



Christmas Newsletter (2)



This half-term has to be one of the best times to work in a school. The anticipation of Christmas is just lovely to witness in the children and I am sure you will soon start to hear lots of Christmas songs being sung at home too. The fact that we can have you in school and hold traditional nativities again is just wonderful! More information regarding all our Christmas activities is contained in the main body of the newsletter but we have a huge array of nativities, parties, concerts and theatre trips taking place this half term.

Our school is such a happy place at the moment with great behaviour and attitudes from our children – long may that last! The children just seem so eager and keen to do their very best. We really do have some great ambassadors for our school.

You will also find more information about our forthcoming Winter Wonderland in the newsletter too – we are making some subtle changes to the organisation this year so that it remains slightly different again to help keep the children's interests alive. It is looking as though it will be another very popular week and this year, we are opening the school up for one night and holding our Christmas Fair and Christmas Outdoor Market.

Please look at the diary dates at the end of the newsletter very carefully so that you know when all the different events are taking place, as school life is going to be rather busy. Please note, that these diary dates always supersede the ones sent in the previous newsletters as occasionally times or dates can change and additional events are always added. Thank you.

As usual, if there is anything at all that you want to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Jane Davis

Staff News



We are delighted to welcome our two new cleaning staff to our team this half term. Mr Marty Hobbs and Miss Oksana Pavliuk have started with us this week and have fitted in to our team brilliantly. I am sure you will have seen Mr Hobbs clearing all the leaves outside with Mr Gill – quite a thankless task at this time of year as you can imagine!



Environmental Health



Congratulations to Mr David Southern and his great team in our kitchen who have helped us to achieve a 5* rating from Environmental Health following the recent inspection. They really are a great group of people who work very hard to make almost 350 meals every single day. The meals are so good that the majority of the staff stay for school dinner too. I have never seen Mr Innes look so happy as when he tasted their custard for the first time!





Governing Body



We have a very experienced and active governing body who give up a lot of their own time to both support and challenge the work of our school. The list below is our current governing body.

We will have vacancy for a Parent Governor at the end of this month. If you think you would be interested in this role, please email myself (j.davis@lanchesterep.net) to express your interest in this position no later than Friday 11th November. If more than one parent is interested, then it will go to a parental ballot. Being a governor does require a time commitment and an interest in the life of the school and being able to both support and challenge the work we do as a school. The governors are a committed and dedicated group of adults who work well together to bring the best possible education to our children. It can be a very rewarding role and one which brings a lot of satisfaction to you too! Meetings are held at least once a term and usually take place on Mondays at 3.00 or 4.00pm.

Mr Michael Knowles (Chair of Governors)	Co-opted Governor
Revd Lesley Sutherland (Vice Chair of Governors)	Foundation Governor
Mr Jason Exley (Deputy Vice Chair of Governors)	Parent Governor
Mr Ben Garside (Deputy Vice Chair of Governors)	Co-opted Governor
Ms Suzanne Nagel	Co-opted Governor
Mr Ossie Johnson	Co-opted Governor
Mrs Margaret Matthews	Foundation Governor
Mrs Cathy Bailey	Foundation Governor
Mrs Sarah Blakeman	Parent Governor
Ms Denice Atkinson	Parent Governor
Mr Chris Grady	Parent Governor
Ms Naomi Hawke	Staff Governor



Poppies and Remembrance



We have a super collection of poppies and associated stationery from the Royal British Legion. These will be on sale next week in exchange for a donation. Some of our Year 6 children will take them round school every afternoon next week and they will also be available from the School Office too. Please give generously to this very worthy cause in advance of Remembrance Sunday on 13th November 2022! Please be aware that we do tend to sell out of most things so donate early to avoid disappointment!



Open Morning for Potential Reception New Starters – 12th November



We know that many Nursery parents are trying to decide which primary school to apply to for their child for September 2023. We are holding an Open Morning on **Saturday 12th November 2022 between 10am & 12pm** for any potential new Reception Starters. Come along, see the environment, meet the staff and allow your children to have some fun whilst you ask any questions of the staff! In the past, parents have said they have found this to be a really useful session and have actually suggested that we open up on a Saturday morning every week to allow their children to play and make use of our lovely environment!

