



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



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another action-packed week for us in school with the Year 5 residential to the Midlands, Year 1 at The Great North Museum, another Reception Welcome Service, parent workshops, the photographer in school and the usual work taking place in all classrooms. Once again, the children have been a credit to themselves and their families as well as being great ambassadors for our school.

As I write this, I am sitting, waiting for our Year 5 children to finally fall asleep. School residential are such an important part of growing up and help their independence and resilience so much. I was talking to an ex pupil of ours this week who is now 17 years old and she vividly remembers her residential during her time with us – it really is lovely that they retain such wonderful memories of these special times too. It is always a privilege to spend time with your children who are so polite and respectful towards each other.

Time is marching on and it is hard to believe that we are in October already. As the weather gets cooler and wetter (although I am not sure if that is possible!), please make sure your children have coats with them. They do need them for playtimes.

This week we also had our second Reception Welcome Service and once again, it was lovely to welcome so many parents and families into church. Our Year 6 buddies were amazingly responsible towards the younger children and I do think we have established friendships for life.

Thank you to all the parents and carers who came along to the Phonics/Reading/Spelling Information Sessions on Tuesday. We hope you found them useful. For those who were unable to make it, these PowerPoints are now on our website. Please take a look at them as they do have some useful links too. Next week we have our Maths sessions where we will share how we teach Maths across the school. Please sign up to these sessions via the link here: [Maths Workshops](#).

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.

Applying for a Secondary School Place - Deadline Reminder

Applications for Secondary School places close on 31st October. It is imperative that you read the School Admissions online guidance for parents, which will help you to make your application. For the guidance, and to apply for a place, go to www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions.

Applying for a Reception Place – Deadline Reminder

If your child was born between 1st September 2020 and the 31st August 2021, you will need to start applying for a primary school place. Applications for Reception places close on 15th January 2025. Please note that even if your child attends our Nursery, you must still apply to the Local Authority for a place in Reception. In the past we have had families miss out on places because they haven't applied, thinking that they will automatically continue into Reception. To apply, please visit [Primary school places - Durham County Council](#).

Sensory Equipment in School

We have noticed that there is a growing number of children who are bringing sensory equipment from home to help them in school (e.g. chew toys, ear defenders, fidget toys). If you feel that your child would benefit from using these, can we please ask that you speak to your child's class teacher before sending anything into school? We know that this equipment can be extremely beneficial for some children, however it is essential that we put plans and boundaries in place for their safe and effective use before being introduced in school.

Thank you for your support and co-operation with this.

Times Tables Rockstars

Can we remind parents of the importance of supporting their children with learning multiplication tables? They underpin so much of the children's learning in both Key Stage 2 and beyond. When it comes to times tables, speed AND accuracy are important – the more facts your child remembers, the easier it is for them to answer harder calculations.



Times Table Rock Stars is a fun and challenging programme designed to help students master the times tables! To be a Times Table Rock Star you need to answer any multiplication fact up to 12×12 in less than 3 seconds!

It's essential that your child does a little bit of times table practice every night. Short bursts of daily practise are more effective than spending hours once a week.

Why not ask your child to show you Times Tables Rock Stars at home? With your praise and reminders, they will be more motivated to learn their tables and improve their maths!

If you have any questions about Maths in school or at home, please contact your child's class teacher.

Parenting When Separated Programme

Durham County Council are running free practical courses for parents or carers who are going through a separation, or are already separated, helping to support both parents and children. Each course will run for 6 weeks for around 2 hours a week. The courses are available as follows:

- Wednesdays 18:00pm-20:00pm Starting Wednesday 6th November – online course
- Wednesdays 12:00pm-14:00pm Starting Wednesday 6th November – face-to-face at Stanley
- Fridays 12:30pm-14:30pm Starting Friday 8th November – online course

To Book a place or find out more information please contact them via: 07917 474856 or email: PWS@durham.gov.uk.



Separated or divorced from your partner?

Don't let your separation cause issues for your children



'A practical and positive course for parents who are preparing for, going through or have gone through a separation or divorce. To support both you and your children.'

Our FREE Parenting When Separated 6 week course gives you all the information you need.

The course runs for 6 weeks, and each session is for 2 hours.

We have groups running across County Durham online and face to face.

