



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 12th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was lovely to see so many of you at 'Meet the Teacher' on Tuesday night after school. We hope you found it useful. If you were unable to make it, the presentations will be on our website from Monday.

Staff News

We have had a few changes in some staffing roles since the summer so thought it would be useful to update you on these.

We appointed a Teaching Assistant to work in our 2-year-old room and Mrs Fiona Gittins started with us last week. I think she feels as though she has been here forever, and we are thrilled to have her join our team.

Many of you will have noticed that Mrs Sally Brewer has taken on the role as leader of our wrap around care. We were very sorry to say goodbye to Mr Kai Simpson and thank him for his loyal service to us last year. Meanwhile, Miss Oksana Pavliuk has taken over as leader of our Early Years Wrap Around Club. Both staff members are known to the children as they also work over a lunchtime.

Miss Rebecca Lawler and Miss Oksana Pavliuk are also both working in the Early Years this year and we welcome them to our EYFS team.

I know some of you were asking this week about my decision to reduce my working hours by 20% this year. For most of the time, nobody will notice any difference as I still have overall responsibility for the strategic leadership of the school. When I am not at work, I will let you know and put an Out of Office signatory on my email, so you are aware. During this time, Mr Andrew Knighton, Deputy Head Teacher, will be managing the school - he will still be teaching his class every morning. If you have any questions about this, please just get in touch.

Parking

I would urge you all to remember that parking is an issue in the village and this is especially problematic at drop off and pick up times. Whilst I realise it must be very frustrating trying to find a parking space, I would urge you all to remember that the majority of cars at these times have young children in them who find it quite scary to see adults lose their temper and swear at others. We had not even reached the end of the first week back before we had our first incident outside school. Please treat and talk to others with respect and kindness – just like we try to instil into our children. Thank you.

Choir

I don't think any of us quite expected the huge number of children wanting to join our KS2 choir this year and this left us with quite an issue and some disappointed children. I am delighted to inform you that we have managed to rectify this problem, thanks to the goodwill of our staff. From Tuesday next week (Tuesday 16th September) Mrs Hamill and Mrs Moran will run a Year 3 singing group whilst Mrs Knighton has Y4/5/6 choir. This means that all children who put their names on a waiting list, will now be able to come along. If your child had signed up originally, their name will be re-added to the Choir list on Arbor. If you no longer want your child to attend, please email the School Office who will remove their name.

Attendance Information

Good, regular school attendance is key to help children to flourish and thrive, both academically and socially. Every day in school is very important for your child and will enable them maintain a consistent base on which they can build their ongoing education. It is also crucial that your child arrives in school punctually and ready

for the day ahead, as otherwise your child risks missing valuable information, as well as opportunities to bond and socialise with their peers.

Obviously, we understand that sometimes children need to be absent from school due to appointments, illness or other unforeseen circumstances. Should your child be unable to come to school, it is the responsibility of parents/carers to contact school as soon as possible on the first day of absence. We also ask that should your child need to be absent for a prolonged period of time, that you keep in touch with us so that we know when your child is likely to return to school and whether they will need any support to enable them to do this.

Holidays in Term Time

I would just like to remind you all that the rules for holidays in term time are very strict and just cannot be authorised. The only time absences from school would be authorised (apart from illness) would be if the absence was 'Unexpected and Unavoidable'. However, it is still very important that leave of absence forms are completed for any time off – these are available on our website or from the School Office.

We would always encourage families to take children on holiday during school holidays, however if you are unable to do this, you should complete a Leave of Absence Form which is available on school's website or can be collected from the School Office. ***It is important that we are informed of your child's whereabouts if they are not at school – as a school we have a responsibility to safeguard children. If we are not given information from you and are unable to make contact, this would be a cause for concern.***

It is also important to note that regulations from the Department of Education means that once your child is of compulsory school age, you are at risk of being issued with a Fixed Penalty (fine) should there be 5 days of unauthorised absence/holiday within a ten-rolling week period. This fine is £160 per parent per child if paid within 28 days – reduced to £80 per parent per child if paid within 21 days. Non-payment of the fine will lead to prosecution by the Local Authority.

We enjoy good relationships with our families and like to work with you. However, there have been occasions when parents/carers have informed us that their child is poorly, when it is obvious their child has, in fact, been on holiday. Children talk quite openly and freely about what they and their friends have been up to!

Wrap Around Care

Don't forget that we now have our tea-time club as well and can provide childcare until 6pm every day. For £12, your child can enjoy childcare and a light tea in the safety of our school. Please note, these sessions must be booked and paid for in advance via Arbor, and you will be charged whether or not the session is used. If you have an emergency and do need to book into tea time club on the day, please contact the school office and we can book your child in as a one-off.

Please note, we have more and more people who are collecting their children late from wrap around care. We will be keeping an eye on this and you may incur a further charge.

Parent Information Leaflets

These will go out to all parents and carers on Monday and inform you about what your child will be learning this half-term.

Head Boy/Girl and Prefects

After a very successful first year of appointing prefects and Head Boy and Girls along with their Deputies, we are now opening these leadership opportunities up to our current Year 6 children. If any child would like to apply for one of these roles, they will need to write a letter, addressed to me, to request an application form and job description. These will then be given to the children, and all applications need to be submitted to myself by 9am on Monday 22nd September. Shortlisting for these positions will take place that afternoon and interviews will take place later in the week.