However, if you would like to come and have a look round during the school day, we are also more than happy to show you round. Just email the school office and we will get back to you with some suggested dates. Choosing the right school for your child is probably one of the biggest decisions you will make for your child, therefore it has to be the right one!



Children in Need Day



We will be holding a non-uniform day in school on **Friday 18th November** to support Children in Need Day. You will be able to make donations on ParentPay from next week or if you prefer, you can make a donation in cash at any time too. We are asking children to come to school dressed in bright colours as it is also the end of Road Safety Week and it acts as a reminder to children to dress appropriately now the darker nights have come, in order to be seen in the dark.



Early Years News



Nursery and Reception parents and carers should have received their child's Autumn Treasure Hunt sheet this week. Apologies – this was meant to come out before the holiday. We hope your child enjoys completing the hunt. If you would like to collect sponsorship money for this activity, we would be very grateful. All money raised will go towards developing our outdoor music area.

Thanks to all who came along to our Reception Family Story Times this week. We hope that you enjoyed coming in to share our stories, rhymes and songs. Next week, we are looking forward to welcoming Nursery parents to share a Story Time in Nursery on **Wednesday 9th November** at the following times:

- **11.15am** – parents/carers of Morning and Monday – Wednesday children
- **2.30pm** – parents/carers of 30 hour children and Wednesday – Friday children

Key Stage 1 News

Year 1 need parent helpers for their next trip on **Wednesday 23rd November**. If anyone is able and willing to accompany the children to the Centre for Life, please email either Mrs Burke or Mr Innes: g.innes@lanchesterep.net or j.burke@lanchesterep.net. Your help is really appreciated.



Key Stage 2 News



The Home Walk Project Booklets

The Home Walk Project booklets will be collected from school on **Wednesday 9th November**. If anyone has any completed booklets to send off, please ensure you hand them into the Office before this date.

Year 3 Urban Pioneers

As part of their new topic on Urban Pioneers, which covers how cities have developed and changed over the centuries and includes looking at street artists and their work, Year 3 have worked with a graffiti artist in school. They explored the history of street art and how stencils are used, as well as designing and creating their own piece of graffiti artwork using spray paints!

Captain Chemistry

Once again, we have Captain Chemistry working with our children this half term to enhance their Science knowledge and understanding. He will be working with Years 3 and 5 this half term on their topics of Light and Materials respectively.



Headlice



Headlice can be a problem in many schools. The NHS advice is that schools should not inform parents when there has been an outbreak in their child's class because parents and carers should be checking their child's hair regularly and using a nit comb at least once a week when brushing their child's hair.

However, we do currently have an outbreak of headlice in school so I would recommend all parents and carers to make sure that they are checking their child's hair regularly, using a nit comb and if your child has long hair, consider tying it up.



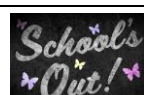
After School Club Pick Up



It is really important that all parents and carers understand that after school finishes at **5.15pm** and your child needs to be collected by 5.15pm. Mr Haslam is paid to work up until 5.15pm which means he should finish at 5.15pm. Please try and respect this by collecting your child on time. Thank you.



Holidays



I would just like to draw your attention to the holiday dates at the end of the newsletter. The holiday dates for both this year and next year are listed and it is important to especially note the date for October week which is almost a week later than usual. In 2023, we break up on **Friday 27th October 2023** and return to school on **Monday 6th November 2023**. I thought it was worth pointing this date out to make sure you are all aware that it is later than usual.



Scholastic Book Fair



We are really looking forward to having our first book fair in over two years. Many parents and children will not have experienced one of these before. Scholastic books bring 4 cases of books which are available for children to purchase. The book fair will be open after school from **Tuesday 22nd November through to Friday 25th November between 3.15pm and 4pm**. The children will have the opportunity to visit the book fair during the day as well. The school does benefit financially from these book fairs and can earn up to 60% commission. It can also be an ideal place to start some Christmas shopping too!



Road Safety & Community Planning Group Update



We have had a great uptake for our road safety and community planning club, with 15 children who are really keen to help make the area around school safer for the pupils and those living near the school. They were full of suggestions and ideas and are starting off by designing posters, leaflets for parents and writing letters - so watch this space! I have a feeling you will see them out and about outside at the start and end of school too over the coming weeks!