To Book a place or find out more information please text/whatsapp/call 07917 474856 or email PWS@durham.gov.uk

Attendance

Year Group	Current Week Attendance Percentage	Attendance Percentage to Date
Reception	93.5%	95.4%
Year 1	96.6%	97.3%
Year 2	100%	97.6%
Year 3	97.1%	98.3%
Year 4	96.4%	97.6%
Year 5	99.8%	98.3%
Year 6	97.5%	96.4%
Whole School	97.3%	97.3%

Diary Dates for Next Week

Monday 7th October 2024 – Harvest Festival Celebrations

The whole school will be enjoying our Harvest Festival Celebrations on Monday when we give thanks for all that we have. If you as a family have enough to eat and drink, then please consider allowing your child to bring a donation for a local foodbank to school. All donations will be blessed during our Harvest Worship on Monday. We thank you in advance for any and all donations.

Wednesday 9th October 2024 – Maths Parent Information Sessions at 9am and 5.30pm

Our Maths Parent Information Sessions will be held on Wednesday 9th October at 9am and 5.30pm. Please sign up [here](#) and come to the Main Entrance where we will be waiting to greet you. I am sure all parents and carers will find this session useful – not just those of younger children.

Wednesday 9th October 2024 – Miss Jackson’s Class at Ushaw College

Miss Jacksons’ class will be going to Ushaw College on Wednesday to visit their Matisse print exhibition and learn about his art – what inspired him, how he conveyed his ideas in his prints and how they can create their own art. By the end of the day the children will have created their own collage scenes with moving elements, and will then use stop motion to animate their scenes. Children will need to come into school in uniform and will need to bring a packed lunch and drink. They will be back in school for normal school finishing time.

Thursday 10th October 2024 – World Mental Health Day

We will be recognising World Mental Health Day and engaging in some well-being activities during the day. As a school, we put the well-being of our children at the forefront of everything we do and think it is important to recognise World Mental Health Day. However, it is also important to appreciate that every day is just as important as another and no single day should be any different either.

Thursday 10th October 2024 – Year 5&6 Boys’ Football League

The second round of matches will be played on Thursday night at Consett Academy, starting straight after school. Parents and Carers of the boys involved will receive an email with all the relevant information.

Friday 11th October – Reception & Year 6 Heights & Weights Checks

All parents/carers of children in these year groups will have received a letter and leaflet about these checks, which includes information on how to opt out of this. Please note, this is done very sensitively and the information is not shared with anyone in school.

Friday 11th October 2024 – Cross Country at Tanfield

Some of our KS2 children will be taking part in a Cross Country Festival at Tanfield on Friday morning. An email will be sent to those children involved with further information. They will return to school in time for their dinner as normal.

Advance Notices

Holiday Club & Football Camp in School at Half Term

LJG Sports Coaching will be hosting a holiday club and football camp in school during the October half term, from Monday 28th October to Thursday 31st October. If you would like to book a place, please follow these links:

Holiday club: <https://forms.gle/aMWPM3BqNWp8kY1n9>

Football camp: <https://forms.gle/33cqt421Mvjs8Hz46>

Early Years News

Thanks to all the Nursery parents who gave permission for their child to take part in assessments for the Communication Friendly Settings Project. We welcomed Elizabeth from Leeds University into Nursery last week and she spent some time with the children, assessing the children's speaking, listening and understanding skills. This will be repeated at the end of the year to see what progress the children have made through accessing our normal Nursery curriculum. Although we have not been selected to receive CFS training this year, we will do next year, so thank you for your support.

We are very excited to be making some changes to our EYFS outdoor area over the next few weeks. Now that our new Nursery children are settled, we have begun to share the outdoor area with Reception again. We are going to be adding some new areas to the provision and improving old favourites. In previous years, we have benefitted from very kind donations, which have very much enhanced the opportunities we have to offer. If you have anything that might be useful, please let us know. These are some of the things which would be useful: quick drying materials such as organza, fleece blankets and shower curtains; tarpaulins; milk and bread crates; wooden pallets – tough ones in good condition; tough buckets; cable drums or reels; tubes, guttering and funnels, hosepipe, bore pipes and other pipes; ramps and lengths of plastics and other materials such as corrugated transparent plastic; nets; tyres – bicycle, motorbike, go-kart and car tyres; wheelbarrow; baskets for collecting and transporting; steering wheels. We are also still on the lookout for large umbrellas and waterproofs to fit 3-6 year olds. Any help is appreciated!

Key Stage 1 News

It has been a really fun week in Year 1 with lots of exciting dinosaur activities to take part in. Firstly we discovered some gigantic Dinosaur eggs in the Library on Tuesday. We conducted an investigation to see where they had come from and what type of Dinosaur species they may be. We discovered they were from an ancient species of Dinosaur called a Lancasaurus. We then wrote about this Dinosaur in our English lessons.

On Thursday we also visited the Hancock museum to carry out a Dinosaur workshop and see the fossils and skeleton of a T-Rex. We had a really fantastic day and learned lots of exciting things about Dinosaurs.



