



LANCHESTER E.P. (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



Weekly Bulletin 4 – Friday 6th December 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Every letter seems to start with the same words – what a busy week it has been – but it has been another busy week! Our European partners were here from Germany and Hungary and loved spending some quality time in different classes and experiencing the English education system! They saw lots of Durham and Newcastle too but what really surprised me was the fact that they had never seen a Christmas cracker before! Perhaps this is something we can explore in school – different Christmas traditions across Europe. It certainly was a focus of our conversations for some time.

Then our choir sang in their first concert of the year in All Saints Church on Thursday night. Wow! They were just wonderful. A huge thanks to Mrs Knighton and all the children (and parents for bringing them) for all the time and effort they have put into such a very special performance. Well done to them all!

Gift Shop – Friends of the School

This is a wonderful initiative organised by some of our very dedicated parents through Friends of the School. The first group of children have been this week and the remainder of the children will visit the shop on Tuesday and Friday next week. A huge thank you to everyone involved.

Old Winter Coats

We would like to say a huge thank you for the amazing response to the winter coat collection. Our Rotakids organised this after one of our parents brought it to our attention – thanks for that. Over 70 coats donated from our school (and 150+ from the village) have now been taken to Consett Police after our main entrance was over-run with them! Thank you all so much for your great generosity and our wonderful parent for organising it all!

Christmas Card Designs – Deadline of 9am Monday Morning

All children should have brought their proof home of their Christmas Card Design. We did ask for these to be returned by today. However, any brought in by 9am on Monday morning will also be accepted. However, please note that these are being collected on Monday morning and any late orders will not be able to be processed. Thank you.

Monday 9th December – Year 6 at Forest Schools

On Monday, it is the turn of our oldest children to enjoy a Forest Schools session. All children will need warm, waterproof outdoor clothing and wellingtons/waterproof boots.

Tuesday 10th December – Friends of the School Gift Shop

Children who have pre-ordered their gifts from Nursery, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 5 will all visit the gift shop on Tuesday as well as some children who were absent this week. It is so lovely to see the love in their eyes and the excitement of giving in the children's faces as they choose their gifts for their loved ones!

Tuesday 10th December – Choir singing at Lynwood House

The choir will be singing at Lynwood House's Christmas Lunch on Tuesday. They will be accompanied by two members of staff and will have a late lunch on their return to school.

Tuesday 10th December – Year 6 in Newcastle

Our Year 6 children are looking forward to one of the highlights of their year! They will be enjoying a great day out, taking the coach to Durham, train to Newcastle, visiting Fenwick's Window before exploring the quayside, enjoying lunch in Uno's Pizzeria followed by the afternoon at the pantomime – Beauty and the Beast - at Newcastle Theatre Royal. I am sure they will all have a wonderful day!

Wednesday 11th December – Early Years Nativities

Our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Nativity performances will be held in the Main School Hall on Wednesday 11th December at 10am and 2pm. The children in Leopards (Mr McLoughlin), Goldfish (Mrs Nash), Hedgehogs (Mrs Davis) and the Mon-Wed Robins (Mrs Moran) will take part in the morning performance. The children in Dolphins (Mr Osmond), Eagles (Miss Butler) and Wed-Fri and 30 hour Robins (Mrs Moran) will take part in the afternoon performance.

Children are welcome to dress up in Christmas themed clothes. These could be party clothes or they can come as characters from the Nativity. If your child is uncomfortable being dressed up, they can just come in normal non-uniform clothes. The Nativity performances in EYFS are planned as a relaxed, fun, singalong event, so please be prepared to join in! Please note, if you feel that your Nursery child needs to come home with you after their performance, please feel free to take them. The first time performing in a crowded hall can be a little overwhelming for some!

Wednesday 11th December – Choir Singing at Lanchester Garden Centre

Our choir are singing at 3pm at Lanchester Garden Centre on Wednesday 11th December in aid of Henry Dancer Days. We are hoping that parents/carers/families can transport the children there although we will do our best to ensure as many as possible are able to go as possible! The children should be collected from school at 2.40pm. Please do not come earlier as none of the choir will be able to leave school until the Early Years Nativity has finished. Siblings can also be taken at the same time. Please note, the children will not be returning to school – they can go straight home as soon as the performance is finished. If you have any questions at all about this, please just ask!