Road Safety Week



Road Safety Week 2022 is from the **14th to the 20th November** and this year's theme is Safe Roads for All. We will be doing some work around this in school, along with the Road Safety & Community Planning Group, and are asking all children to come into school on **Friday 18th November** in their brightest clothes possible as a reminder of how important it is for pedestrians and cyclists to be bright & be seen by drivers, especially at this time of year.



Smoking, Vaping and Dogs!



This is just a polite reminder that smoking and vaping are not allowed anywhere on the premises on any day and at any time. This also includes a Saturday morning or evening when other activities are taking place. Dogs are also not allowed on the school grounds – this is for health and safety reasons and includes puppies in arms! Most of the staff are real dog lovers and we always love meeting new additions to our school family, but this will have to be off school premises. Thank you for your support.



Be Bright, Be Seen



At this time of year, when the clocks have turned back, the evenings become darker and the weather worsens, the Be Bright, Be Seen Road Safety message is very important to help keep everyone safer when they are near to or using the roads. The children will be introduced to this campaign during the forthcoming Road Safety Week but it is a reminder to us all about how to keep us all safe at this time of the year.



BBC Television



We had a very interesting day in school on Monday this week when we welcomed BBC TV into school for the day who were filming Mr McLoughlin and myself as well as some of the children who will be travelling to India around the issues we have had (along with the rest of the country!) over obtaining visas to travel to India. This has been a huge challenge which is still ongoing and the BBC have been looking into the issues that so many people are facing.



Christmas Fundraising: Deadline for Orders & Payment

If you would like to order any Christmas fundraising items, please remember the deadline for orders is **Thursday 10th November**. Orders placed after this time or have not been paid for will not be fulfilled.



Winter Wonderland, Christmas Market and Christmas Fair

Thursday 8th December 2022



Once again, we will be opening our magical Winter Wonderland to the public on **Thursday 8th December from 4-7pm**. There will be popcorn and hot chocolate on offer by the fire, plus, no Winter Wonderland experience would be complete without a visit to Santa's Grotto.

Tickets will be £5 per person (under 1s go free) and will go on sale on ParentPay next week. We will also be displaying flyers around the village and posting on Twitter, and payments can be made in cash if necessary no later than **Friday 25th November**.

All our children will still get to experience the Winter Wonderland during the school day the week beginning Monday 5th December but we are really excited to be able to share this event with our local community again.

As part of our Winter Wonderland this year we are also going to be incorporating a Lanchester EP Christmas Market. We still have tables available so if anyone would like one to sell gifts, crafts, goodies etc or knows anyone who would be interested, please contact the School Office for more information as soon as possible.

Our Christmas Fair will also be held on **Thursday 8th December from 3pm until 5pm**. This will be in the Junior Hall where the children's enterprise products will be on sale as well as refreshments and a number of Christmas games and stalls.

Donations for Winter Wonderland

Thank you to everyone who has already donated items for our Winter Wonderland. We are still in need of the following: baubles, pool noodles, hay bales, wooden pallets, Christmas wrapping paper, tinsel, spray paint/wall paint/outdoor paint. If you have anything you think might come in useful, please drop it into the Office by **Friday 11th November** if possible. Thank you.



Christmas Dinner



Our annual Christmas Dinner is taking place on **Thursday 15th December** for all children who are in school at lunchtimes - if your child is usually on packed lunch, your child is welcome to join us for this festive feast.

If your child is in Reception - Year 2, this is free. For pupils in Nursery and Year 3 to Year 6, the cost is £2.25. You will be charged for this on the day of the Christmas meal, so please make sure you have credit in your child's dinner money account for this. You will receive an email with the Christmas menu and a form to complete next week. Please ensure this is returned to us no later than **Friday 2nd December** if your child would like to join us for the Christmas lunch.



Switching on the Christmas Lights



It is wonderful that the Lanchester Partnership are once again, planning a large-scaled event on the Village Green in order to switch on the Christmas Lights and have a celebration to celebrate this. Two of our Year 6 children will be asked to take part in this and there will be carol singing and festivities all round. This will take place on **Saturday 26th November** – more details will be shared nearer the time.



