



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 4th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Advent is upon us and all of a sudden there is a buzz of excitement and anticipation across school. The singing of carols and nativity songs can be heard from all four corners of the school and I am sure you are eagerly anticipating seeing your child in their nativity. Our 3 year-olds and Reception children start these off for us next week and we cannot wait.

Hanley and Sons Christmas Windows

I am delighted to inform you that our Art Leaders who decorated the windows at Hanleys have won the village competition! We were asked by Wendy to decorate their windows as all the village shops had asked to participate. At the time, neither Wendy or I realised it was a competition! But, Hanleys won the £200 prize for being voted the best Christmas window and have donated it to our school. Our children have decided that they would like the prize money to be donated to charity and split between our two charities we are supporting this year – Henry Dancer Days and Willowburn. Well done to all the Art Leaders as well as Miss Jackson, Miss Honan and Mrs Chambers who supported them with their designs. How proud we are!

Kitchen Gas Issues

I am sorry for the kitchen problems over the last two weeks. It is not ideal to provide cold sandwiches rather than a hot meal and we only ever do this as a very last resort. We have had difficulties with our kitchen fan. When that does not work, the gas won't switch on. It was repaired last week and then this week we had a different issue. We sincerely hope that this is the end of the problems now. There is nothing more frustrating than arriving at work to these issues!

Christmas Shop

Our very popular and successful Christmas Shop takes place in school next week thanks to the Friends of the School who are giving up more of their time to come into school and let the children choose their gifts for their special people. It would be really useful if your child could bring a carrier bag into school on Monday so they are ready to visit the shop and carry their gifts home! Please remember – this only applies to those who have purchased their gifts at the start of November. The deadline is well past and no more gifts can be ordered. Thank you.

Nativity Tickets

Tickets for the nativities have been available to buy on Arbor since 26th November, in addition to the free ticket each family were given for each of their child's performances. These will be available to buy until Monday 8th December at 1.00pm.

From Tuesday, *ticket sales on Arbor will be closed*. Any unsold tickets will be allocated to parents/carers who have filled in this [online form](#) to request additional tickets. You will be contacted on Tuesday morning to let you know how many tickets you have been allocated. You will need to pay for these in cash to the School Office. Please note, we are unable to guarantee that you will receive the number of tickets that you request, or whether there will be any extra tickets available until Monday afternoon. *The online form will close at 1.45pm on Tuesday 9th December.*

Head Lice

Please remember to check your child's hair regularly for head lice and nits, and to treat them if found. Unfortunately, head lice and nits in Primary School children are quite common, and it is not possible to prevent them so it is imperative that you check your child's hair regularly using a detection comb. More

information can be found on [Head lice and nits - NHS](#). Children do not need to be kept off school if they have headlice.

Absences from School

Please make sure that if your child is absent from school, that you let the School Office know. You can do this in a number of ways:

- phoning on 01207 520 436 and leaving a message or speaking to the Office team
- emailing school.office@lanchesterep.net
- coming into the School Office in person to report the absence
- logging the absence on your child's Arbor account. To do this, go to 'Quick Actions – Attendance' and on the righthand side of the screen there is a button to press titled 'Log Absence'.

It is imperative that if your child is absent you contact the office with a reason for their absence. If they are not in due to illness then please also give a summary of their symptoms/illness, in case of an outbreak.

Next Academic Year

Please see the holiday dates for next academic year.

Holiday	Last Day at School	Re-Open for Teaching Purposes
Autumn Term	-	Wednesday 2 nd September 2026
Autumn Half Term	Friday 23 rd October 2026	Monday 2 nd November 2026
Staff Training Day	Friday 20 th November 2026	Tuesday 24 th November 2026
Christmas Holiday	Friday 18 th December 2026	Monday 4 th January 2027
Spring Half Term	Friday 12 th February 2027	Monday 22 nd February 2027
Easter Holiday	Thursday 25 th March 2027	Monday 12 th April 2027
May Day	Friday 30 th April 2027	Tuesday 4 th May 2027
Summer Half Term	Thursday 27 th May 2027	Monday 7 th June 2027
Summer Holiday	Wednesday 21 st July 2027	To be confirmed

This Week's Big Question

This week's Big Question has been, **'Advent is the season of Hope. What do you hope for?'** We have had some quite heart wrenching discussions! Once again, we have had some very interesting and thoughtful discussions – please ask your child this when you see them. You will be very surprised with what they say!

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	88	94.7	Year 4	94.7	95.6
Year 1	90.4	95.2	Year 5	93.9	97.7
Year 2	96.4	97.8	Year 6	94.3	96.5
Year 3	87.4	96.9	Whole School	92.2	96.3

Diary Dates for Next Week

Monday 8th December – Woodwind and Brass Concert at 9am

We are delighted that our children who have woodwind and brass lessons in school, will once again be showing off their progress and talents in a short concert starting at 9am on Monday morning. This is open for all parents and carers and families of Year 3-6 children. Come along and be impressed by your children and grandchildren – we certainly will be!

