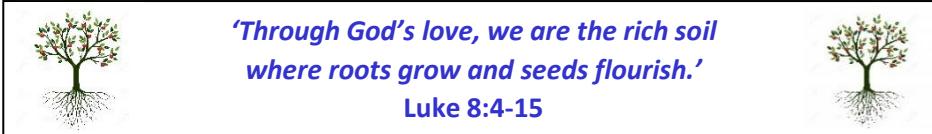




Lanchester E.P. (Cont.) Primary School & Nursery

A Caring Community Where All Can Flourish



Friday 11th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

With just one week left of the term, it feels like we are limping to the finishing line with so many germs and bugs doing the rounds. It always seems to be the same at this time of the year. But at least we have not had to postpone any nativities – unlike last year!

Unfortunately, I have succumbed to the flu epidemic this week which has totally wiped me out, resulting in me not being able to be in work all week – not like me at all! So, apologies for a lack of replies to emails – I will be catching up over the weekend.

I was bitterly disappointed to miss both the Nursery and Reception nativities this week which I have heard were absolutely delightful. I hope they were a lovely start to your festive celebrations. The most important thing to us is that the children enjoy it and I have been told by a number of different people that they most certainly did that! Well done to them all – we are always so proud of our children.

Generosity

Thank you so much for amazing generosity with the Christmas Fair last Friday. We counted over £1900 from the day itself and the actual profit is over £1600 which is wonderful. We will let you know what this is used for but it always goes directly back to the children here. It was a mad hour, but so enjoyable and a lovely atmosphere. Thank you all for braving the crowds!

We took £568.65 at the Scholastic Book Fair which meant we earned £227.54 worth of commission in books. We have already purchased additional books for our library with this. Thank you!

Rota kids raised £316.19 for Wacky Hair Day and another £100 last week at the Christmas Fair. They will be purchasing toys for the local Salvation Toy Appeal which helps to ensure local children receive a present this Christmas.

We also raised £408.17 on Children in Need Day which is being split between them and the Jamaican Hurricane Appeal – as requested by some of our children.

The Early Years Autumn Treasure Hunt raised £341.10 which is going back into Early Years to purchase additional resources for their unit.

In addition, we had some of our girls raise over £240 at the Village Green Christmas Light Switch On for Henry Dancer Days. Last week at the Christmas Fair, two of our Year 5 boys raised £56 for Willowburn, making Christmas Tree Decorations out of wood. We are very proud of these children for doing something for others and really making a difference in their local community. This type of social action is a shining example of our school's Christian values of Love and Kindness. Well done!

Christmas Priorities

This time of year often brings with it a pressure for many parents and carers to create the perfect magical Christmas with the best presents possible. I know that many of you do feel that pressure and stress of money. However, do you remember the gifts that you received as a child? I certainly don't. But what I do remember are the special family gatherings, those special family walks, the sleepovers at grandparents and games we played as a family. Please remember that the most important gift you can give your child over the Christmas holidays is your love and time, the routines and traditions and that feeling for a child of being safe and loved. Don't ever forget that you are their favourite thing!

Christmas Shop

I would like to say a huge thank you to the Friends of the School for the tremendous amount of hard work they have all put into the Christmas Shop again this year. From the organisation and order forms, to the purchasing of gifts, wrapping of gifts and the storing and delivering of them all to the hands on deck this week with the children – it is a massive project! I know the satisfaction for them is seeing the look of delight and joy at that wonderful feeling of ‘giving’ on the children’s faces as they delightedly choose their gifts for their chosen adults. I just hope they don’t spill the beans before Christmas Day as to what it is they have chosen for you all! A massive thank you to all the Friends for their continued dedication to our children. For any children who have missed their session and the catch up session, there will be gifts for them to choose from next week, so don’t worry.

Reception Intake for September 2026

Reception 2026 Intake Parents of pre-schoolers in Nursery, please remember that school places for Reception intake in September 2026 need to be applied for by midnight on 15th January 2026. It is essential that places are applied for in time to ensure the school of your choice. Please note, children will not automatically get a place in our school if they have been in the Nursery, so it is imperative you apply for a Reception place via the following link: [Apply now for a primary school place - deadline 15 January 2026 - Durham County Council](https://www.durham.gov.uk/apply-now-for-a-primary-school-place---deadline-15-january-2026---durham-county-council).

