



# 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 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe that 3 years ago this week, we closed our doors for the majority of pupils, not knowing when we would see them all in person again due to the pandemic. It is certainly a time of my life that I will never forget. I feel quite emotional even now, thinking about standing at the front of the school, saying goodbye to everyone, trying to reassure the children whilst at the same time thinking about how their little lives were about to change so much....

Yet here we are in 2023 and we have come through the experience – life is back on track again for most of us. Those days, weeks and months will never be forgotten, but I think it is also easy to forget how much we should appreciate those small things in life that we missed so much during that time. The companionship of others, the opportunity to have a coffee with friends, being able to visit family and just being able to give each other a hug. I do think it is so important to remind ourselves of this occasionally so that we never ever take those small but hugely important things in life for granted, ever again.

### **Erasmus+ Visit to Brussels**

Ms Butler and Mrs McGilvray are taking four Year 5 boys to Brussels the week we return after the Easter break. This will be a great opportunity for the boys to mix with the other pupils from our partner schools in Germany, Hungary and Spain whilst also learning more about the culture in Belgium. We only have two more Erasmus+ visits after this one and they will both involve our Year 6 children.

### **Advance warning - School Meal Price Increase**

This is a reminder that from Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023, meal prices will rise to £2.45 per day; £12.25 per week for each child who has a school meal in Nursery and Y3 - Y6. Children in Reception, Y1 and Y2 are all eligible for universal infant free school meals, regardless of their personal circumstances.

If you would like to swap your child from packed lunch to school meals or vice versa, please contact the office. If you think that you may be eligible for free school meals, please also contact the office for more information on how to apply.

### **ParentPay Accounts**

Reminder that on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March, we will be moving our payment system onto Arbor. Please make sure your ParentPay account is up to date by then. The new booking system will go live over the half term once we have made all the balance adjustments.

### **Arbor**

When using the browser to log into Arbor, you must use the schools individual URL, otherwise it will not work. The URL is: <https://lanchester-endowed-parochial-primary-school-mis.uk.arbor.sc/?/home-ui/index> - we recommend bookmarking it for ease.

Please take some time to go onto your children's information on Arbor and make sure all details are correct. We would also like any parent who has a child with a medical condition to make sure this is noted down on Arbor, and includes any symptoms and medication that your child requires. This will allow us to cross-

reference with the information we already have in school, and to help make our medical register as up to date as possible. Thank you.

### **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.

### **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023 – Easter Services at 1.30pm**

Children from KS2 (Years 3-6) are looking forward to their Easter Service taking place in All Saints Church on Tuesday at 1.30pm. Year 5 will be leading this very moving and uplifting service. All parents and carers are welcome to come along and share in this very special event. Meanwhile, Early Years and KS1 will enjoy their own special service in school.

### **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023 – Reception Stay and Play**

Reception have their first Stay and Play session on Tuesday between 2pm and 3pm. Please come along to the Reception doors for 2pm. I am sure your child will thoroughly enjoy showing you their classroom and some of the wonderful activities they do during the school day!

### **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023 – Nursery Stay and Play Sessions**

Nursery have their Stay and Play Sessions on Wednesday. Turtles and Dolphins have their session between 10.30 and 11.30 while Seahorses, Sharks, Jellyfish and Starfish have theirs between 1.30pm and 2.30pm. We hope you can join your children for these sessions – they do love to show you what they do every day!

### **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023 – Reception Stay and Play**

Reception have their second Stay and Play session on Thursday between 2pm and 3pm. Please come along to the Reception doors for 2pm. I am sure your child will thoroughly enjoy showing you their classroom and some of the wonderful activities they do during the school day!

### **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023 – Digital Leaders at Bett**

Our Digital Leaders leave for London on the 7.40am train on Thursday morning. They are looking forward to visiting the Bett Show at the Excel Centre, participating in various activities and workshops during their time there and hopefully trial some new resources for school too. During their time in London, they will enjoy some sightseeing and see the wonderful musical, Frozen.