In Year 2 we have also had a lot of fun with our topic 'Land Ahoy' which is all about Pirates. Last week we visited a ship called the HMS Trincomalee in Hartlepool. Since then we have done lots of writing about Pirates in class. Mrs Tate and Mrs Burke have also been very impressed with all the work children have been doing at home including making their own Pirate Ships and drawing their own treasure maps.



Key Stage 2 News

Homework Typo

Apologies for a typo in last week's letter. All homework in KS2 is given out on a Thursday and expected to be handed in on a **Tuesday** – not Wednesday as was printed in last week's letter. Thank you.

Welcome Service

Our Year 6 children have spent the last two Tuesday afternoons with Reception Class to help out with the New Starters Welcome Church Service. The children in Mr Stoker and Mr Knighton's classes have been spending time with their 'buddies' in Reception. The Year 6 children have played alongside their 'buddies' and found out some information about each one – their favourite colour, favourite food, favourite book and so on. This information was then shared in the church during the Welcome Service. It has been wonderful to see the oldest children in school working with and showing great maturity as they supported some of our youngest children. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the services in church.

Year 5 Visit to The National Space Centre, Birchwood and Cadbury World.

As part of their Stargazers topic, our Year 5 children are currently enjoying their annual visit to the National Space Centre in Leicester and Cadbury World in Birmingham. This is always a thoroughly enjoyable trip that enables to children to explore both space travel and chocolate! We are grateful to the hospitality of our friends at Birchwood Primary School to enable this trip to take place. We look forward to sharing the details of the trip and finding out how much chocolate the children devoured next week!

Positive Thinking

'If you see someone without a smile, give them one of yours' – Dolly Parton

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)

Lanchester Endowed Parochial Primary School

DIARY DATES

Wednesday 9 th October	9am	Maths Parent Workshop
Wednesday 9 th October	All Day	5SJ to Ushaw College for Matisse Workshop
Wednesday 9 th October	5.30pm	Maths Parent Workshop
Thursday 10 th October	3.45 – 5pm	Boys' Football Team at Consett Football Club
Friday 11 th October	Morning	Cross Country at Tanfield School for KS2
Friday 11 th October	All Day	Reception & Year 6 Heights & Weights
Monday 14 th October	All Day	Captain Chemistry with Year 5
Tuesday 15 th October	All Day	Captain Chemistry with Year 4
Wednesday 16 th October	All Day	Flu Immunisations
Thursday 17 th October	3.45 – 5pm	Boys' Football Team at Consett Football Club
Monday 21 st October	3.30pm – 6pm	Parent/Carer Meetings
Tuesday 22 nd October	3.30pm – 6pm	Parent/Carer Meetings
Wednesday 23 rd October	All Day	5MS to Ushaw College for Matisse Workshop
Wednesday 23 rd October	Afternoon	Year 2 at Sports Festival
Thursday 24 th October	3.45 – 5pm	Boys' Football Team at Consett Football Club
Friday 25 th October	5.15pm	School Closes for Half-Term Holiday
<i>LJG Holiday Club</i>		
<i>Monday 28th October – Thursday 31st October in School</i>		
Monday 4 th November	7.30am	School Re-Opens
Thursday 7 th November	2.15pm – 3pm	Reception Disco
Thursday 7 th November	3.15pm – 4.15pm	Year 1 and Year 2 Disco
Thursday 7 th November	3.45 – 5pm	Boys' Football Team at Consett Academy
Thursday 7 th November	4.30pm – 6pm	Year 3 – Year 6 Disco
Tuesday 12 th November	All Day	Reception at The Laing Art Gallery
Tuesday 12 th November	3.30pm – 4.30pm	SEND Support Plans Reviewed with Parents
Wednesday 13 th November	Afternoon	Year 5 & Year 6 at Louisa Centre – Indoor Athletics
Thursday 21 st November	1.30pm	Senior Choir Concert at Community Centre
<i>Friday 22nd November</i>	<i>6.00pm</i>	<i>SCHOOL CLOSSES</i>
<i>Monday 25th November</i>	<i>All Day</i>	<i>School Closed for Staff Training Day</i>
Week Beg. Monday 2 nd December	All Week	Enterprise Week
Thursday 5 th December	All Day	Year 6 at Newcastle and Theatre Royal for Pantomime
Friday 6 th December	3.15pm – 5pm	Christmas Fair
Wednesday 11 th December	10am	Nursery Nativity Celebration
Wednesday 11 th December	2pm	Nursery Nativity Celebration
Thursday 12 th December	10am	Reception Nativity
Thursday 12 th December	2pm	Reception Nativity
Friday 13 th December	Lunchtime	Christmas Dinner
Friday 13 th December	All Day	Winter Wonderland Day for Year 1 – Year 6
Monday 16 th December	10am	KS1 Nativity
Monday 16 th December	2pm	KS1 Nativity
Tuesday 17 th December	2pm	Year 6 Christmas Play
Tuesday 17 th December	6pm	Year 6 Christmas Play
Tuesday 17 th December	All Day	Nursery and Reception Winter Wonderland Day

