



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 October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is certainly starting to feel a lot more autumnal this week with the air so much cooler and the nights starting to draw in. With it, comes a lot of excitement from the children as Autumn is such a lovely season. We are now over half way through the longest half term of the year and the children are still excelling across school. Their work ethic and attitudes to learning continue to be first class. Long may this continue!

Outcome of the Parental Ballot

Thank you so much to everyone who voted recently for your new parent governor. 155 responses were received and Dr Michael Bell is your new parent governor. We look forward to welcoming him to the governing body and his first meeting later this month.

Summer 2023 Parent/Carer Questionnaire Analysis

These were analysed last month and should have been shared with you earlier – apologies for the delay. The analysis will be emailed to you alongside this letter. I am sure you will enjoy seeing for yourselves how positive the results are. We have tried to summarise the common themes of positivity and areas for improvement. I would like to thank all parents and carers for taking the time to complete this questionnaire – we had 140 responses which is excellent! Thank you.

November 2023 School Menu

Please remember, the deadline for submitting your child's new lunch choices is midday on **Monday 9th October**. The new menu will start on 6th November after half term. If we do not receive a response, your child will automatically be given the default vegetarian option. If your child is currently on packed lunches but would like to change onto school dinners, please inform the office in writing giving 2 weeks' notice and then complete the form with your child's choices.

Parents Evenings

Please remember, parents' evenings for this half term will be held on Monday 23rd and Tuesday 24th October between 3.30-6pm. Appointments will be available to book via your Arbor account from today for children in Reception to Year 6 and will close on Thursday 19th October. Nursery parents evenings will be communicated in due course.

SEND News

Class teachers are now in the process of reviewing SEN Support Plans and they will share these with parents and carers at parents' evening at the end of this half-term. We will also be holding an extra drop-in session with class teachers after school on Wednesday 15th November for parents and carers to have more time to discuss SEN support with their children's class teachers.

We are often asked if children with additional needs should have an EHCP (Education, Health and Care Plan). An EHCP may be put in place by the local authority if it is clear that children require more support in school than is ordinarily available through the SEN support plans already in place. The vast majority of children with SEN support plans will not receive an EHCP, as their existing plans set out the support they require. School staff will sometimes identify children who would benefit from having their needs met through an EHCP and an application for this will be made with support from parents and carers. However, an EHCP request can be made by any professional working with your child, as well as by parents and carers. To find out more about

EHCPs and a guide for parents and carers about the application process, please [click here](#) to be taken to the Durham County Council website.

Thank you to the parents and carers who have taken the time to provide us with valuable feedback about our SEND provision. If your child has an SEN Support Plan or an EHCP and you have not yet completed the questionnaire, we would really value your opinions in order to move our provision forward even further. You can find the questionnaire by [clicking here](#). Thank you in advance.

Reception Intake – September 2024

I know some of our children have only just started, but applications are now open for school places for next academic year, starting in September 2024. These must be applied for through the online portal: <https://durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions> The deadline for applications is Monday 15th January 2024. If you know any families with pre-school children feel free to tell them about our Open Morning on Saturday 21st October between 10am and 12 noon.

School Carpark & Pedestrian Access

Please note that parents and carers are not to park in the staff carpark unless you have an agreement in place to do so, and under no circumstances should anyone come into the car park once the school crossing patrol has shut the gates. Please can we also ask that the carpark and driveway are not used for pedestrian access to school. Please use the main pedestrian path onto the front yard and office if you are on foot. With cars coming in and out at the same time as pedestrians, it is just not safe for anyone. Thank you for your help with this.

Attendance

Reception	96.6%
Year 1	95.7%
Year 2	93%
Year 3	97.1%
Year 4	96.8%
Year 5	95.9%
Year 6	95.3%

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.

Online Safety

We had an online safety workshop yesterday to explain the importance of online safety and what we do in school. The PowerPoint presentation will be uploaded to our website for you to view.

Diary Dates for Next Week

Tuesday 9th October – School Nurses on Site

Reception and Year 6 are due to have their heights and weights checked by the school nurse system. All parents and carers should have received information about this from the NHS.

Tuesday 9th October – Maths Parental Information Session at 9am and 6pm

We are welcoming all parents from Nursery to Year 6 to come along at either 9am or 6pm to hear more about how we teach Maths across the school. Please come to the Main Entrance at the Office where we will meet you. We hope it will be an enjoyable and informative session for you all.

Early Years News

We still have a number of Reception children who do not have wellies in school. These are essential items as we use the outdoor learning environment on a daily basis and also access the forest weekly. If you would like to take some preloved wellies from the fence for your child, please do, but ensure that you write your child's name clearly inside them so that we know they are claimed.

Nursery parents will shortly receive a message via Evidence Me about their child's Key Person. Apologies for the delay in letting you know about this. We will also let you know your child's group name. If you have not received the message by the start of next week, or are unable to access Evidence Me to see your message, please ask a member of the Nursery team or email Miss Butler s.butler@lanchesterep.net

The team behind Evidence Me have produced a really comprehensive guide for parents and carers on using the app and website, including the latest My Gallery feature. You can read it [here](#).

Key Stage One News



It has been a wonderful week in KS1 with lots of exciting lessons and learning. In Year 1 we found a dinosaur nest in the Forest School area with some giant blue eggs. The children were so excited and their enthusiasm transferred into some excellent writing about what they had found. We also carried out some Geography fieldwork around our school. We went on a dinosaur hunt and marked where we found each one on a map. We finished the week drawing Ammonites using pencil and charcoal and the children showed amazing concentration and skill!



Year 2 have also had a busy and exciting week. On Monday they had a visit from Rev Abbey who talked to them about the Bible. On Wednesday they carried out a Science investigation about density and sinking and floating. Finally, they have been looking at a new story in English all week called 'Kassim and the greedy Pirate's treasure'. They have also been learning actions to help remember



the story

Key Stage Two News - Year 5 Visit to The National Space Centre, Birchwood and Cadbury World



As part of their Stargazers topic, our Year 5 children enjoyed an amazing visit to the National Space Centre in Leicester. They had the opportunity to explore the many exhibits at the centre, including the Rocket Tower which is home to Blue Streak and Thor Able rockets, as well as the Gagarin Experience, Apollo Lunar Lander and see a sample of real Moon Rock! The experience was almost as good as being launched into space!

During the two-day trip, the children also spent time at Cadbury World. As well as learning about the origins of the cocoa bean, the children also jumped on board the magical Cadabra ride, met the infamous Cadbury drumming gorilla, joined Freddo and a whole host of Cadbury characters on an adventurous journey in the 4D Chocolate Adventure experience and found out how some of their favourite treats are made.

The children had an amazing two days in the Midlands thanks to the hospitality of our friends at Birchwood Primary School!

Advance Notices

Saturday 14th October - Sponsored Walk for Assistance Dogs

Margaret and her assistance dog Chelsea are leading a fun walk on October 14th to raise funds for "Dogs for Good", the charity that trained Chelsea, and Benny her predecessor. They would very much appreciate your support. Donating through JustGiving is simple, fast and totally secure. Once you donate, they'll send your money directly to Dogs For Good, so it's the most efficient way to give - saving time and cutting costs for the charity. You can donate to their JustGiving page by [clicking here](#).

Saturday 21st October 10 – 12 - Open Morning for Prospective Nursery and Reception Families

Come along on Saturday 21st October and see for yourselves our environment, the classrooms and meet the staff. It is the ideal opportunity to bring your child and have a play and chat on a Saturday morning!

Positive Thinking

You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you.

What you do makes a difference.

You just have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.

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)