



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 16th May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week is always one of the toughest in the whole year with our Year 6 children sitting their Key Stage 2 statutory tests. But our children never cease to amaze us – their resilience and determination to do the best they possibly can does not go unnoticed. They have bounced into school every day, raring to go! To see them queuing up at 8am, excited for the day ahead, is just a joy to see! The weather has really helped too as they have been able to make the most of every afternoon, playing out for extended periods of time and making the most of some downtime after sitting their tests in the mornings.

We only ever ask the children to do their best – and they have. Not a single child has let themselves down at any point this week and every single one of them has tried their absolute best. I am exceptionally proud of them all.

I would also like to comment on the children in the rest of the school too as they have also been affected this week. We have had different playtimes, quiet corridors, less movement around school and a rather quiet dinner hall due to the tests sometimes running over into lunchtime. The other children have shown utmost respect for our oldest children making me very proud of them too.

We are incredibly grateful to one of our parents from Pizza Time in Consett for his immense generosity in providing such a tasty lunch for our Year 6 children. Very kind and greatly appreciated by us all.

Nursery Open Morning

We were thrilled with the great number of people who came to our Open Morning last Saturday. As usual, we had a wonderful turn out on such a beautiful summer's day. It was lovely to welcome so many parents – new as well as those known to us already – and to have such useful discussions about 2-year olds. Emails were sent yesterday to all parents and carers of rising 3 year olds who are on our list, so please look out for that, and if you would like a place for your child, fill in the online form and the Office will be in touch with you on Wednesday 21st May.

Emails

We are currently experiencing a few problems with our MIS system, in that at the moment, our emails that we send from Arbor, appear to be ending up in some people's junk or spam boxes. Please be aware of this and add us to your safe senders list. We are currently in discussions with Arbor to try and get this sorted so please just bear with us.

Baptism and Confirmation Services

Last weekend was a rather busy weekend for Revd Lesley and a rather proud one for us as a Church school. On Friday evening, three of our boys (Albie, Carter and Angus) were baptised in a special service in church. Following this, on Saturday evening, Bishop Sarah led a wonderful confirmation service in St Andrew's Church in Stanley. Eight of our Y5 & Y6 boys decided to take the next step in their spiritual journey. Albie, Harry, James, Alfie, Maven, Oliver, Max and Carter were a real credit to the school and their families on Saturday evening. Once again, I was exceptionally proud of them all and felt quite honoured to be part of such a special occasion. Worship Leaders in the making!

Partner School from Delhi

We are absolutely thrilled to be welcoming 8 children and 2 staff from our partner school in Delhi, India to the village and our school next week. They arrive in London on Friday and are spending the weekend sightseeing in London as well as visiting Cambridge too. They then travel up to Durham on Monday evening. During their time in the North-East we will be welcoming them to school, sightseeing in Durham and

Newcastle, encouraging them to sample some traditional food before taking them up the Northumberland coast on Thursday. The children have never seen the sea or a beach before so they will be in for a real treat! Our international visits are never without issues as they were just informed yesterday that their AirBnB in Gateshead had to be cancelled due to issues with a boiler. However, we managed to find them alternative accommodation at very short notice in converted cottages in Quebec. So actually, things have turned out for the best as that is so much closer to us!

Fun and Fitness Week

We have four wonderful action-packed days to look forward to with our Fun and Fitness Week and the weather looks as though it is going to be kind to us as well. As usual, children can come to school in sportswear every day. This can either be their PE kits or any other sportswear so that they are ready for sporting action each day!

When the children are not outside next week, they will be enjoying some First Aid lessons and also completing some work on Courageous Advocates. Each year group is going to learn more about a famous courageous advocate, completing some art work, written work and research. The chosen courageous advocates for each year group are as follows:

| | | | |
|------------------|----------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Nursery | Jesus | Year 3 | Greta Thunberg |
| Reception | Rosa Parks | Year 4 | Terry Fox |
| Year 1 | Florence Nightingale | Year 5 | Olive Morris |
| Year 2 | Marcus Rashford | Year 6 | Malala Yousafzai |

Ask your children about their Courageous Advocate at the end of the week! I am sure they will be able to share lots of information about them all!

This Week's Big Question

This week's Big Question has been ***'Can we make a difference to world hunger?'*** Ask your children about this over the weekend!

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 Attendance Percentage (%) | Attendance Percentage to Date (%) | Year Group | Current Week Attendance Percentage (%) | Attendance Percentage to Date (%) |
|------------------|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Reception | 97.7 | 95.1 | Year 4 | 97.5 | 97.4 |
| Year 1 | 96.1 | 96.3 | Year 5 | 98.7 | 97.7 |
| Year 2 | 97.2 | 96.7 | Year 6 | 99.6 | 96.9 |
| Year 3 | 97.4 | 97.1 | Whole School | 97.7% | 96.7% |

Sun Cream

It is really important that you put sun cream on your child before they come into school each day. The weather is very changeable at the moment and we have had a number of days that have begun cloudy and very quickly turned hot and sunny. It is imperative that children have sun cream on before they start school, and that for children in Year 1 – 6 they have sun cream that they can apply themselves during the school day. If possible, could children in Year 1 & 2 have sun cream in a clearly named bottle that we can keep in school for them to apply at lunchtimes. This is especially important next week during Fun & Fitness Week, when children will be spending a large amount of time outside.

Diary Dates for Next Week

Please note, there are no extra-curricular after school activities taking place this week except Year 5 Creative Cooking.

