



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 8th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

The weather has certainly been more seasonable this week after the intense heat and downpours at the weekend. As long as the children can access the field then they are happy which means we are happy!

It has been lovely to welcome Mr Gill, our caretaker back to school this term. He has made a remarkable recovery and is back with more energy and enthusiasm than ever – it really is great to have him back in school full time and a real miracle to see him so fit and well.

We have said a temporary goodbye to Mrs Clark this week as she started her maternity leave. Her baby is due towards the end of next month and she is more than ready for a quieter life for a few weeks. We wish her all the best and look forward to hearing some good news from her soon!

Communication

In the past, there has been one lengthy newsletter per half term with diary dates attached. I am very aware that each week there seems to be lots of information to share, limiting the need for a longer newsletter. So, instead, we will issue diary dates at the start of each half term and populate the calendar on the school website with those dates for ease of reference. The letters will then be written in the same style every week. We hope this helps!

Jewellery and Hair Styles

I would just like to take this opportunity to remind parents and carers that the only items of jewellery that are allowed to be worn in school are a wrist watch and stud earrings. Necklaces, bracelets and hoop earrings are not permissible for obvious health and safety reasons. We will be talking to children about this next week and would appreciate your support in endorsing this policy.

Regarding hairstyles our policy states: Haircuts should be of a smart appearance with no extremes of fashion and no unnatural colours. The school does not permit children to have haircuts that could serve as a distraction to other children such as patterns shaved into the hair, dyed hair and 'Mohican' style haircuts. We also do not allow children to wear excessive hair gel as this has health and safety implications. Please be mindful of this policy as some children's hairstyles do distract other children at the moment which is not acceptable.

Sickness Policy

Please remember that if your child has been sick or had diarrhoea, then our policy (which follows NHS Guidelines) is that your child must remain absent for 48 hours after the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea. This is to ensure we minimise any bugs from spreading across school. Thank you for helping us keep all children safe and well whilst in our care.

EYFS & Year 1 Breakfast Club Drop Off and After School Pick Up

Please remember that if your child is in EYFS and Year 1, they should be dropped off in the Main Hall from 7.30 – 7.45am. At 7.45am, when it gets very busy, they move across to the Nursery environment which is much more pleasant for them. The same happens for After School Club. This takes place for EYFS and Year 1 children in Nursery until 4.15pm (when it is busiest) and at that point, they are taken to the Main Hall and join the other children.

Turing Scheme – Year 5 & 6 Parents and Carers

The draw has been made for places for children to travel to India, Dubai, Madrid and Montreal. Parents and Carers of those children whose names were drawn out of the hat have been emailed this morning. Unfortunately, if you have not received an email it means that your child has not been successful. We had 102 interested children in 24 places with some very strict criteria in place. We would love to be able to take them all but obviously it is just not possible. Due to the high level of interest in these visits and in the interest of fairness, children who went on a Turing trip last year weren't entered into the draw. We also have some very disappointed staff who were also keen to travel so please reassure your child that they are one of many who have not been successful.

End of the School Day

We have a number of children playing on the school equipment at pick up time on the bottom yard and field. Please discourage this as it is essential we close the gates no later than 3.25pm due to other activities taking place. Thank you for your help with this.

Extra-Curricular Sports Clubs

If your child is staying after school for athletics, multi sports or football and it is not their PE day, then they should bring their PE kit to change into at the end of the school day. Children are NOT to come to school in PE kits if it is not their PE day. Thank you.

Parking

Parking is always going to be an issue in the village, especially around drop off and pick up times. We are an important part of this community and it is essential that we are respectful to our neighbours. We have an agreement with both the Social Club and the Kings Head that parents/carers can park in their car parks. However, it has been brought to my attention that some parents are now parking in Woodham Court Visitor bays. Please refrain from doing this. Many of these residents are elderly and receive carers and visitors who need access to these bays at all times. Thank you.

Dogs

No dogs are allowed on school premises unless it is a guide dog or assistance dog. There are often a number of dogs around the school gates at drop off and pick up times. Can I just ask all dog owners to be really wary of bringing their dogs around these crowded areas at key times? Dogs are unpredictable – even our beloved pets – and I am just concerned that they may become distressed in such busy areas and become uncharacteristically aggressive. We also need to be mindful of children who are very wary and frightened of dogs. Thank you!

