



# 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> October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe we only have one week left before the half term break. It has certainly been a long half term but a very settled one for us all in school.

It was wonderful to see so many families at our Early Years Open Morning on Saturday— both some of our current families and lots of new families too. I would like to thank the staff and our Head Boy/Girl and their Deputies as well, for showing new families around. Once again, we were very fortunate with the weather and it was lovely to be able to talk to everyone.

It has been lovely to see you all in school this week for our parent and carer meetings. I hope you found the time with your child's class teacher useful. Apologies to Reception parents and carers as you were unable to see their learning environment due to After School Club being held in there. However, we will be holding some Stay and Play sessions next half term when you will be able to spend some time in the classrooms with your children.

Year 1 enjoyed a great trip to the Great north museum this week and as usual, their behaviour and attitude were first class. Thank you to the parents who accompanied us - it was, as always, greatly appreciated.

Our staff were exceptionally proud on Wednesday with some of our Y6 and senior choir members. After being asked to sing at Mrs Matthews' funeral, parents and carers were given the choice about whether they would like their child to participate. We had over 45 children singing our School Song at the funeral service to a packed church. Our children were highly respectful and had such an uplifting presence whilst also singing beautifully. Such a fitting tribute to Mrs Matthews who always loved to hear our children sing. I am sure you were as proud of your child as we were. Thank you.

### **Book Swap Box**

We now have a Book Swap Box on the top yard near to the main entrance of school. We are gradually adding childrens' books to the shelves. Please feel free to take a book and enjoy reading it at home. Then you can bring it back and swap it for another book. Also, if you have any books at home that you are finished with and would like to add to our Book Swap Box that would be great as well. It is lovely to see it already being used and children choosing a book. Happy reading!

### **Letter from the Chair of Governors**

Mr Michael Knowles, our Co-Chair of Governors, has written a letter to all parents and carers which is included with this letter. This letter details some fine tuning to our Complaints Policy as well as a reminder about appropriate communication with staff. Please read it carefully. Thank you.

### **Students**

We are fortunate to work very closely with the Education Department from Durham University and currently have some final practice teaching students in school. Students can make a huge difference to the teaching and support offered in classrooms and we are delighted to welcome Miss Todd, Miss Macklin and Miss Owen who will be with us for the rest of this term.

### **Friends Of the School**

#### **Friends of Lanchester EP Uniform Service - check stock online!**

The Friends of the School operate a service collecting and providing items of uniform that are still in good condition. It is open to everyone - the aim is to avoid good uniform going to waste. You can now check stock

online and see what is available before making a request. Just go to [tinyurl.com/LanchesterEPUniform](https://tinyurl.com/LanchesterEPUniform) or scan the QR code on the red donation bin in the bike shelter.

### **Disco – Thursday 6th November - Volunteers Needed!**

Can you spare an hour between 4pm and 6:30pm on Thursday 6 November? We are looking for volunteers to help out at both of our Key Stage 2 Discos. If you can support us, please email:

[friendsoflanchesterep@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoflanchesterep@gmail.com) Thank you.

### **Early Years**

#### **Autumn Treasure Hunt**

Each year, we invite our EYFS children to take part in our Autumn Treasure Hunt. Your child should be bringing home a Treasure Hunt sheet today. We hope you have fun trying to find something to fit each word. It might be something in the house or something you find outdoors. You could stick the objects on to the sheet (over the symbols) or take photos of what you find and add them to Evidence Me.

In previous years, we have been able to buy climbing equipment and water/sand toys with funds raised from this activity. If you would like to support this by collecting sponsorship for the Treasure Hunt, we would be most grateful! Most of all, we would like the children to have lots of fun!

#### **Water Bottles**

Please remember that if your child has a water bottle in Nursery, it should be taken home each day to clean. Children are given drinks regularly during the day, so a water bottle is not essential. If you do choose to bring one, please ensure it is labelled with your child's name.

