**

Our choir have been asked to perform at the Schools North-East Patron's Dinner on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March at the Grand Hotel, Gosforth Park. This is a huge honour as it is a very prestigious event which hundreds of school leaders attend from all over the north-east. More information will follow about this, but transport will be provided for the school choir. The children will sing around 7.30pm at the start of the evening so will return to school following their performance.

### **Ski Residential**

It is hard to believe the ski trip leaves on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March – next Saturday! The last ski trip took place in March 2019 and whilst we have had 2 booked since then, both have had to be postponed due to covid.

Some of you may remember that 3 years ago, we were due to leave on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2020 but the announcement was made early evening on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March forbidding any school trips abroad due to Covid. We had 11 very upset children at that point – and that was only the beginning!

This time, we are taking almost 50 children and adults as well as 20 children from Shotley Bridge Primary School so I am sure there is plenty of anticipation now. I will set up a parent WhatsApp group this weekend and send out some final information over the weekend too.

### **Birdoswald Residential**

I am really sorry to inform Year 3 parents that Birdoswald have been in touch with us this week to inform us of a burst water main under the accommodation building which needs some major repairs and therefore they have had to cancel our booking for later this month. I realise that we will have some very disappointed children but sadly, this is out of our hands.

However, the office staff have been working very hard behind the scenes this week and have managed to secure us a booking in May. Therefore, we will just transfer the booking over. The trip will now take place from 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> May. Mr Stephenson's class will go on **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May** and Mrs Coyle's class **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May**. As a result, the final payment date has been extended to Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March for this visit.

### **Year 1 – 6 Curriculum Information Organisers**

Year 1 Curriculum Information Organisers will be sent home via email this afternoon. These will also be given out to your children as a hard copy to bring home next week, and will be added to the website for reference too.

### **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

As part of the Year 3 Romans topic, Captain Chemistry will be in school on Monday to look at Roman engineering and the importance this has had historically, and the influence it still has on things today.

### **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

Captain Chemistry is back in school again on Tuesday, this time working with our Early Years children to complete some fun science activities and experiments – I'm sure the children will tell you all about it.

### **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023 – Athens Meeting**

There is a meeting at 6pm for the parents and carers of all children travelling to Athens on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2023. Please come to the Main Entrance where you can gain access to the school Thank you.

### **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 – Year 1 Trip to Newcastle**

Our Year 1 children are really looking forward to visiting Newcastle on Thursday as part of their Big City, Bright Lights work this half term. On this trip the children will take a tour to the Quayside in Newcastle looking at some of the major landmarks of the city including the Baltic and Tyne Bridge. We will also be learning about the Great Fire of Gateshead and Newcastle which links to our work in class on the Great Fire of London. Children will need to take a packed lunch for this trip, and will need to come in uniform with a coat and sensible shoes as we will be walking all day.

### **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023 – Author in School**

On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March we are welcoming Paul Cookson to school for the day, a children's author. The children will enjoy an assembly with him followed by workshops in different year groups. I know the children will enjoy this too.

### Early Years

Reception are going to be exploring Lanchester over the next term. We are planning to get out and about in the village and visit some of the local landmarks. If you or a family member would be able to spare 45 minutes or so in the afternoon on either of the next two Wednesdays, just to help on an introductory village walk, please let Miss Butler know: [s.butler@lanhcesterep.net](mailto:s.butler@lanhcesterep.net).

Equally, if anyone has connections with a shop or business in the village and would be willing to welcome a small group of Reception children on a short visit, please let us know. As always, thank you for your help and support.

We are planning to hold some Easter Stay and Play sessions in Nursery and Reception in the last week before Easter. These will run on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2-3pm and Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March with a morning and an afternoon slot in Nursery (times to be confirmed). More details will follow next week.

### Move to Arbor – School Information & Payment System

As part of our move to Arbor from our current Information system, you will receive a log in for Arbor which can be accessed either on a webpage or via a downloadable app. You will be sent an email with instructions of how to log in by 4:00pm this afternoon (please make sure you check your junk folder if you haven't received an email by this time). Please log in within 96 hours of receiving the link and familiarise yourself with the system. On top of seeing your child's information that we hold and their Attendance, you will also be able to update information such as medical needs, contact numbers and addresses. The plan is that you will start to be able to book and pay for Wrap Around Care, trips and school meals from **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March**, so we would like everyone to start using the system as soon as possible.

Please log into ParentPay by **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March** and settle any outstanding amounts due. This enables any credit or debit to be accurately transferred to the new system. Please **do not** make any payment on ParentPay after 5pm on **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March** to enable the migration to take place.

Any questions, please contact the office.

### Positive Thinking

***A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.***

Best Wishes,

*Jane Davis*

Mrs Jane Davis