Friends of the School



The Friends of Lanchester EP are a small group of parents who regularly meet to plan events for the children and their families in order to raise funds for items, events or trips that the school budget may not necessarily extend to. Over the past few years, we have raised funds to provide wet weather toys for every classroom, electrical equipment, Year 6 Leavers' discos and even enabled the reindeer to visit the Winter Wonderland!

The group met last month and have planned a range of exciting events over the coming year. In order to facilitate these events, we rely solely on the goodwill of parents, grandparents and friends to volunteer their time to help organise and run each event. All funds raised go directly back to the children to purchase items they have requested. If you are interested in helping, or even joining the committee, please email: friends@lanchesterep.net.

Watch out for some information coming soon for their first event which is the very popular Christmas Shopping Event! There is also a flyer attached to this letter from the Friends of the School with the dates of all their forthcoming events. They have lots of exciting things planned already!



Individual Photographs



JS Photography will be in school on **Wednesday 16th November** to take individual photographs. All children will have their photograph taken during the day so please make sure children come into school in their full school uniform. Siblings in school will also have their photograph taken together. In addition to this, the photograph company will be ready to take photographs from **8.15am**, so if you would like your child to have a photo taken with a sibling that is not a member of our school then this can be done too – more information will be shared about the logistics of this in the next newsletter.

Please note, there is no pressure whatsoever to purchase these photographs. Proofs will go home with the children though if any families would like to buy them as they can make nice Christmas presents!



Trips during this Half Term



We have number of trips taking place this half term and know that the younger classes in particular, often need parental help. The children are very fortunate to have staff who organise so many educational visits, all of which really enhance their learning.

Monday 7th November Year 4 at the Jorvik Centre in York - **please note, children must be in school for an early registration at 8.15am**

Thursday 10th November Year 5 at Cadbury World (overnight visit)

Friday 11th November Year 5 at The National Space Centre

Wednesday 23rd November Year 1 at The Centre for Life

Tuesday 13th December Year 6 at The Tyne Theatre and Lunch in Newcastle



Ski Trip



It is hard to believe how quickly the ski trip is approaching. Miss Rippon will be in touch over the next week with all the adults travelling on the trip to complete their DBS checks. It will be good to get everyone together at the forthcoming meeting on **Tuesday 22nd November at 6pm**. There is also a form that needs completed for all children and adults going on the trip – these will be emailed out next week too. Please complete those and return them to the School Office as soon as possible and certainly prior to the meeting taking place. Kit lists will also be shared with parents/carers at this meeting and emailed out afterwards. It is so wonderful to be going on this trip after a long 4 years without it!



Assistance Dog in School



We were very lucky to be able welcome Chelsea, an adorable Assistance Dog with her owner Margaret into school last week. Now that the children have met Chelsea, she will be coming into school with Margaret more regularly to allow some of the children to spend more time reading to them. This is a great opportunity for our children and we will be sending a letter home for parents and carers to give permission for their child to work alongside Chelsea.



Non Uniform Day for Christmas Fair



We will be holding a non-uniform day on **Friday 25th November** for Years 1 – 6 and **Wednesday 23rd November** for our Early Years children. This is an annual non-uniform day that we hold at the same time every year. We ask children to bring in a gift for the Christmas Fair in exchange for being allowed to wear non uniform. We would really appreciate any of the following: chocolate/confectionary, toiletries, bottles of alcohol (an adult should drop them in at the office please!), children's stationery/gift or any item suitable for a raffle prize. Please make sure anything you bring in is still in-date as we often have to throw things away that are past their use by date!

We really appreciate your help and support with this as it makes a huge difference to the success of our Christmas Fair! All profits made from the Fair will be going towards developing our outdoors area.



Enterprise Week



During the end of November & first week in December, all children will be taking part in our annual Enterprise Week. Each class decide on their project and, working as a small business, attempt to make and sell a product with the aim of making a small (or large!) profit. These products will all be sold at the Christmas Fair on **Thursday 8th December**. In the past, the children have thoroughly enjoyed this challenge and their aim is to be the class making the most profit! (Actually I think it is more competitive amongst the adults in school!)

