



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 21st November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has caught a few of us out with the more challenging weather we have faced. Even though it makes life harder, it has made it seem very Christmassy so much earlier. At least children and the dogs enjoy making the most of the snow!

Decorating Hanley's Windows

Our Art Leaders had a very special job this morning when they all went down to Hanley's in the village to decorate their windows for Christmas. Wendy Hanley approached the school (she used to be one of our TAs) and said that she would love for their shop to be brightened up with pictures from the children and asked if we would be willing to decorate them. We rarely say no to a great community project like this and Miss Jackson immediately started working with the Art Leaders to decide what to do. Go along and see for yourselves – it is brilliant! Well done to all our Art Leaders – what a wonderful job you have done.

Retirement of Mrs Mandy Simpson (NOT Crozier!)

Apologies for the deliberate mistake on last week's letter! Many of you will probably not even know Mrs Simpson's surname as we all just know her as Mandy! But it is of course Mrs Mandy Simpson who is retiring at Christmas... well done to those who spotted the error!

Job Vacancies

The Local Authority are advertising the School Crossing Patrol vacancy in Jobs NorthEast and can be accessed by this link: https://www.northeastjobs.org.uk/job/School_Crossing_Patrol/288352.

We have a vacancy for a kitchen assistant for 10 hours per week between 11.30am and 1.30pm. This vacancy is on our website in the Job Vacancies section.

Christmas in the Village

The countdown to Christmas begins in Lanchester on Saturday. Come along to All Saints' Church for a Christingle from 5pm, followed by Christmas Carols with Lanchester Brass Band on the village green at 5.30pm with mulled wine and refreshments finishing with the switching on of the Christmas Lights at 6pm. This year, Jaidan and Sophia from Year 6 will have the honour of representing our school and helping to switch them on.

Don't forget to stop and buy a bracelet that some of our Year 5 girls have been making to raise money for Henry Dancer Days.

Reception 2026 Intake

Parents of pre-schoolers in Nursery, please remember that school places for Reception intake in September 2026 need to be applied for by midnight on 15th January 2026. It is essential that places are applied for in time to ensure the school of your choice. Please note, children will not automatically get a place in our school if they have been in the Nursery, so it is imperative you apply for a Reception place by going to [Apply now for a primary school place - deadline 15 January 2026 - Durham County Council](#).

Parent Governor

We have a vacancy for a parent governor on our governing body. Governors play a very important part in both supporting and challenging school performance. We have termly full governor meetings and all governors also sit on sub-committees who meet at least once a term. If you think you might be interested in this role, please email myself: j.davis@lanchesterep.net by Friday 28th November to express your interest. We will then organise a meeting with the current Co-Chairs and Vice-Chairs of governors so that they can

talk in more detail about what the role entails. Following this, if there is more than one parent who is still interested, than a parental ballot will be held.

Christmas at Lanchester EP

Christmas is approaching and we have lots of events taking place so please make a note of these in your diaries. The children will also be taking part in nativities across the school as well as a Christingle in All Saints' Church. These are all detailed below, along with information about tickets.

Wednesday 10 th December at 9.30am	Nursery Three Year Olds Room Nativity
Wednesday 10 th December at 2.30pm	Nursery Three Year Olds Room Nativity
Thursday 11 th December at 10am	Reception Nativity in the School Hall
Thursday 11 th December at 2.15pm	Reception Nativity in the School Hall
Monday 15 th December at 10am	Key Stage 1 (Year 1 & Year 2) Nativity in the School Hall
Monday 15 th December at 2.15pm	Key Stage 1 (Year 1 & Year 2) Nativity in the School Hall
Tuesday 16 th December at 9.30am	Two Year Olds Christmas Stay & Play Session
Tuesday 16 th December at 2pm	Year 6 Nativity in Lanchester Methodist Church
Tuesday 16 th December at 6pm	Year 6 Nativity in Lanchester Methodist Church
Thursday 18 th December at 2.15pm	Two Year Olds Christmas Stay & Play Session
Friday 19 th December at 9.30am	Mrs Coyle's Class and Year 4 – Christingle and Carol Service
Friday 19 th December at 11am	Miss Watt's Class and Year 5 – Christingle and Carol Service

Nativity Tickets

This year we have decided that to avoid parents and carers missing out on getting nativity tickets by the cut-off date, each family will get one free nativity ticket per performance. These will be sent home with your child on **Wednesday 26th November**. You will then be able to purchase extra tickets for the nativities via Arbor. Additional tickets will cost £2 each and will go on sale on Arbor from **Wednesday 26th November**. Limits will be as follows due to the capacity of the hall/church.

