



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.'*



KEY STAGE NEWS

Early Years

Nursery

What a half term it has been for our youngest learners! In September, we saw the opening of our new provision for two year-olds. We now have 12 children accessing the Rainbow Room and we are delighted to report that they have settled in beautifully. Our room is completely transformed with a snug reading corner, plenty of opportunities for imaginative play in our home corner and small world area, an indoor climbing area, construction and mark-making. We have music and dancing on offer, dressing up, vehicle play, dinosaurs and, of course, our (very popular!) snack table. Outside, we have a separate play area with opportunities for sensory and physical play and gated access to the rest of the EYFS outdoor area. It's hard to believe that 8 weeks ago, this was an almost empty room!



In our 3-4 Nursery room, our children have also settled well. Our Squirrel and Owl groups are now well established and almost everybody knows where they should be for their group times! We have already learned lots of songs and rhymes that help us understand and remember our daily routines. We have had lots of reports of the children using these at home, which makes us very happy to know! Our enthusiasm for the Great Outdoors is high this year and we are so good at getting ourselves dressed in our waterproof suits for outdoor play. We are also very much enjoying our visits to the forest on Mondays and Thursdays, led by Mrs Davis with the support of our Reception Forest Friends. Inside, we are so busy building, painting, creating with playdough, dancing, sharing stories, exploring water and sand, counting and being with our friends that by the end of the week we are all tired out!

One of our highlights of the half term was when we attended the Harvest Festival with Reception and Year One. Our Nursery children were so interested to share what they were thankful for at Harvest Time.

Reception

Our Reception children have had a very busy half term and have settled into their new routines well. They have amazed us in phonics lessons, thoroughly enjoyed their music and PE lessons and have blown our socks off with their enthusiasm for maths! Forest School sessions have been a huge hit, with the children very quickly learning the rules of the forest and the campfire circle. They have been very busy making leaf kebabs, conker soap and cooking soup, amongst many other activities. A real highlight for all the Reception children has been when their Year 6 buddies come to visit. September's welcome services in Church were so moving and important to both Reception and Year 6 children, forging bonds between the younger and older children.



Looking ahead to next half term, we have some exciting plans up our sleeves. As the days get shorter and weather colder, we will begin to think about light and dark - and all the fun this brings. In Reception, the children will be learning all about nocturnal animals and about people who work at night. If you have anyone in your family who would like to come in to talk to the children about working at night when we are all asleep, we would love to hear from you.

Key Stage 1

This half-term has been a new start for our Year 1 & 2 children, who have settled in exceptionally well. It has been a joy to see how happy everyone is to come to school each morning and this has really helped everyone to get started with their exciting learning tasks straight away

Year 1

Year 1's first topic this year has been Dinosaur Planet. Over the past few weeks, the children have been on a dinosaur hunt on the school field, they have learnt all about the famous fossil hunter Mary Anning and they have even had the chance to feel fossilised dinosaur poo at the Hancock Museum!

English lessons in Year 1 this half-term have been a continuation of 'Drawing Club' lessons from Reception. This has proved to be very successful, with the children using a new text each week to spark their enthusiasm for writing. It has been lovely to see how excited everyone has been about writing. Next half-term, Year 1 will be embarking on 'a curious quest.' We don't want to give away too much information yet about this, but the children will build on everything they have learned in Drawing Club to become even more confident and curious writers.



Year 2

The children in Year 2 have thoroughly enjoyed their first topic 'Land Ahoy.' Their trip to see The Trincomalee in Hartlepool was fantastic fun. Some of us swung in the hammocks and others rang the ship's bell!

In English, Year 2 have been writing recounts and they have innovated texts after reading about Captain Tom and Kassim. The children have loved being introduced to Times Table Rockstars and have enjoyed battling against each other in Maths.

As part of Black History Month, Y2 have studied the first Black people who overcame racism to do ordinary jobs. In RE, they have considered the question 'What do Christians believe God is like?' using parables to explore this further. Science lessons have been great fun and culminated in an investigation about boats. Year 2 have impressed everyone in school with how well they have settled in and their determination to work hard - well done!