Key Stage 2 Residentials

We are very fortunate to have a plethora of residentials taking place this academic year. More information will be shared shortly about the Year 3 and Year 4 residentials but please make a note of the dates in your diaries.

Birchwood, Tamworth	Year 5	10 th & 11 th November 2022
Rajkot, India	Year 5 and Year 6	14 th – 21 st January 2023
Dubai, UAE	Year 5 and Year 6	24 th February – 3 rd March 2023
Ski Trip: Serre Chevalier, France	Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6	11 th – 18 th March 2023
Birdoswald, Roman Wall	Year 3	22 nd – 23 rd & 23 rd – 24 th March 2023
Seahouses, Northumberland	Year 4	20 th – 21 st & 21 st – 22 nd March 2023
Northern Ireland	Year 6	26 th – 30 th June
PGL, Lincolnshire	Year 5	2 nd – 5 th July



LJG Coaching Christmas Holiday Club



LJG Coaching will be in school on **Wednesday 21st December** and **Thursday 22nd December**. If you would like to book, please complete this online booking form: [December Holiday Club](#). This is open for all children aged between 4 – 11 years old.

He also has two days of Football Camps taking place in Croft Hall – these need to be booked directly with Mr Graham via LJGsportscoaching@gmail.com.



Reverse Advent Calendar



We all have an expectation of how Christmas should be but are all too aware that for many families, it is a time of added stress on already over-stretched budgets. Families that struggle from day to day suddenly have to try to stretch further to provide a Christmas dinner and presents for children and many simply cannot.

Our school is co-ordinating a huge reverse advent calendar and are asking parents and carers to check their cupboards or if possible to purchase an extra item of food in their weekly shopping from the list below. Items can be brought into school via the School Office, or sent in with your child.

The food items needed for the hampers are:

Sweet Snacks: Biscuits, Chocolates, Sweets

Savoury Snacks: Crisps, Nuts, Cheese Biscuits

Pudding Items : Sponge, Christmas Pudding, Cake, Mince Pies

Drinks: Squash, Fruit Juice, Fizzy Drinks (non-alcoholic), Tea, Coffee, UHT Milk

Breakfast Items: Cereal, Breakfast Biscuits, Marmalade, Jam, Part Baked Bread

Tinned Items: Baked Beans, Pasta Sauces, Tuna, Soup, Veg, Custard

Sanitary Items: Handwash, Shampoo, Shower Gel, Soap

Packet Mixes: Stuffing, Custard, Jelly, White Sauce, Gravy

Food Cupboard Staples: Pasta, Rice, Noodles, Cooking Oil

please make sure all items donated are in-date

These items will be used to make up hampers to deliver to needy families in the village, with any extra being donated to the local Foodbank. If you know of any family who would appreciate one of these hampers, please let me know. It can be done confidentially by emailing me at: j.davis@lanchesterep.net.

School Holidays – Academic Year 2022 – 2023

Holiday	Closing Date	Date re-open for teaching purposes
Staff Training Day	Friday 25 th November 2022	Tuesday 29 th November 2022
Christmas Holiday	Tuesday 20 th December 2022	Wednesday 4 th January 2023
February Half Term	Friday 17 th February 2023	Monday 27 th February 2023
Easter Holiday	Friday 31 st March 2023	Monday 17 th April 2023
May Day	Friday 28 th April 2023	Tuesday 2 nd May 2023
Summer Half Term	Thursday 25 th May 2023	Tuesday 6 th June 2023
Summer Holiday	Friday 21 st July 2023	Tuesday 5 th September 2023

Important Dates for 2022 - 2023

KS1 Statutory Assessment Tests - May 2022

KS2 Statutory Assessment Tests - Week Beginning Monday 8th May 2023

Year 1 Phonics Screening Check - Week Beginning Monday 12th June 2023

Year 4 Multiplication Test - Week Beginning Monday 5th June 2022

School Holidays – Academic Year 2023 – 2024

Holiday	Closing Date	Date re-open for teaching purposes
Summer Holiday	Friday 21 st July 2023	Tuesday 5 th September 2023
October Holiday	Friday 27 th October 2023	Monday 6 th November 2023
Christmas Holiday	Tuesday 19 th December 2023	Wednesday 3 rd January 2023
February Half Term	Friday 16 th February 2024	Monday 26 th February 2024
Easter Holiday	Thursday 28 th March 2024	Monday 15 th April 2024
May Day	Friday 3 rd May 2024	Tuesday 7 th May 2024
Summer Half Term	Friday 24 th May 2024	Monday 3 rd June 2024
Summer Holiday	Tuesday 23 rd July 2024	Wednesday 4 th September 2024