### **Year 1 News**

After half-term, Year 1 will be learning in our beautiful forest every Friday morning. For this, they will need to have wellies in school (preferably ones that stay in school). We have waterproof suits available in school, but if you would prefer your child to wear their own waterproofs, please send them in each Friday, beginning on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November. Children should wear PE kits on Fridays, as usual, but as we will be outside in all weathers, it is essential that they also have a warm coat, a hat and gloves to keep warm in the winter weather.

On Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November, we would like to invite Y1 families to join us in the forest so that we can share some poetry that we will be writing next half-term. Miss Wood's session will be from 9:30am to 10:15am and Mr McLoughlin's session will be from 10:30am to 11:15am. If you would like to attend this, please [click here](#) to complete the form to let us know that you will be coming.

### **Brass Lessons from Durham Music Service**

Children in Year 3 – 6 had a brass demonstration this week from Durham Music Service and some of their current brass students. If any of the children have been inspired by this demonstration, you can still sign them up for brass lessons through Durham Music Service via [Eepos: Durham Music Service](#). Brass instruments offered are the trumpet, tuba, trombone and numerous different horns. If your child is entitled to Free School Meals then these lessons will be free of charge, otherwise lessons are charged at approx. £70 per term, with instrument hire at £47.00.

### **School Meals: Online Form**

The new menu for Autumn Term 2 has now come out. If your child is wanting to have school meals next half term, please make sure you fill in their choices via the online form by **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October**. The new menu will then start on **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November**.

Due to a number of issues with the menu system on Arbor, we will be reverting back to using the online form for dinners, so please do not choose your child's meals on Arbor for after half term, as it will be a different menu. For the first week back after half term we will be using Week 1 choices from the previous menu, which we have records of in school.

If your child requires a special menu, then please contact the school office. Those already on a special menu will have been sent a menu home which needs to be completed and then handed back into the office, to ensure the kitchen can cater for their specific needs.

Meals are free for pupils in Reception – Year 2. Meals for those in Nursery & Year 3 – 6 are £2.90 per day unless entitled to Free School Meals. Meals should be paid for on Arbor.

***You must fill in the new menu via [this online form](#), or your child will be given the default vegetarian option for their school meals.***

### **Christmas Shoe Boxes.**

A number of children have asked about whether we are going to be taking part in a Christmas Shoe Box appeal again this year. For the last few years we have focused on collecting items for local food banks and on raising money for charities to buy children's toys, but we know a lot of families really enjoy packing the shoe boxes, picking out items and knowing that they are making a difference in another part of the world.

Having carefully looked at all the options, we have decided to register with **Link to Hope**, which is a charity working with people living in poverty in Eastern Europe. We felt it was important to work with a charity who provide items for people of all ages, so that no one is left out over Christmas.

The contents list for these boxes will be attached to the bottom of this letter, and official leaflets will be sent out as soon as they come into school. A contents list must be stuck onto the top of the shoe box to show what is inside. Each shoe box will need to be sent into school with £3, to cover the charities postage costs.

### **This Week's Big Question**

This week's Big Question has been, '**What is Trust and Who Can You Trust?**' We have all been thinking about our final Christian Value this week and as usual, it has resulted in lots of discussions. Please ask your child about it this weekend – it is a very important question for them!

### **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 (%) |
|------------------|------------------|-------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------|
| <b>Reception</b> | 93.5             | 97.1        | <b>Year 4</b>       | 94.8             | 96.2        |
| <b>Year 1</b>    | 97.9             | 97.6        | <b>Year 5</b>       | 97.3             | 98.2        |
| <b>Year 2</b>    | 97.6             | 98.6        | <b>Year 6</b>       | 94.6             | 98          |
| <b>Year 3</b>    | 99               | 98.7        | <b>Whole School</b> | <b>96.4</b>      | <b>97.8</b> |

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

#### **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October – Messy Church at Lanchester All Saints Church.**

Messy Church is back on for another session on Sunday at 3.00pm. Children will have a story and then can take part in a plethora of crafts based around what they have heard, as well as enjoying a light tea. All are welcome.

#### **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October – Year 4 at All Saints' Church**

Both Year 4 classes will be visiting All Saints' Church on Tuesday afternoon as part of their ongoing RE work this half term. I am sure they will enjoy listening to Reverend Lesley explain a little more about their current topic.

