



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 24th January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has been one of highs and lows. The highs have most definitely been seeing some of our children and staff experience an incredible week in India. Visiting the Taj Mahal, performing a dance in front of hundreds of Indian school children, visiting Hindu and Sikh temples and experiencing life in such a busy Indian city has been absolutely memorable for them. I am so looking forward to welcoming some of their children to our school in May!

I am sure that for many, arriving at school on Monday brought a smile to your face. The bubbles, music and little notes of appreciation were delightful. Thanks must go to the Friends of the School for suggesting and organising this. I know that it brightened up your day - it certainly did mine! Why is January always such a depressing, dark and long month?!

Another high has been our digital leaders in London, being amazing ambassadors for our school too. At Bett yesterday, they were interviewed by Wonde about their single sign in, which most schools across the country use, before experimenting with Adobe Express and using AI to create their own bags. Their enthusiasm, behaviour and manners have been exemplary – a real pleasure to be with.

Finally, we were thrilled to be able to hold our first Woodland Worship on Sunday afternoon. This was a lovely hour spent with families enjoying some quiet time in the woods, enjoying nature and being thankful. Whilst the weather was cold, our hearts were warm. We will hold another woodland worship next half term when we hope to be able to enjoy some spring weather and plant some seeds.

The vandalism in the woodland however, has caused us issues and is a worry. I shared this news with the children in assembly on Monday and have been quite touched by their response and reactions. They all show such a great sense of community and have displayed a range of reactions about this – from shock, to anger and upset. I also believe that making the whole village aware can only help to make people vigilant, and hopefully put whoever it is off doing this in future. I live in hope....

Our Christian Vision and Values

I would like to thank those of you who have completed the survey sent out on Monday sharing your views and opinions about our vision and values. If you have yet to complete this, here is the link: [Vision & Values Form](#). Your opinions are valuable to us and we really appreciate hearing your ideas, views and suggestions.

Year 5 Performance of The Fairy Queen at Consett Empire Theatre

We are thrilled that our Year 5 children were asked to take part in a production of The Fairy Queen, working alongside professional musicians from the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and students from Consett Academy, as well as two other primary schools. Their performance will be on Thursday 6th February at 6pm. Tickets are available from: www.empireconsett.co.uk or by phoning their Box Office on 03000262400.

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 will be available from the school office at a cost of £5.

Social Media

As a school, we have used 'X' or 'Twitter' as it was formerly known for around 10 years. It has always served us well and with over 2,000 followers, we know our work in school is viewed by a huge audience. However, since Elon Musk acquired the platform, there has been an increasing number of concerns around the feed and we now feel that we should look at a different platform. So, we would just like to hear your views on which social media platform you would prefer us to use as a school. This survey will take less than 30 seconds for you to complete. Please have your say and let us hear your opinion. Click on this link to complete it: [Social Media Form](#).

Saxons Hoodies

Since bringing in the coloured hoodies for our P.E. uniform, there have been a number of parents who have been in touch saying how hard they are to keep clean and that the colour goes a grubby colour when washed too many times. We have listened to your comments and agree that from September, our Saxons hoodies will be re-designed. We hope to have a black hoodie with yellow writing on them. However, this will only take place from the next academic year. Until then, the P.E. uniform will stay exactly the same. The P.E t-shirt and book bag will remain yellow. I just wanted to give you some advance warning about this plan.

Attendance

Year Group	Current Week Attendance Percentage (%)	Attendance Percentage to Date (%)	Year Group	Current Week Attendance Percentage (%)	Attendance Percentage to Date (%)
Reception	96%	93.6%	Year 4	98.3%	97.6%
Year 1	96%	95.9%	Year 5	98.3%	97.4%
Year 2	98.5%	96.5%	Year 6	95.5%	96.8%
Year 3	99.1%	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

Saturday 25th January 2025 – Digital Leaders return from London

The children will return at 5.15pm into Durham on Saturday afternoon at Platform 2.

Monday 27th January 2025 – Worship in the Woods

Weather permitting, KS1 and KS2 will enjoy worship in the woods on Monday morning. However, this will be totally weather dependant.

Monday 27th January 2025 – Holocaust Memorial Day

Our older children will be thinking about Holocaust Memorial Day on Monday, linked with their work on World War 2.

Tuesday 28th January 2025 – Year 5 at The Great North Museum

Year 5 are spending the day at the Great North Museum on Tuesday to support their History topic on the Egyptians. All children will need a packed lunch and need to come to school in their uniform as normal. They will return in time for the end of the school day.

Thursday 30th January 2025 – Year 5 at Newcastle Reform Synagogue

As part of their Religious Education programme of work this half term on Judaism, Year 5 will be visiting the Newcastle Reform Synagogue on Thursday morning. They will return to school in time for their dinner.

Thursday 30th January 2025 – Girls' Football Team at Consett Academy

After an incredible start last week with one win and one draw, the Girls' Football Team will be in action again this week at Consett Academy from 3.45 – 5.00pm. If your child is taking part, you will receive a separate email.

Positive Thinking

***30 days hath September, April, June and November,
All the rest have 31...
Except for January which has about 973!***

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)