School Training Centre for Durham University

Our school is a training centre for trainee teachers on both the BA(Honours) and PGCE courses. During the year we do host trainee teachers as they teach groups and classes in all the key stages. We have always been very fortunate in the quality of trainees based with us and both ourselves and other local schools have made some very good appointments from our students. Your children will start to meet some PGCE trainees and final year students in the coming weeks.

Reception Intake – September 2024

I know some of our children have only just started, but applications are now open for school places for next academic year, starting in September 2024. These must be applied for through the online portal: <https://durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions> The deadline for applications is Monday 15th January 2024.

SEND News

The start of a new school year is often filled with excitement about new beginnings and new adventures ahead. However, we know that for some children, the beginning of a new school year can also bring feelings of worry, anxiety and fear of the unknown. It is for this reason that we invite some children into school on the day before school starts to alleviate some of those first day worries and we were pleased to welcome

over 30 children into school on the Training Day this year. We hope that this was useful for everyone who attended and it was lovely to see so many smiling faces on the first day of school.

Mr McLoughlin is our school's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinator (SENDCO). This means that he is responsible for overseeing the provision for the additional needs that children have across our school and for ensuring that every child has the tools they need to enable them to thrive academically, physically, socially and emotionally. If you feel that your child may have additional needs that have not yet been identified, please discuss this with your child's class teacher, who will listen to your concerns and liaise with Mr McLoughlin to put plans in place to support you and your child.

Attendance

Reception	97.4%
Year 1	98.4%
Year 2	96.2%
Year 3	95.5%
Year 4	98.3%
Year 5	97.3%
Year 6	99.2%

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.

Online Safety

Our school has an account with the National College and this allows parents and carers to have access to a whole range of online safety resources. It is free for you all – just follow this link and you will find a whole range of resources available to you: <https://nationalcollege.com/enrol/lanchester-endowed-parochial-primary-school>

The Department for Education's guidance for teaching online safety in schools, released in January 2023, focuses on the teaching of knowledge and behaviours to children to help them stay safe online and to navigate the online world confidently and in a safe way, no matter what app, platform or device they are on.

This includes:

- How to evaluate what they see online
- How to recognise techniques used for persuasion
- Understanding acceptable and unacceptable online behaviour
- How to identify online risks
- How and when to seek support

The DfE also recommend that teaching and learning about online safety should be embedded within the wider curriculum and in all aspects of school life, rather than taught as a separate entity. This should also include all members of the school community – staff, children and yourselves to ensure that these important aspects of online safety are consistent between school and home. To help facilitate this, each week will share a fact sheet produced by National Online Safety, to empower you to have informed conversations with your children about online safety. We hope you find these resources useful.

Diary Dates for Next Week

Monday 18th September – Year 2 at Hartlepool Marina

I am sure Year 2 are really looking forward to their visit to Hartlepool Marina to support their 'Land Ahoy' topic this half term. A big thank you to all parents and carers who have also offered their help on the day – we could not do these visits without your help and support. Let's hope the weather is kind to them. Please remember that all children will need a packed lunch and sensible footwear and a coat. They might even need a sunhat if they're lucky!

Monday 18th September – Meet the Teacher for Nursery Parents and Carers

Miss Butler and the Nursery staff are looking forward to welcoming you at 3.30pm or 4.15pm on Monday so you can learn a little more about the structure and routines of a typical session in Nursery. If you are unable to attend, the presentation will be uploaded to the website following the session.

Monday 18th September – Consett Academy Open Evening for Year 6 Parents

All Year 6 parents and carers are invited to Consett Academy Open Evening at 4pm or 5pm. This will be a great opportunity to have a look around school, listen to the principal and meet the staff as well.

Tuesday 19th September – Seed Planting for Years 1 & 2

OASES staff are coming into school to lead an assembly and then carry out some seed planting with Years 1 and 2. This is all part of our ongoing work to become a Climate Friendly School.

Tuesday 19th September – Meet the Teacher for Reception to Year 6 Parents and Carers

The doors will open at 3.30pm just to allow the staff to have a quick break. Please make your way round to the Main Entrance at the end of the day after collecting your child. The presentations will take place at 3.30pm and 4.15pm but if you are unable to attend, they will be uploaded to the website the following day. For confidentiality and safety reasons we ask that you wait outside on the yard rather than in the entrance hall outside the office until the doors open at 3.30pm.