Key Stage 2 News

What an amazing half term we have had in school. It has been a great 8 weeks since September and it has flown over. Everyone is ready for a well-deserved break before we begin the run-up to Christmas. Here is a flavour of some of the exciting learning that has taken place in Key Stage 2.

Year 3

This half-term in Year 3, we have been studying The Stone Age through our topic of Tribal Tales. We have loved reading the story "Stone Age Boy" by Sitoshi Kitamura and learning all about the different eras, the food, the houses the weapons and cave art of the Stone age period. We enjoyed a visit to The Great North Museum, where we took part in a workshop where we were able to handle a range of artefacts and explore the Prehistoric Gallery. We finished off our topic with a Stone Age day where we travelled back in time through a Now Press Play experience and carried out some wonderful activities in our forest. We learned survival skills, built our own dens, completed cave art, were hunter gatherers and flint knapped our own tools! We have all loved this topic!

On top of all this we have learned netball skills with an external coach, participated in a golf festival, we have started learning French with Mrs Hamill and made a pneumatic toy in DT!



Year 4

Year 4 have enjoyed an exciting start to the new academic year. During the course of our 'Road Trip USA' topic we have learned about the history and geographical features of the USA, as well as looking at inspirational people who have shaped the country. We began by having America Day in which we learned local dialect, researched the 50 states and had the opportunity to taste some delicious American sweet treats. The class novel of 'Indian in the Cupboard' proved very popular and this led to us looking at Native American myths in English and studying the Iroquois tribe, on which the story is based.

In Science, we have been looking at teeth and the digestive system. Captain Chemistry came in and brought in various animal skulls for us to study. We finished the lesson by making a fully working model of the human digestive system showing the journey that our food makes from the moment we swallow the food until it leaves our bodies!

In DT, we made some slingshot cars which we had the opportunity to test afterwards. Our Art topic saw us designing and then making Native American wall hangings, developing our sewing skills at the same time.

Our RE topic saw us looking at the Holy Trinity and the baptism of Jesus. We learned the difference between an infant and believer's baptism and examined how the baptism of Jesus is represented in the Bible and through different artists.



Year 5

It has been an extremely busy first half term in Year 5 where the children have settled really well into the new academic year.

As well as all of their curriculum studies, the children have had many other opportunities for engagement and learning. They enjoyed the first residential trip of the year when they visited our partner school, Birchwood Primary, as well as spending a day at the National Space Centre in Leicester and an afternoon at Cadbury World.

Children in 5MS have been completing a "Wind Warriors" project with OASES, where they have been looking at sustainable energy sources, designing, building and testing wind turbines. 5SJ will be completing the same project later in the academic year. We have also had Captain Chemistry in both Y5 classes, helping develop our knowledge and understanding of our Space topic.

On Wednesday mornings, one of the Y5 classes have been working alongside music specialists where they have explored composition and composing through GarageBand app. 5SJ have

really enjoyed their swimming sessions and the progress made during these has been lovely to see.



Year 6

Year 6 have enjoyed the start of their final year at Lanchester EP. Our topic for this half-term has been Darwin's Delights. We have enjoyed finding out about how Charles Darwin changed the scientific world with his views and theories around human evolution. We have found out about the evidence he collected during his round the world journey on the HMS Beagle and we have explored the amazing Galapagos Islands – the focus of much of his work.

We have read 'Wonder' as our class text and have been moved by August Pullman's first year at school. This has been the focus of our writing in class; we have written a formal letter and rewritten a chapter of the book from the point of view of another character. We would recommend that you read the book if you haven't already. It is an uplifting and emotional rollercoaster of a novel that explores attitudes to differences.

During this half term, we met our Reception class buddies. It is wonderful to be given the opportunity to work with some of the youngest children in school. We have spent time in their class, exploring the inside and outside environment, and we introduced them in our new starters' service at church.

