



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 29th November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I was very relieved, probably like many of you, that the snow came on a weekend rather than a week day! As we enter into the winter months, I want to reassure you that we rarely need to close our school. However, if the weather is especially bad, it may be necessary to open school slightly later in the day. We will always do absolutely everything we can to stay open. Any communication would be via Twitter in the first place (simply because it is the quickest way to get a message out) and this would then be confirmed with an email. However, let's be positive and hope that we will not have that issue this winter!

We have enjoyed a lovely four days in school with Captain Chemistry, Forest School and Christmas Carols echoing all around the school building! With only three weeks to go until Christmas, we have lots to fit in!

Names on Clothes

As the days are getting increasingly colder, children are bringing more layers and winter clothes into school to keep them warm at playtime. Thank you for your support with this, as we will always have some outdoor playtime each day unless it is exceptionally wet. Can we please ask that all items are named, especially gloves, hats and scarves? We have a growing number of items in lost property, especially in Key Stage 1 and we will place these outside on the KS1 yard at the end of the day next week. If items are named, we can reunite them with their owners much quicker. Thank you!

Year 1 Poetry Recital

Our Year 1 children have been developing their poetry-writing skills over the past couple of weeks and will be writing their own poems next week. They would love to invite their grown-ups to come to our poetry recital in the forest on Monday 9th December. For Mr McLoughlin's class, this will be from 9:15am until 10am. For Miss Wood's class, it will be from 10:30am until 11:15am. So that we have an idea of numbers, can you please click [here](#) to complete a form to let us know if you will be attending? Thank you.

Early Years – Can You Help?

We have had lots of discussion about how we hope to improve our outdoor area in EYFS. We have some money to spend, but some of the things we would like to add to enhance the children's play are things that we hope some of you might like to help us out with. We are looking for suitcases, dressing up clothes (we are happy to welcome anything for this, including unwanted costumes such as superheroes, pirates, princesses etc.) and also metal plates, cups, bowls, jugs and utensils for our mud kitchen area. As always, thank you very much for your support with this.

Attendance

Year Group	Current Week Attendance Percentage	Attendance Percentage to Date	Year Group	Current Week Attendance Percentage	Attendance Percentage to Date
Reception	95.6%	95.2%	Year 4	97.5%	98%
Year 1	95.1%	96.5%	Year 5	97.8%	98.1%
Year 2	95.5%	97.3%	Year 6	98.4%	97.4%
Year 3	98%	97.4%	Whole School	96.8%	97.1%

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.

Raffle Tickets

Raffle tickets should have gone home with your child this week. The raffle will be drawn in school on Monday 9th December, after the Christmas Fair on the Friday, and tickets will be available to buy from the fair too. There are some fantastic prizes again this year, including some very generous donations from local businesses, which we are very grateful for.

Nativity Tickets

Tickets for the nativities are available to buy on Arbor. Each day, the Office staff will go through the sales on Arbor and sort out the tickets purchased. Your child's teacher will then distribute these tickets out to their class either that day, or the day after. If you have yet to receive your additional tickets, then contact your child's class teacher. Additional tickets are £2 each and are limited due to capacity.

Sunderland Ticket Offer

You will have received an email regarding reduced price tickets for Sunderland vs Stoker City on Saturday 7th December, 12.30pm kick off. Tickets will be £10 for adults and £5 for under 16's. To buy tickets, follow the link in the email sent on 27th November, and make sure that every person attending the game has a registered online ticket account (details are in the email). Tickets must be purchased before 4.30pm on Friday 6th December. Thank you to AK Teaching Agency for this great offer.

Diary Dates for Next Week

Week Beginning Monday 2nd December – Enterprise Week

All classes have been given a small pot of money that they have been asked to make grow! The children will be enjoying making something this week with the aim of making a profit! I am sure they will tell you all about this when they start next week. Their creations will be on sale at the Christmas Fair so please look out for them when you come next Friday.

Thursday 5th December – Year 6 at Zizzi's and Theatre Royal

Year 6 are really looking forward to their annual visit Newcastle for the pantomime (Little Mermaid this year) and lunch at an Italian restaurant! They are to come to school in uniform as normal and will not need any lunch for the day. It is anticipated that they will return to school for approximately 5.30 - 5.45pm. We will send a tweet when we leave Newcastle.

Friday 6th December – Non-uniform Christmas Jumper Day

Children should come into school on Friday in their festive wear for our annual Christmas Jumper Day.

Reception Reindeer Dash with Year 6 Buddies - Friday 6th December

On Friday 6th December, children in Reception will be taking part in a Reindeer Dash, along with their Year 6 buddies, to help raise money for St Cuthbert's Hospice.

We would love Reception parents and carers to join in with this festive frolic around the school grounds. They will be starting their dash just after 9.30am so if you would like to join in, please gather outside the front of Reception for then (festive fancy dress optional). Please note we will be on the school field for part of the dash which can be quite muddy in places.

There will be music, reindeer antlers for each Reception child and lots of laughs along the way, finishing in the forest for a festive fire and some delicious (and well deserved) hot chocolate. Mr Innes might even bring his guitar if you're lucky!

Reception children should come into school wearing either their PE kit or a festive jumper - please make sure that your child is wrapped up warm as they will be outside for most of the morning. We hope to see you all there!

Friday 6th December - Christmas Fair 3.30pm – 5pm

Our Christmas Fair on Friday afternoon is going to be bigger and better than ever! We have a number of new games for the children to play including: Ball or Brussel, Choco Cards, Guess the name of the reindeer, Hook a Bag, Lucky Lapland Squares, Pick a Bauble to name just a few! We will also have all the enterprise gifts on sale, tombola's, raffle, refreshments, and a number of stalls for local businesses and even some of our Year 6 children!

Both choirs will also be adding to the festive spirit and will be singing – they will hopefully sing outside from 3.30pm. If you are happy for your child to sing, please complete the online form which will be emailed to all members of the choir separately.

As always, our Christmas Fair would not be possible without the help of our community. If you are able to spare some time to help us on the day, then please fill in the form [here](#). We will need people to help set up the Fair, man the stalls, and to clear up afterwards. At the moment, we have 4 people willing to help out. Thank you.

Please come around to the Junior Hall Door for entrance to the Christmas Fair which will start at 3.30pm. If your child is staying for the choir, complete the form and they will go to Mrs Knighton at the end of the school day. They need to be collected from the Main School Office entrance at 4.30pm. Any Year 6 prefects who are staying to help and their adult has signed the form will be accompanied by staff to the hall and their stall.

Please note, if you are attending the Christmas Fair **you will need to bring plenty of change** – we do not have a card machine this year. Thank you.

Positive Thinking

***Use your voice for kindness, your ears for compassion, your hands for charity,
your mind for truth and your heart for love.***

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)