Thursday 12th December – Year 4 Trip

Our Year 4 children are visiting Jorvik Centre in York on Thursday. Please remember that they will be leaving school at 8:00am and will not return until 4pm. All children will need a packed lunch for the day and should wear warm, non-uniform clothes that are suitable for outdoor activities.

Thursday 12th December – New College Performing Arts Performance

We are always very fortunate in being able to welcome New College Performing Arts students into school. This year, they are performing The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe for Year 2 – Year 6. This is always a very different and special production and I know the children will have a fabulous morning!

Thursday 12th December – Puppet Show

Meanwhile, children in Early Years and Year 1 will enjoy the Nativity puppet show. This has become an annual event when we welcome St Nicholas' Church and their amazing puppet show into school. Again, I am sure the children will thoroughly enjoy this great experience.

Friday 13th December – Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day

Our Christmas Dinner is on Friday 13th December and we are suggesting children come into school with a Christmas Jumper on for the day to help get into the festive spirit. Our school cooks are incredibly committed in ensuring all children have a wonderful Christmas meal and I am sure they will all enjoy the day in school!

Sunday 15th December – Messy Church

Messy Church is on Sunday 15th December in All Saints Church – look out for the flyer which will come home next week!

Safety around School

I would just like to remind you that the safety of our children is of paramount importance to us. As the mornings and evenings are becoming increasingly darker, it makes the roads and paths around school, that little bit more challenging at key times in the day when it is so very busy. Please remember that our children are precious – please drive and park with consideration to others at all times.

Early Years News

Thanks to all who supported our Autumn Treasure Hunt. We raised £260 which will go towards the purchase of new equipment for Outdoor Learning in EYFS.

Please can you gently remind your child not to bring school things home with them, we use a lot of small equipment, such as vehicles, shiny stones and animal counters and we understand how tempting it is to put them in pockets to borrow, but we keep running low on our bits and pieces!

For our Nativity performances next week, your child is welcome to wear Christmas clothing or Nativity costumes if they would like to. We are happy to help the children get changed if they prefer to come to school in uniform, and if they prefer to stay in uniform, that is fine too. We aim for our performances to be relaxed and joyful, but sometimes the noise and the crowd is too much for our little ones and they may prefer to be at the side with an adult, or to sit with you during the performance.

Next Friday we will send home a bag for your child to bring back on Party Day (Wednesday 18th) with some party treats to eat. We do this so that everybody has something they enjoy. Please don't feel the need to give them lots - those who stay all day will still have a lunch to eat too! We will provide drinks on Party Day. More information will come with the bag.

Christmas Presents

As a staff, we really appreciate the constant support and thanks you give us all throughout the year. At this time of year especially – when we are all thinking of those less fortunate than ourselves – we often get quite overwhelmed with the number of gifts that are brought into school for all the staff. Whilst this is exceptionally kind of you all and we really appreciate the thought and generosity that goes into these gifts, we would just like to say that it is not something that we expect at all. This year, whilst we do not want to assume anything at all, we did wonder whether you would rather make a small donation to our chosen charity of the year in lieu of any gifts, although this is obviously completely up to you and again, certainly not an expectation. Our chosen charity this year is NECCR – North East Children's Cancer Research Fund.

Advance Notices

Monday 16th December 10am and 2pm – KS1 Nativity in the Junior Hall

Tuesday 17th December – Choir singing at Lynwood House at lunchtime

Tuesday 17th December – KS1 and Lower KS2 Christmas Parties

Tuesday 17th December – Carols & Hot Chocolate Round the Christmas Tree at 3.30pm

Wednesday 18th December – Early Years and Upper KS2 Parties

Thursday 19th December 10am and 2pm – KS2 Nativity and Christingle in All Saints Church

Friday 20th December – School Closed – LIG Holiday Club

As usual, if there is anything at all that you would like to talk about, or that is concerning you, please do not hesitate to contact me at school. We are here to help you and your child.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Davis

Mrs Jane Davis
Head Teacher