



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 31st January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been so good to have a week of 'normal' weather this week! Last Friday was a real challenge for us all. The woodland has been out of bounds for us all this week due to fallen and damaged trees after the strong winds last Friday. We hope to have these made safe very soon.

The strong winds also resulted in the connecting flight from London Heathrow to Newcastle being cancelled for our group returning from India last Friday evening. This resulted in an overnight stay for them at Heathrow before returning home on the Saturday afternoon. However, this was an epic journey due to the planned closure of Kings Cross Station and a cancelled train! Thankfully, the journey home for our Digital Leaders was relatively uneventful.

This week our Year 5 children have had two wonderful visits to The Great North Museum and then the Jewish Reform Synagogue. Their behaviour, manners and attitude were complimented which is always refreshing - this also happened both to our Digital Leaders and the group in India. I think it is imperative that we do not ever take this for granted.

Reception – Year 6 Parents' Evenings

Spring Parents' Evening appointments for children in Reception to Year 6 are on Monday 17th & Tuesday 18th February from 3.30pm until 6.00pm. Appointments to see your child's class teacher are available to book on Arbor from 4.00pm today. If you are unable to book an appointment, please contact the school office and they can book an appointment on your behalf.

Nursery Parents' Evenings

Nursery Parents' Evening appointments will be held at slightly different dates and times, depending on your child's group/key worker:

Child's Group	Keyworker	Appointment Date	Appointment Times
Owls	Mrs Moralee	Monday 17 th February	3.30 – 4.30pm
		Wednesday 19 th February	3.30 – 4.30pm
Squirrels	Miss Butler	Monday 17 th February	4.30 – 6.00pm
		Tuesday 18 th February	4.30 – 6.00pm
Hedgehogs	Mrs Davis	Tuesday 18 th February	3.30 – 4.30pm
		Wednesday 19 th February	3.30 – 4.30pm
Badgers	Miss Tilney	Tuesday 18 th February	3.30 – 4.30pm
		Wednesday 19 th February	3.30 – 4.30pm

Appointments can be booked via your Arbor account, or contact the school office and they can book an appointment on your behalf. Booking opens at 4.00pm today.

Head Lice

The NHS do not recommend informing parents and carers when there is an outbreak of head lice in school as checking for head lice is supposed to be a normal part of caring for a child. However, we appear to have outbreaks in a number of different classes at the moment. Having had these recently myself (for the first time in my life!), I know how hard it can be to check long, thick hair but it really is essential that you do this at least weekly with a specialist comb. These can be bought relatively cheaply from any supermarket or chemist.

RSC Performance of The Tempest

We are thrilled that the Royal Shakespeare Company is coming to our school to perform an abridged version of The Tempest on Thursday 13th February. They will perform to our Year 5 and 6 children in the afternoon but we are also opening this up to the local community for a 6pm performance on the evening. Tickets are available from the school office or on Arbor at a cost of £5.

SEND News

At times, some children in school can have a few different professionals working with them. For example, speech therapists, occupational therapists and psychologists often work with children in our school, in addition to our own team of teachers and teaching assistants. We recognise that it can be difficult to know who is best to speak to about your child's additional needs, so we thought it would be useful to share this with parents and carers this week.

1. Your child's class teacher should always be your first contact for anything related to your child in school, including any SEND queries. As your child's class teacher spends the most time with them and knows them best, they are best-placed for answering any questions.
2. Mr McLoughlin is our school SENDCO (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-Ordinator). In his role, he supports staff throughout school to best meet the needs of every child, especially those with additional needs. Class teachers may consult with Mr McLoughlin for advice and Mr McLoughlin may become more involved with your child's provision if some specialist advice is being sought. Mr McLoughlin will also be more involved with your child's provision if they have an EHCP (Education, Health and Care Plan) or if they are in the process of being assessed for this.
3. Mrs Davis, as the Head Teacher, has overall responsibility for the provision we offer for every child in our school. She delegates the day-to-day running of the SEND provision to Mr McLoughlin and individual class teachers. Mrs Davis will only be able to help with SEND enquiries if parents and carers have been unable to resolve these with their child's class teacher or with Mr McLoughlin.

We hope that this helps to make our SEND organisation a little clearer - it can be difficult to know who is best to speak to when we are such a large primary school. Thank you for your continued support.