#### **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October – Flu Nasal Spray**

The Immunisation Team will be in school all day on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October to give the flu nasal spray/injection to those children who have been signed up to receive it. Please note, no children will be forced to have this, and only those children whose parents/carers have given consent will be offered it. If

you gave your non-consent/opted out via the online form, or didn't fill in the form at all, your child will not be offered the vaccination. For those children who are absent on the day but who have consented to the vaccination, as soon as we know the details of any catch up clinics, we will share them with you. *Any questions about the vaccinations should be made directly to the Immunisation Team via email on [Immunisations.CountyDurham@intrahealth.co.uk](mailto:Immunisations.CountyDurham@intrahealth.co.uk) or by phone on 0333 358 3397.*

#### **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October – Year 3 Stone Age Day**

To bring their work on the Stone Age to a conclusion, Year 3 will be enjoying a Stone Age Day. This will involve spending some time in Forest Schools as well. I am sure they will all have a great day!

#### **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October – Year 2 at All Saints Church**

Year 2 are looking forward to visiting All Saints Church on Thursday afternoon to learn more about what Christians believe God is like. This is a great way to supplement their classroom learning as well as to cement our strong links with the church.

#### **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October – Hair Day**

Mrs Lydon and the Rotakids are asking children to come into school with their wackiest hair and a donation of £1 to raise some money for the Rotary Clubs Christmas Toy Donations. Children will need to wear their uniform/PE kits as normal, topped off with some really wild hair-dos! This was absolutely brilliant last year, and the range of hair styles was incredible – we can't wait to see what you all come up with this time. We are asking every child to bring in a suggested donation of £1.00 to go towards a really worthy cause.

#### **Positive Thinking**

***'Learn to trust the journey even if you do not understand it.  
Sometimes what you never wanted or expected turns out to be what you need.'***

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

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*We want everyone to receive a fun and useful box of new and unused gifts so every shoebox should contain all items in this blue box.*

|                                                                           |                                                                                           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gloves or Scarf or Hat<br>(new or knitted)       | <input type="checkbox"/> Toothbrushes & Toothpaste                                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sweets or Chocolates<br>(BB June 2026 EU Origin) | <input type="checkbox"/> Candles & Holders* or<br>Tealights                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soap & Flannel                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Small Games<br>(Travel Size Draughts/Dominoes/<br>Playing Cards) |

\*Holder is for safety and stability

*Then please ADD 5 or more items (at least one of each item) from the Red Box for a Family Shoebox OR from the Purple Box to make a Unisex Elderly Shoebox.*

☐ **FAMILY** (PLEASE TICK) ☐ **ELDERLY** (UNISEX)

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|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colouring Pads (A5)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Crayons/Pencils<br>(with rubber & sharpener)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Small Toys<br>(yo-yo, skipping rope, toy cars)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Soft Toy Teddy (with CE labels)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Tape Measure/DIY Tool<br><input type="checkbox"/> Sewing Kit<br><input type="checkbox"/> Shampoo (max 400ml)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Solar-Powered Calculator<br><input type="checkbox"/> Safety Razors<br><input type="checkbox"/> Hairbrush/Comb<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other Gifts .....<br>..... | <b>OR</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> Reading Glasses/Magnifier<br>(Max + 2 strength)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Mug/Wooden Spoon/Cutlery<br><input type="checkbox"/> Sensory Item (eg Bean Bag,<br>Lavender Bag, Stress Ball etc)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Hot Water Bottle<br><input type="checkbox"/> Work Gloves<br><input type="checkbox"/> Pen and Paper<br><input type="checkbox"/> Socks/Tights (NEW)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Wind-Up Radio/Torch<br><input type="checkbox"/> Shampoo (max 400ml)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Scissors/Nail Clippers<br><input type="checkbox"/> Safety Razors<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other Gifts .....<br>..... |
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For other gifts & sustainability ideas go to [www.linktohope.co.uk](http://www.linktohope.co.uk)

**PLEASE REDUCE THE PACKAGING YOU PUT IN YOUR SHOEBOX**