Courageous Advocacy in Action

There are many children who were really affected by the work we undertook on the destruction of the Rainforests and our show, Yanomamo, during the summer term. Many have written letters to others, designed posters and been quite outspoken about what we can all do to help.

For Noah in Year 4, this has culminated in him organising a Movie Fundraiser for WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) whose mission is to create a world where people and nature thrive together. As he says: 'It is time for action, not words to restore nature and tackle climate change.'

The Movie Fundraiser takes place tomorrow – Saturday 13th September at The Roxy in Leadgate at 3pm. Donations can be made via the link below if you would like to donate to this charity to support our children whose work in school began this campaign: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/sloane-murray-1>

Miss Wood - Year 1 Teacher

I apologise for an error in the introductory letter sent out before the start of term. I am sure most of you will have realised that the email address for Miss Wood, one of our Year 1 teachers, is in fact: j.wood@lanchesterep.net In the original letter I had miraculously turned her into a Watt!

Consett Academy Event for Year 5 and Year 6 Parents/Carers/Children

Mr Urwin, Principal of Consett Academy, has been in touch this week to ask Year 5 & Year 6 parents, carers and pupils up to Consett Academy on Thursday 24th September from 5pm – 6pm when he will meet and greet you all. This session is just for our school so that you can have some quality time with Mr Urwin and ask as many questions as you want!

This Week's Big Question

This week's Big Question has been, 'What is Love?' Love is one of our school values so Worship this week has been all about love. We had a perfect example of Love in Action with so many children and staff taking part in the Great North Run last weekend, raising money for such good causes. Please ask your children about the Big Question – you will be quite surprised at how much they tell you!

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	99.33	99.58	Year 4	95.56	96.19
Year 1	95.85	96.86	Year 5	98.55	98.48
Year 2	99.22	99.15	Year 6	98.81	98.49
Year 3	99.34	98.91	Whole School	98.09	98.24%

Diary Dates for Next Week

Sunday 14th September – Informal Service at All Saints' Church

There is a special service at All Saints' Church on Sunday morning at 10.30am entitled 'New Beginnings'. Children are leading the service and are encouraged to bring their school bags and backpacks to be blessed. I know Revd Lesley would be thrilled to welcome lots of you!

Monday 15th September – Mr Osmond's Class Welcome Service in All Saints' Church at 2pm and

We look forward to welcoming parents and carers to this very special service in All Saints' Church on Monday afternoon at 2pm for Mr Osmond's Class. The Reception children will walk to and from church with their Year 6 buddies and are to be collected as normal from school at 3.15pm. I know they will be very proud of themselves!

Monday 15th September – Consett Academy Open Evening

Consett Academy are holding an Open Evening for all parents and carers of Year 5 and Year 6 children. This takes place on Monday evening between 3.30pm and 6.30pm.

Monday 15th September – Northern Ireland Meeting Postponed until Monday 22nd September

Thank you to everyone who has been in touch with us about the clash between Secondary School Open Evenings and our Northern Ireland Residential Meeting. We have now moved this to Monday 22nd September at 5.30pm.

Tuesday 16th September – Mrs Lydon’s Class Welcome Service in All Saints’ Church at 2pm

We look forward to welcoming parents and carers to this very special service in All Saints’ Church on Tuesday afternoon at 2pm for Mrs Lydon’s Class. The Reception children will walk to and from church with their Year 6 buddies and are to be collected as normal from school at 3.15pm. I know they will be very proud of themselves!

Tuesday 16th September – Phonics Information Session for Reception and Year 1 Parents and Carers

We are holding a Phonics Information Session to explain how we teach phonics, more detail about the scheme we use and what you can expect your child to be learning and when. There will be two sessions on Tuesday – one at 9am and this will then be repeated at 5.30pm. Please come to the Main Entrance for both sessions. We look forward to seeing you there.

Thursday 18th September – Year 5 Parent/Carer Meeting about PGL and Birchwood at 5.30pm

We have made a provisional booking for our Year 5 children to have a 3-night outdoor adventure residential at a new PGL Centre. I visited PGL Newby Wiske, near Northallerton last week. This is a relatively new centre (opened March 2023) and was very impressed with the whole centre. Therefore, we will be taking our Year 5 children to this base from Sunday 14th June to Wednesday 17th June 2026. Come along to the meeting to see some photos and find out more about what the children will be doing during their time there. A letter and the presentation will be put on the website for any parents and carers unable to make the meeting.

We will also tell you a little more about their overnight visit to Birchwood at the end of the meeting too.

Friday 19th September – Year 2 at Trimcomalee, Hartlepool Marina

Year 2 are really looking forward to their day in Hartlepool on Friday. All children will need to wear school uniform for the day and will need a packed lunch. They will leave at 9am sharp and return to school in time for the end of the school day. Let’s hope the weather is kind to them!

Friday 19th September – Mrs Hamill with Year 6

Mrs Hamill, Head Teacher of St Bede’s is coming to talk to our Year 6 children on Friday afternoon at 2.45pm. This will be followed by a meeting with parents and carers at 3.15pm. Please wait for your children on the school yard and you will be invited to make your way back into school once all children from other year groups have left. The meeting will take place in Mr Knighton’s classroom.

Positive Thinking

***Friendship, love, health, energy, enthusiasm and joy
are the things that make life worth living and exploring.***

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