Friends of the School AGM

The Friends of Lanchester EP will be holding its annual general meeting on Tuesday 25 March 7pm till 8pm at Lanchester Community Centre. All volunteers and the wider school community are welcome to attend. More details can be found on the Friends of Lanchester EP Facebook Page. If you wish to attend please RSVP at: <https://forms.gle/zTcZuuPh36ePGfeq8>

Attendance

Year Group	Current Week Attendance Percentage (%)	Attendance Percentage to Date (%)	Year Group	Current Week Attendance Percentage (%)	Attendance Percentage to Date (%)
Reception	99%	93.9%	Year 4	97.3%	97.6%
Year 1	99%	96.1%	Year 5	98.3%	97.4%
Year 2	97.4%	96.5%	Year 6	93.6%	96.6%
Year 3	97.2%	97.4%	Whole School	97.4%	96.5%

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.

Diary Dates for Next Week

Week Beginning Monday 3rd February 2025 – Children's Mental Health Week

Next week is National Children's Mental Health Week. The week's focus is 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself', with the aim to encourage children and young people across the UK to embrace self-awareness and explore what it means to them. The children will be enjoying various activities throughout the week linked to this.

Wednesday 5th February 2025 – Year 2 at The Mosque

Year 2 will be visiting the Central Mosque in Newcastle on Wednesday morning. This is to support their work on Islam in Religious Studies. They will leave at 9am and return to school in time for their lunch. Full school uniform is to be worn for this visit.

Wednesday 5th February 2025 – Mini Police with Year 5

Our Year 5 children will begin their Mini Police project on Wednesday. The aim is to introduce the children to a positive experience of policing, the principles of good citizenship and develop an understanding of their local community and

the constructive role they can have within this. I know that they will thoroughly enjoy this as much as the current Year 6 children last year.

Wednesday 5th February 2025 – Tag Rugby Festival at Consett Rugby Club

Some of our Year 5 & 6 children will be taking part in the Tag Rugby Festival at Consett Rugby Club on Wednesday afternoon. The parents and carers of those taking part will have received an email. The team will need a packed lunch and come to school in their PE uniforms.

Wednesday 5th February 2025 – Year 5 child actors to perform in The Fairy Queen

As well as the rest of our Year 5 children, who will be performing The Fairy Queen at the Consett Empire Theatre on Thursday evening, four of our Year 5 children have been asked to be child actors in the performance on both nights. They have done such a brilliant job in rehearsals and we are incredibly proud of them for putting themselves forward for this.

Thursday 6th February 2025 – The Fairy Queen with Year 5

Our Year 5 children have been rehearsing hard over the last few weeks for their performance of The Fairy Queen at 6pm in Consett Empire Theatre on Thursday 6th February. Unfortunately, we have been informed that all the tickets have now been sold for this event.

Year 5 will need to come into school wearing black bottoms and a black t-shirt, with their School jumper on top. The four child actors will need to wear black bottoms and to bring a white t-shirt to change into. They will be taken to Consett Empire Theatre by coach at 2.30pm. They will then rehearse before having a break and packed tea. The performance will start at 6.00pm and should finish at 7.30pm. Parents will need to collect their children from the theatre. I know this will be a great experience for all involved and will be another proud moment for our school.

Thursday 6th February 2025 – Girls' Football Team at Consett Academy

Our girls continue their great effort in the Girls' Football League on Thursday when they compete against more schools from Derwentside. Their determination and stamina has been so impressive! Keep it up!

Friday 7th February 2025 – Lego Robotics Competition

Some of our Year 5 & 6 children have been working very hard with Mr Innes on a Wednesday after school to create a Lego Robot to enter in to the First Lego League Regional Competition, held at the Nissan Sports & Social Complex at their Sunderland plant. The children will be competing against children from other primary and secondary schools in the region. Children will be leaving school at 8am and should return by 5pm. Good luck to all the children involved.

Friday 7th February 2025 – Archery Day for Year 4 and Year 6

Year 4 and Year 6 will have an introduction to Archery on Friday when they will enjoy some archery on the school field on Friday with a specialist coach. This is usually something we can only offer on the PGL residential for Year 5 so are delighted that two other year groups now have this opportunity.

Positive Thinking

Sometimes, the dark days feel like they are here forever – by the end of January, the sun is only in the sky until 5.00pm, but each day gets longer and longer. There's nothing better than finishing school or work and still having time in the sun; by the end of February, the sun will set at 6pm and by March it doesn't set until 8pm.

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)