Nursery 3 Year Old Room Nativity	3 extra tickets per performance
Reception Nativity	2 extra tickets per performance
Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity	1 extra ticket per performance
Year 3, 4 & 5 Christingle and Carol Service	1 extra ticket per performance
Year 6 Nativity	1 extra ticket per performance

Please make sure you look out for your free tickets coming home as we will not be able to replace these. Tickets purchased on Arbor will be sent home with your child.

Raffle Tickets

Raffle tickets will be sent home next week with your child for our Christmas Fair Raffle. Each ticket is £1.00 and all the money raised goes back into school. Once you have filled these in please send them into school with the correct change. If you would like any more raffle tickets to sell to family and friends, spares can be collected from the School Office. We will let you know in due course what gorgeous goodies are up for grabs.

This Week's Big Question

Our Worship theme this week was all about Love and making difficult decisions for the benefit of others. Our Big Question of the Week was linked with this and we asked the children to consider: ***'Why is it sometimes hard to make the right decision?'***

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	90	95.3	Year 4	96.7	95.9
Year 1	93.4	96.2	Year 5	99.4	98
Year 2	95.3	98.1	Year 6	95.4	96.9
Year 3	95.9	97.6	Whole School	95.2	96.9

Diary Dates for Next Week

Saturday 22nd November – Christmas Lights Switch On

This event, with Jaidan and Sophia switching on the lights, takes place from 5pm in church with a Christingle followed by Christmas Carols and mulled wine on the village green before the switching on of the Christmas lights at 6pm.

Monday 24th November – School Closed

Please remember that the school is closed on Monday 24th November due to a teacher training day. We will re-open on Tuesday 25th November for the remainder of the half-term.

Wednesday 26th November – Meeting about the Ski Residential at 5.30pm

All parents and carers of children going on the ski residential (as well as the adults joining us) are warmly invited to come along for a meeting at 5.30pm in school, when more details will be shared about the trip next year. The itinerary and organisation of the week will be discussed as well as kit lists given out. We look forward to seeing you there.

Thursday 27th November – Miss Jackson's Class at Consett Academy for Basketball Festival

On Thursday afternoon, after lunchtime, Miss Jackson's class will be going to Consett Academy for a Basketball Festival. They are to wear their PE kits and will return to school in time for the end of the school day.

Friday 28th November – Non-Uniform Day for the Christmas Fair

We are holding a non-uniform day on Friday in exchange for a donation towards our Christmas Fair. We ask that children bring an item in that we can use at the fair such as chocolates, sweets, toiletries, bottles of alcohol (brought into the office by an adult please!), hampers and children's toys and games. We use all items donated to make our Christmas Fair a resounding success. Please help us make sure this Fair is amazing!

Friday 28th November – Year 1 Poetry in the Forest

On Friday, we would like to invite Y1 families to join us in the forest so that the children can share some poetry that they have been writing this week. Miss Wood's session will be from 9:30am to 10:15am. Please meet at the school office at 9:25am, where a member of staff will take you to meet the children on their way to the forest. Mr McLoughlin's session will be from 10:30am to 11:15am. Please meet at the school office at 10:25am. The children have worked hard on their poems and it is always a lovely occasion for them to share their writing with an audience. *Please make sure if you are coming to the session to wear suitable outdoor footwear and to wrap up warm, as it does get muddy on the field & in the forest.*

Positive Thinking

Happiness is when you what you think, what you say and what you do are in harmony.

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