Thursday 21st September – Beach Walk for Years 2-6

We are hoping for a fine day for our annual walk at Roker Beach. We aim to leave school by 9.15am and the buses will make their way to Whitburn Bents Car Park where parents and carers can join us. We will then make our way along the beach, spend time playing in the sand (feel free to bring buckets and spades), enjoying our lunch further along the beach before making our way up through Roker Park to meet the buses. It was a great day last year and I am sure the children will thoroughly enjoy themselves again this time too! Apologies for the confusion last week as I did not clarify that the walk is for Years 2 – 6 only.

Early Years News

Thank you for all your contributions to Evidence Me. It is a lovely way for us to get to know a little bit more about your children. Over the next few weeks, look out for some links to the songs and stories we have been sharing in class as well as the usual photos and learning stories. Please remember not to use Evidence Me to ask staff questions which require a response. If you have a query, please either speak to a member of staff or email your child's teacher.

All children in Nursery and Reception must have a pair of wellies in school which are clearly marked with their name. These are required for outdoor play and Forest School visits. If your child does not have their wellies yet, please make sure to send some in by the start of next week.

We are pleased with how well the children have settled in at lunch time. We do monitor their eating and will let you know if they are not enjoying one of your choices on the menu. If you need to modify your child's lunch choices, please contact the office.

We are already accumulating a lot of lost property in EYFS. If your child's uniform is not clearly marked with their name, we cannot get it back to you if lost. Please also check the uniform that comes home with your

child and return any that your child may have taken in error. We also ask that you mark your child's shoes with their name and support them in learning to put them on independently.

Reception children will be bringing home their first wordless reading book next week. Please read the accompanying letter that will explain how to support them in sharing their book. We have only just started phonics lessons so please be patient as we need to ensure that the children are confident in their phonic knowledge to be able to start reading books with words in them.

This half term, the core books that your child will be getting to know really well in school are:



Miss Butler

Key Stage One News

We have just completed our first full week in school. The children have been amazing and are settling in really well and working extremely hard.

Year 1 reading books came home last night along with a reading record. The reading record is for you as parents to record reading at home with your child. If you could put the date, title of the book and a brief comment about your child's reading. These comments should be as positive as possible to encourage your child to read. The reading record also forms a dialogue between home and school about reading so if you have any concerns that books are too hard or easy or your child is struggling, please let us know and we can work together to help overcome any barriers to reading.

Year 2 have been taking their Accelerated reader assessments over the past week. Many children now have access to Accelerated Reader books and the choice to choose their own reading book from their book level. They will then do a quiz on the book in school to check their understanding of the text. Some children remain on phonics books for now just to give them a bit more practise and fluency but will be reassessed for Accelerated reader at the end of half term.

If you have any questions regarding reading please find me on the yard or send me an email.

Mr Innes

Key Stage Two News

We are now at the end of the second week of the autumn term and the children have settled back into the routines of school. The first two weeks have flown by!

Accelerated Reader

All children in Key Stage 2 have now selected their new reading books from our Accelerated Reader scheme from the school library. They should be bringing them home each day so you can listen to them read and talk to them about their reading. Once the children have finished their books, they take an online quiz about what they have read before they choose a new book. If you have any questions about your child's reading, please contact their class teacher.

Key Stage 2 Class Novels

Each year group has started reading a new novel linked to their topic.



All children in our Key Stage 2 classes use these texts to take part in whole-class shared reading lessons. We teach comprehension skills using the reading domains from the National Curriculum. These are taught to children through our VIPERS approach to reading (vocabulary, infer, predict, explain, retrieve and summarise.)

Why not ask your child about their whole class book and how they are using it to learn about their topics?

Homework

Finally, the children will receive their homework each Thursday to be handed in the following Wednesday. Each week, the children will be given a piece of maths and English homework (one of which will be online) and spellings to learn. Please support your child by ensuring work is handed back on time and talking to them about their tasks. Thank you.

Mr Knighton

Positive Thinking

***We are like books.
Most people only see our cover,
the minority read only the introduction,
many people believe the critics.
Few will know the content.***

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)