Monday 8th December – Nativity Ticket Sales Close on Arbor

Nativity ticket sales will close on Arbor at lunchtime on Monday. Any extra tickets required for nativities will need to be requested via this [online form](#). Tickets will then be allocated and you will be informed on Tuesday how many extra tickets you have been allocated.

Tuesday 9th December – Christmas Shop

The Friends of the School will be in school and starting with Nursery, Year 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6. Please make sure your child has a carrier bag they can use to carry their gifts home. The children will be taken to the shop where the Friends will have a list of what age group the gifts have been ordered for. They will then be supported to choose their gifts. The looks on their little faces should be bottled! The excitement and pride when choosing a gift for their special people is something everyone should see!

Tuesday 9th December – New College Performance of Willy Wonka

We are thrilled that New College Performing Arts Students are once more coming to our school with their Christmas show. It is always superb and one that staff and children alike thoroughly enjoy. Children from Y2 – Y6 will enjoy this extravaganza and I am sure the children will be full of it at the end of the day!

Tuesday 9th December – Choir singing at Lynnwood House

Year 3 & 4 choir members will be singing at Lynnwood House Residents' Christmas Lunch on Tuesday lunchtime at around 1pm. The children will have an early dinner and it would be wonderful if the children could be in full school uniform for this please. They will have an early lunch so they have plenty of time to eat their dinners.

Wednesday 10th December – Christmas Jumper Day

On Wednesday, we are hosting our Christmas Jumper Day. Instead of wearing their jumper or PE hoodie, children can wear something Christmassy (on their top half) to come to school in for one day only. If they don't want to wear a Christmas jumper, it is absolutely fine to wear normal uniform or just a festive hairband or hair bobble!

Wednesday 10th December – 3 Year Old Nursery Nativities at 9.30am and 2.30pm

I hope you are looking forward to your child's nativity on Wednesday as your Christmas will certainly start the if it hasn't already! Both performances are in the Junior Hall. Please come to the hall door but please note that we will not be able to open the doors until 9am at the earliest due to setting up the hall after breakfast club. Thank you.

Wednesday 10th December – Gospel Choir

We are absolutely thrilled to welcome Durham University's Gospel Choir on Wednesday afternoon who will be performing to our KS2 children. They have not been to our school before and we are very much looking forward to a wonderful afternoon of singing with them – something we know the children will love! What a great experience this will be for them.

Wednesday 10th December – Christmas Dinner

We are all looking forward to our Christmas dinner on Wednesday lunchtime. I know the children will thoroughly enjoy this festive occasion. All children who usually stay for school dinners will obviously be served Christmas dinner. However, if your child usually has a packed lunch, only those who have booked and paid for the dinner in advance will be able to have one. We always get asked the question if additional children can have one the week of Christmas dinner. But everything has now been ordered so additional children cannot be added at this late stage – as made clear weeks ago! For those whose children are in Nursery or Key Stage 2 and usually have packed lunches, payment will need to be made on Arbor and will be added onto your child's account on Wednesday afternoon.

Wednesday 10th December – Fair Trade Hot Chocolate Stall

On Wednesday 10th December we are going to have a hot chocolate stall in school. We are serving delicious Fairtrade hot chocolate with optional marshmallows. We also have vegan/non-dairy alternatives so no one misses out! Please bring £1 into school on Wednesday if you would like a delicious winter Warmer! From Daniel and the Fair Trade Group

Thursday 11th December – Reception Nativities

On Thursday it is the turn of our Reception children to perform their nativities for us. These take place at 10am and 2.15pm. Again, please make your way to the Junior Hall where the performances will take place. I am sure you will be really looking forward to sharing these special events with us!

Thursday 11th December – Year 5 at St Bede's Concert Dress Rehearsal

Our Year 5 children will be going to St Bede's on Thursday morning to watch the dress rehearsal of their Christmas concert. They will walk over to the school and return in time for their lunch. I am sure they will thoroughly enjoy this treat!

Friday 12th December – Christmas Shop

The Friends of the School will be in school with the Christmas Shop for children in Reception, Year 1 and to catch up with any children who were absent on the Tuesday. Again, please just make sure your child has a carrier bag they can use to carry their gifts home.

Friday 12th December – Choir Singing at Willowburn Hospice

Choir members from Year 4, 5 and 6 will be singing at Willowburn Hospice on Friday lunchtime. They will have their dinner before walking up there. This is something which we have done every year and is always very popular with the families and staff of Willowburn.

Friday 12th December – Rocksteady Concert

We are all looking forward to the Rocksteady Concert which takes place at 2.15pm on Friday afternoon. Come along and enjoy listening to our budding rockstars!

Positive Thinking

*The greatest gift you can ever receive is not found in the shop or under your Christmas tree.
It is found in the hearts of your loving family and true friends.*

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