



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 6th January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have all had a lovely Christmas. On behalf of all the staff and governors I would like to wish you all a Happy and Peaceful New Year. Let's make 2023 a great year! We have plenty of exciting opportunities planned for our children and will all continue to work as hard as possible to ensure the children have the best education possible.

You may notice a slightly different letterhead this year. We have amended it to include our school motto and the biblical verse on which our Christian ethos is based. We believe that, following St Luke's Parable of the Sower, we are the rich soil that enables our children to develop their own roots and flourish.

School Uniform

In order to maintain a strong sense of identity and belonging within our school, all pupils are required to wear a school uniform as detailed below:

- Royal Blue sweatshirt or cardigan
- White polo shirt
- Grey or Black trousers – no leggings or tracksuit bottoms (unless your child is in EYFS)
- Grey or Black skirt or pinafore
- Black, flat, sensible shoes/black trainers with black soles
- Grey shorts (optional - for summer)
- Blue and white gingham dress (optional - for summer)

P.E. Uniform

Year 5 & Year 6 children are to come to school wearing their PE uniform on their PE days. This includes:

- T-Shirt in Team Colour
- Black or Grey Shorts or Tracksuit trousers/jogging bottoms/leggings.
- Plain Trainers

Children in Years 1 – 4 are to keep their PE uniform in school during the term. Their PE uniform is:

- T-Shirt in Team Colour
- Black or Grey Shorts or Jogging Bottoms
- Black Plimsolls or Trainers

Please note – our uniform policy also states children are not to wear Football Strips or Flamboyant Dress. Thank you.

Early Years News

From next week, we will be running library sessions in Nursery on Tuesday mornings 8:45 – 9:00am and Thursday afternoons 2:55 – 3:15pm. Please come along to choose a book to share at home with your child. Books can be borrowed at either session and there will be a box in the Nursery entrance for you to return books at any time. We hope that you will enjoy this opportunity to try out lots of different stories and non-fiction titles with your child and we look forward to finding out how your child has enjoyed the books they borrow. For any parents who have volunteered to support with these library sessions, Miss Brown will be in touch with further information.

From this week, Reception children will be bringing home a book to share with you in addition to their phonic reader. This will be labelled as a **non-decodable** reader as it may contain sounds and high frequency words that we have not yet learned in school. This book replaces the wordless books we have previously sent. Please use the book in the same way as the wordless books. Encourage your child to talk about the front/back cover, the illustrations and what they think might happen (if it is a story - there are also non-fiction books to choose). We do not expect the children to be able to read all the words - the idea is that they will read along with you, although they will certainly be able to read some of the words independently. We will encourage the children to change these books as often as they would like to whilst still changing their phonic reader on Fridays.

Key Stage One

What a fantastic start we have had to 2023! The children returned to school full of stories of their Christmas presents and trips. They were so excited to see their friends again and it has been lovely to see them catch up and tell each other their exciting news! We hope you all managed to have a relaxing break over the Christmas Period.

Year 1 have made a fantastic return to school and are already working really hard. They are really enjoying their new topic Paws, Claws and Whiskers. Next week on Tuesday we have a very special visit from Crazy Creatures who will be bringing in a variety of animals for the children to handle. We know the children will love this and will learn lots about different animals and how to care for them.

Year 1 PE days have changed for this half term as we will be having Cricket Coaching. PE days for Year 1 are now **Tuesday** and **Friday**.

Year 2 have also made an excellent start back to school and have settled straight back to work. They are really enjoying their new Moon Zoom topic and have already done some fantastic Moon Artwork.

Mrs Startup's class are also changing their PE days as they will be having a Gymnastics coach teaching them this half term. Their PE days are now **Thursday** and **Friday**. Mr Osmond's PE days will be **Tuesday** and **Thursday**.

Key Stage Two

On behalf of everyone in Key Stage 2, we would like to wish you a Happy New Year. It has been a busy few days since the children started back on Wednesday. There has been a real buzz in the classrooms, with the children being eager to get back to their learning.

In class, each year group is starting their new topics. Year 3 will be finding out about the extreme power of volcanoes and earthquakes in their 'Tremors' topic, whilst Year 4 will be heading to the Battle of Hastings as they start their work on '1066.' Our Year 5 children will be travelling back in time to the pyramids of Ancient Egypt in the 'Pharaohs' topic and finally, Year 6 will be learning about the voyage of Charles Darwin and his work on Evolution as they encounter 'Darwin's Delights.'

The texts that link to our topics are as follows:

- Year 3: *Escape from Pompeii* by Christina Balit
- Year 4: *Stormin' Normans* by Terry Deary
- Year 5: *Secrets of the Sun King* by Emma Carroll
- Year 6: *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio

If you would like more information about our topics, texts or want to know how you can support your child's learning, please refer to the 'Curriculum Information' leaflets that will be sent out on Monday.

Year 4 – Lunar New Year Performance

Our Year 4 children have been very lucky to have worked with some Chinese students from Durham University over the last two months. They have been learning about Chinese culture, in particular about the celebrations for the Lunar New Year. We have been invited to take part in a performance at Durham Town Hall at 11:30am on Saturday 21st January, where our Y4 children will be singing two songs in Chinese as part of the Lunar New Year celebrations in Durham that day. This is a wonderful opportunity for our children to demonstrate their learning. If your Year 4 child is able to attend this performance, please [click here](#) to complete the questionnaire by Monday so that we know how many children will be able to attend. On this occasion, we would like to ask that you transport your child to Durham and stay with them during the short performance.

Year 3 Residential to Birdoswald

The letter containing the information about our forthcoming residential to Birdoswald will be emailed to all parents and carers today. Please note the date of the meeting on Wednesday 25th January at 6pm when more information will be shared in person.

Year 4 Residential to Seahouses – Change of Date

Please note that the date of this residential has changed to Tuesday April 18th & Wednesday April 19th for Miss Jackson's class and Wednesday April 19th and Thursday April 20th for Mr Adamson's class. A letter will be emailed to parents and carers next week about this trip. A meeting will be held on Tuesday 31st January at 6pm when more information will be shared.

Year 4 Forest Schools

Mr Innes will be leading Forest School sessions across the school every Friday afternoon starting with Year 4 this half term. The children will need sensible footwear/wellingtons and warm clothing. The sessions will take place on:

Friday 13th & Friday 27th January & Friday 10th February – Miss Jackson's Class

Friday 20th January & Friday 3rd February & Friday 17th February – Mr Adamson's Class

Parents and Carers of Children Travelling to India

We are aware that this is a big trip that the children are going on next weekend and with that in mind, if you have any final questions or anything at all that is on your mind, Mr McLoughlin will be available all day on Wednesday for you to talk to. Feel free to either drop into school for a chat or ring for a conversation over the phone. We know the children are now bursting with excitement but totally understand that you may be starting to feel some nerves for them! We want to be able to reassure you as much as possible!

Captain Chemistry

Captain Chemistry is working in school again next week with Year 6 on Monday and Year 4 on Friday.

Positive Thinking

***Every year you make a resolution to yourself.
This year, make a resolution to be yourself.***

Best Wishes,

Jane Davis

Mrs Jane Davis
Head Teacher