### **Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 – Easter Egg Decorating Competition**

On Friday morning, all children from Year 1 – Year 6 will take part in our traditional Easter Egg Decorating Competition. We ask that children bring 2 hard-boiled eggs from home to decorate. This year, we also have some polystyrene eggs in school that the children can decorate if they prefer to use those. If children have a specific design in mind, then we ask that they bring resources in from home to help them decorate them. However, all creative work MUST be done in school. This is always a highly popular event that the children love!

We always have a competition for parents, staff and grandparents too. If you would like to enter your own egg into the competition, please make sure it is brought into school by Friday lunchtime. We are always amazed at the skill of our extended families!

### **Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 – Coffee Afternoon 2.15pm – 3.15pm**

We are holding our traditional coffee afternoon from 2.15pm to 3.15pm to allow you to come and see the amazing egg decorations! Come along, have a coffee and a chat and enjoy perusing the eggs – you never know – you might glean some good ideas for next year too!

### **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 – Digital Leaders Return from Bett**

Our Digital Leaders will arrive in Durham Train Station at 4.25pm on Saturday afternoon. I am sure they will be ready for the start of their Easter Holidays, albeit a day later than everyone else!

### **Early Years News**

Thanks to all the parents and grandparents who have supported our EYFS trips to Wharton Park and Hardwick Park this week. Your help and good humour were very much appreciated and you made the trips so much fun for our children.

### **Key Stage 1 News**

It has been a busy and action packed half term in Key Stage 1. The children have enjoyed their topics. In Year 1 our topic has been 'Bright Lights Big City'. We have been learning all about the Geography of the UK and particularly our Capital city London. We also had a fantastic trip to Newcastle to see the sights and landmarks of the city. But it is The Great Fire of London that has 'sparked' particular interest and the children have loved learning about how it started and spread so quickly.

Year 2 have been looking at the topic 'Scrumdiddlyumptious'. They have been learning all about farming and food production in the UK. They have studied the eat well plate in Science and they have had a fantastic time making cup cakes and healthy wraps (including with vegan recipes) and sculpting clay fruit in art.

Next term we are moving to learn about 'Enchanted Woodland' in Year 1 and 'The Scented Garden' in Year 2. We are all looking forward to some better weather and getting outside as part of these topics.

### **Key Stage 2 News**

We are approaching the end of what has been a very busy but exciting second half of the spring term. We have been lucky enough to have children experiencing very different parts of the world over the last few weeks – the culture of Dubai, the scenery and snow of the French Alps and the history of Athens. These are amazing memories for staff and children that will last a lifetime. We are very lucky at Lanchester EP.

After the Easter holidays, each year group will begin their new topic. Year 3 will travel back in time to the Anglo Saxon period, whilst Year 4 will find out about Consett Steelworks in their Mighty Metals topic. Year 5 will head to the hills for their Misty Mountains, Winding River topic and Year 6 will jet off to Mexico to find out about the history and culture of the country.

We hope you all have a great Easter break with your families and we look forward to seeing you after the holidays.

### **Seahouses Residential for Year 4**

Our Year 4 children will be going on their residential to Seahouses the first week back after the Easter break. Miss Jackson's class are going on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April to Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April with Miss Jackson, Mr Innes, Mrs Newby, Miss Glover and Mrs Davis. Mr Adamson's class are going on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April to Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April with Mr Adamson, Miss Brierley, Mrs Moran and Mrs Davis. I am sure they will have a great time.

### **Positive Thinking**

***Always remember your value is beyond measure.***

***Your voice is important and has more meaning than you could possibly imagine.***

***You have a song in you no-one else could sing.***

Have a wonderful Easter holiday when it comes and we shall look forward to seeing your children back in school on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

Best Wishes,

*Jane Davis*

Mrs Jane Davis  
Head Teacher