Holiday Dates for Next Academic Year

Holiday	Last Day at School	Re-Open for Teaching Purposes
Autumn Term	-	Wednesday 2 nd September 2026
Autumn Half Term	Friday 23 rd October 2026	Monday 2 nd November 2026
Staff Training Day	Friday 20 th November 2026	Tuesday 24 th November 2026
Christmas Holiday	Friday 18 th December 2026	Monday 4 th January 2027
Spring Half Term	Friday 12 th February 2027	Monday 22 nd February 2027
Easter Holiday	Thursday 25 th March 2027	Monday 12 th April 2027
May Day	Friday 30 th April 2027	Tuesday 4 th May 2027
Summer Half Term	Thursday 27 th May 2027	Monday 7 th June 2027
Summer Holiday	Wednesday 21 st July 2027	To be confirmed

This Week's Big Question

This week's Big Question has been, 'What is the TRUE meaning of Christmas?' I hope this Big Question might be talked about over the Christmas period. I know your children will have lots to say on the matter.

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.

Attendance

Year Group	Current Week (%)	to Date (%)	Year Group	Current Week (%)	to Date (%)
Reception	86.7	94	Year 4	93.5	95.5
Year 1	95.5	95.2	Year 5	95.2	97.5
Year 2	95.1	97.6	Year 6	95.9	96.4
Year 3	91.3	96.4	Whole School	93.3	96.1

Diary Dates for Next Week

Monday 15th December at 10am and 2.15pm – Key Stage 1 Nativity

We are really looking forward to our KS1 nativity next week. Please make your way to the Junior Hall Door. Doors will open at least 15 minutes before the nativities take place. We know you are all in for a real treat!

Tuesday 16th December – Fair Trade Hot Chocolate Stall

We had to postpone our Fair Trade Hot Chocolate stall from this week, so this will be going ahead on Tuesday instead. Please send your child into school on Tuesday with £1 if they would like a hot chocolate.

Tuesday 16th December – 9.30am 2-year-olds Christmas Stay and Play Session

All parents and carers are welcome to join their little one for a Stay and Play session in our 2-year-old room. Please come to the Nursery door at 9.30am. I am sure they will be thrilled to welcome you and show you around too!

Tuesday 16th December at 2pm and 5.30pm – Year 6 Nativity -Lanchester Methodist Church

It is the final opportunity for our Year 6 cohort to enjoy participating in a school nativity and they certainly aim to make it one to remember! Please do not forget that this is taking place in Lanchester Methodist Church. The evening performance is at 5.30pm – slightly earlier than usual. The doors will open around 20 minutes prior to the start. Children will need to be dropped off at the Methodist Church at 5.15pm please.

Wednesday 17th December – Nursery, Reception and Year 2 Christmas Parties

Children can come to school in their party clothes for the day in school. All party food and drinks will be provided for the children. All they need is some energy and Christmas spirit!

Thursday 18th December – Year 3 and Year 4 Parties

Again, as above, children can come to school in their party clothes for the day in school. All party food and drinks will be provided for the children.

Thursday 18th December – 2.30pm 2-year-olds Christmas Stay and Play Session

All parents and carers are welcome to join their little one for a Stay and Play session in our 2-year-old room. I am sure they will be thrilled to welcome you and show you around too!

Friday 19th December – Mrs Coyle's Class and Year 4 Christingle and Carol Service in All Saints' Church

The service will start at 9.30am in All Saints' Church. All parents and carers are invited to come along to this special event. The Christingle with Mrs Coyle's class will be very special and all are working very hard with their words and singing!

Friday 19th December – Miss Watt's Class and Year 5 Christingle and Carol Service in All Saint's Church

This starts at 11am for parents and carers. It is the same service and Christingle as the earlier one, but with different children. A very special way to start your Christmas!

Friday 19th December – Year 1, Year 5 and Year 6 Christmas Parties

Children can come to school in their party clothes for the day. For Year 5 children, we are happy with them either being in party clothes for the day, or if they prefer to wear their uniform for the Carol Service and then change in school at lunchtime, that is also absolutely fine! The choice and decision is down to you and your child.

Friday 19th December – Special Visitor

We are hoping that we will have a special visitor who will be with Mrs Davis in her car after school on Friday so keep a look out for them at home time. Mrs Davis had to change her car earlier this year but would only buy another convertible, especially for this very special day of the year!

Positive Thinking

*The best of all gifts around any Christmas tree:
The presence of a happy family all wrapped up in each other.*

I hope you all have a very merry and special Christmas with your loved ones and a peaceful New Year.

Best Wishes,

Jane Davis

Head Teacher