Monday 19th May – Carousel of Activities

On Monday we have a carousel of activities for KS1 and KS2. This includes a giant inflatable, Skip2bFit, Tennis, Golf and Basketball. Reception children will be joining in with the skipping workshops.

Tuesday 20th May – House Games

On Tuesday we will be taking part in house events across the day. In the morning, Reception and KS1 will enjoy a Dodgeball Tournament whilst in the afternoon, KS2 will participate in a 'Lanchester Dash'. I am sure your children will tell you all about it!

Tuesday 20th May – Partner School from Delhi in School

We will be holding a welcome assembly in the morning to welcome the pupils and staff from our partner school in Delhi on Tuesday morning. They will be spending time in the Year 5 classes for the morning and lunchtime prior to sightseeing in Durham in the afternoon.

Tuesday 20th May – Monday – Wednesday Nursery Wheels Day

Wheels Day for the rest of the school is on Thursday, however children in the Monday – Wednesday Nursery group who will not be in on Thursday are welcome to bring their wheeled items into school on Tuesday.

Wednesday 21st May – Partner School from Delhi in School

On Wednesday morning, our partner school will, once more, be joining us for a morning of sporting activities. After lunch, they will be taken to Newcastle to visit the university and explore the city.

Wednesday 21st May – WannaTeachPE, House Rounders

We are having an American Football Day on Wednesday when Ben Holden from WannaTeachPE will be joining us and leading a session in American Football for all KS2 pupils. KS2 pupils will also enjoy some House Rounders competitions in their year groups.

Wednesday 21st May – The Jungle Bus with EYFS

All our Early Years children will be enjoying the Jungle Bus for the day on Wednesday. This was very popular with the children last year, and a great way to burn off some energy.

Wednesday 21st May – Auditions for Yanomamo

We will be holding the auditions for both soloists and narrators during the day. We have a lot of children signed up for these auditions – what a treat of a day we are going to have!

Wednesday 21st May – Striking and Fielding Event for Mrs Tate's Class

Mrs Tate's class will be taking part in a 'Striking and Fielding Skills' event at Leadgate Junior School on Wednesday afternoon. The children will have an early lunch and return in time for the end of the school day.

Wednesday 21st May – Mrs Burke's Class Walk

As we are only able to take one class to the striking and fielding event on Wednesday, Mrs Burke's class will enjoy a walk along the old railway line on Wednesday afternoon so that they don't feel as though they are missing out.

Thursday 22nd May – Wheels Day

Thursday is our highly popular wheels day which causes chaos in the village! Children are welcome to bring any wheeled item – bike, scooter, pram etc – please remember that any child riding a bike or scooter in school MUST wear a cycle helmet too. **Please note, children should not bring in skateboards, skates, hoverboards or any electric wheeled items.** We will have a timetable for the day and I know how much they enjoy using their wheeled item in school!

Please leave all wheeled items in the following locations. Please note, staff will be on hand to direct children where to leave their item as well:

| | | | |
|------------------|----------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| Nursery | Nursery Yard | Year 3 | Along the Fence near their entrance |
| Reception | Reception Yard | Year 4 | Along the Y6 Wall & top of the yard |
| Year 1 | Along the Infant Yard Wall | Year 5 | MUGA |
| Year 2 | Along the Classroom Wall | Year 6 | MUGA |

Thursday 22nd May – Year 5 and Year 6 Cycle Ride

We are really looking forward to our adult helpers joining us again for these bike rides. Please note, that if you are helping on the bike ride, then adults also need to wear a helmet to help set the example to the children. Thank you for your support with this. Year 5 will be cycling to Knitsley Mill while Year 6 will cycle to Bearpark (hopefully!). If anyone parent or carer has not yet signed up but would like to help with the ride, please complete the online form [Bike Ride Volunteers](#).

It is essential that all bikes are checked prior to bringing them to school. They must be in a roadworthy condition with working brakes, tyres fully inflated and checked by an adult. Nearly every year we have disappointed children who arrive at school and then something is not right with their bike resulting in them not being able to take part. We want to avoid this happening if at all possible.

On arrival at school, Year 5 and Year 6 children are to leave their bikes in the MUGA please. Year 5 at the far side and the bottom, Year 6 at the nearside and the top.

Thursday 22nd May – Visit to Northumberland

Four of our Year 5 and Year 6 children will be joining with 2 staff and our partner school from Delhi for a day in Northumberland. They will be going to Alnwick Castle to see where Harry Potter was filmed, before driving up to Holy Island and the returning to Seahouses for a walk on the beach and traditional fish and chips! The children from our Indian Partner School have never seen the sea before so what an incredible experience this will be for them all.

Friday 23rd May – School Closed

Please remember that school is closed on Friday 23rd May due to a teacher training day. We will re-open on Monday 2nd June. Let's hope the good weather continues into the half-term holiday. Have a lovely break We just hope the weather will be kind to us for the week!

Holiday & Football Camps

LJG Coaching will be hosting holiday and football camps in school again on Tuesday 27th – 29th May. To book a place for your child, visit the following links:

Holiday Camp: <https://forms.gle/GRQ9JotZmczEEkWb8>

Football Camp: <https://forms.gle/w2RPUddKMZYyGpw26>

Sunday 1st June – Turing Visit to Madrid

Our 8 children from Year 5 & 6 head off on Sunday 1st June for our final Turing visit of the year to Madrid. They have lots of wonderful things planned and Mr Knighton, Mrs Watt & Mrs O'Halloran will be accompanying them on their trip.

Positive Thinking

Teachers plant the seeds of knowledge that last a lifetime.

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