Diary Dates		
Monday 7 th November 2022	All Day	Captain Chemistry in School
Monday 7 th November	8am – 3.30pm	Year 4 Visit to Jorvik Viking Centre
Tuesday 8 th November 2022	All Day	Captain Chemistry in School
Wednesday 9 th November 2022	11.15am	Family Storytime & Songs for Nursery Families (Morning & Mon – Weds Children)
Wednesday 9 th November 2022	2.30pm	Family Storytime & Songs for Nursery Families (30 Hour & Weds – Fri Children)
Thursday 10 th November 2022	All Day	Year 5 at Cadbury World & Birchwood School
Friday 11 th November 2022	All Day	Year 5 at National Space Centre
Saturday 12 th November 2022	10am-12noon	Open Morning for Prospective Parents
Wednesday 16 th November 2022	All Day	Individual & Sibling Photographs
Thursday 17 th November 2022	6pm	Dubai Meeting for all parents/carers/children
Sunday 20 th November 2022	6pm	Confirmation Service at St Ives, Leadgate
Week Beg. Monday 21 st November	All Week	Book Fair in School
Tuesday 22 nd November	6pm	Ski Meeting for all parents/carers/children
Wednesday 23 rd November	All Day	Year 1 at The Centre for Life
Thursday 24 th November	6pm	Meeting for Hungary Erasmus+ Trip
Week Beg. Monday 5 th December	All Week	Winter Wonderland
Wednesday 7 th December 2022	3.30pm	Choir Singing at Lanchester Garden Centre in aid of Henry Dancer Days
Thursday 8 th December 2022	4-7pm	Winter Wonderland & Christmas Market open to the community – more details to follow after half term
Thursday 8 th December 2022	3 – 5pm	Christmas Fair in Junior Hall
Week Beg. Monday 12 th December	All Week	Erasmus+ Visit to Ajka, Hungary
Tuesday 13 th December	All Day	Year 6 Pantomime Visit to Tyneside Theatre & Special Lunch in Newcastle
Tuesday 13 th December 2022	11am	Family Christmas Songs & Stories for Nursery Families (Morning & Mon – Weds Children)
Tuesday 13 th December 2022	Morning	Year 3 Christmas Party
Tuesday 13 th December 2022	Afternoon	Year 4 Christmas Party
Wednesday 14 th December 2022	All Day	The Little Elf Performance for EYFS & KS1
Wednesday 14 th December 2022	All Day	Parties for Nursery and Reception
Wednesday 14 th December 2022	Morning	Year 1 Christmas Party
Wednesday 14 th December 2022	Afternoon	Year 2 Christmas Party
Thursday 15 th December 2022	9.30am	Reception Nativity in School Hall
Thursday 15 th December 2022	Lunchtime	Christmas Dinner in School
Thursday 15 th December 2022	2pm	Reception Nativity in School Hall
Friday 16 th December 2022	Morning	Year 5 Christmas Party
Friday 16 th December 2022	Afternoon	Year 6 Christmas Party
Friday 16 th December 2022	2.15pm	Family Christmas Songs & Stories for Nursery Families (30 Hours & Weds – Fri Children)
Monday 19 th December 2022	10am	KS1 Nativity in School Hall
Monday 19 th December 2022	2pm	KS1 Nativity in School Hall
Tuesday 20 th December 2022	10am	KS2 Nativity and Church Service
Tuesday 20 th December 2022	1.30pm	KS2 Nativity and Church Service
Tuesday 20 th December 2022	5.15pm	Break Up for Christmas Holidays
Christmas Holiday – Wednesday 21 st & Thursday 22 nd December 2022 - LJG Coaching Holiday Club in School		
Wednesday 4 th January 2023	7.30am	School Re-Opens