Wednesday 18 th December	All Day	Nursery and Reception Party Day
Wednesday 18 th December	Morning	Year 1 Party
Wednesday 18 th December	All Day	The Littlest Elf Performance for EYFS and Year 1
Wednesday 18 th December	Afternoon	Year 2 Party
Thursday 19 th December	9.30am	KS1 Christmas Service
Thursday 19 th December	Morning	Year 3 Party
Thursday 19 th December	All Day	Nursery Winter Wonderland Day
Thursday 19 th December	Afternoon	Year 4 Party
Friday 20 th December	9.30am	Mrs Coyle's Class & Year 4 Christingle and Service
Friday 20 th December	11am	Miss Watt's Class & Year 5 Christingle and Service
Friday 20 th December	Morning	Year 6 Party
Friday 20 th December	Afternoon	Year 5 Party
Friday 20 th December	6pm	School Closes for Christmas Holiday
Christmas Holiday		
Monday 6 th January	7.30am	School Re-Opens
Monday 20 th January	All Day	Blue Monday organised by Friends of the School
Thursday 30 th January	3.45 – 5pm	Girls' Football Team at Consett Academy
Thursday 6 th February	3.45 – 5pm	Girls' Football Team at Consett Academy
Thursday 13 th February	3.45 – 5pm	Girls' Football Team at Consett Academy
Monday 17 th February	3.30pm – 6pm	Parent/Carer Meetings
Tuesday 18 th February	3.30pm – 6pm	Parent/Carer Meetings
Thursday 20 th February	3.45 – 5pm	Girls' Football Team at Consett Academy
Friday 21 st February	6pm	School Closes for Half Term Holiday
Half-Term Holiday		
Saturday 1 st March	Early!	Ski Residential Departs from Newcastle Airport
Tuesday 1 st April	Overnight	Mr Adamson's Class at Seahouses
Wednesday 2 nd April	Overnight	Mr Taylor's Class at Seahouses
Friday 4 th April	All Day	Dare to be Different Day - Friends of the School
Monday 7 th April	Overnight	Mrs Coyle's Class at Birdoswald
Tuesday 8 th April	Overnight	Miss Watt's Class at Birdoswald
Thursday 10 th April	1.30pm	Easter Service
Friday 11 th April	6pm	School Closes for Easter Holidays
Easter Holiday		
Monday 28 th April	7.30am	School Opens
Week Beg. Monday 12 th May	All Week	Year 6 Statutory Tests
Week Beg. Monday 19 th May	All Week	Fun and Fitness Week
Thursday 22 nd May	6pm	School Closes
Half Term Holiday		
Monday 2 nd June	7.30am	School Re-Opens
Week Beg. Monday 9 th June	All Week	Year 1 Phonics Screening
Friday 13 th June	Overnight	Overnight Camp in School Field for Families - Friends
Sunday 15 th – Wednesday 18 th June	3 Nights	Year 5 PGL Residential
Week Beg. 23 rd June	All Week	Year 6 Northern Ireland Residential
Thursday 10 th July	Afternoon & Evening	KS2 Musical in Consett Empire Theatre
Friday 18 th July	6pm	School Closes for Summer Holidays

Statutory Test Dates**Monday 12th May – Friday 16th May – Year 6 Statutory Tests****Week Beginning Monday 2nd June – Year 4 Times Tables Multiplication Check****Monday 9th June – Friday 13th June – Year 1 Phonics Screening****Holiday Dates****2024 – 2025**

Holiday	Last Day at School	Re-Open for Teaching Purposes
Autumn Half Term	Friday 25 th October 2024	Monday 4 th November 2024
Long Weekend	Friday 22 nd November 2024	Tuesday 26 th November 2024
Christmas Holiday	Friday 20 th December 2024	Monday 6 th January 2025
Spring Half Term	Friday 21 st February 2025	Monday 3 rd March 2025
Easter Holiday	Friday 11 th April 2025	Monday 28 th April 2025
May Day	Friday 2 nd May 2025	Tuesday 6 th May 2025
Summer Half Term	Thursday 22 nd May 2025	Monday 2 nd June 2025
Summer Holiday	Friday 18 th July 2025	TBC