



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 1st December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

The weather has certainly made it seem very festive this week and definitely excited the children! Very seasonal for Friday 1st December! We have certainly made the most of the 'awe and wonder' moments that snow and ice inevitably bring.

It was a super community event last Saturday with the switching on of the Christmas lights on the Village Green. We were thrilled that two of our lovely Year 6 children, Ava and Reuben, represented our school and enjoyed the honour of helping to switch on the lights. I think they thoroughly enjoyed their temporary celebrity status and carried out the honour with great maturity too!

Thank you for all the wonderful gifts that have been sent into school today for our Christmas Fair. You are very generous! Any money raised at the Christmas Fair is always used to benefit the children in school whether it be buying them ice creams, party food or purchasing those extra things that make our classrooms such welcoming environments.

It has been lovely to see so many of you again at the Reading Workshops this week – we hope you found them useful. You are never too old to come back to school and hopefully, these workshops will all be able to help you support your child at home.

The children have certainly had a real treat visiting Narnia at All Saints' Church this week. We are so fortunate to have such an active church who organise such wonderful events for our children.

Once again, this week has shown some tremendous community spirit amongst our parents and local residents. I would like to say a huge thank you to the parents and carers who helped and supported us yesterday morning when one of our parents was unwell. You know who you are – thank you from the bottom of my heart. I am pleased to say that the parent is recovering well at home. It just never ceases to amaze me what wonderfully kind and considerate families we have.

Christmas is well upon us now and I have listed on a separate document all the Christmas events taking place each day so you can see them all at a glance. More details are included below. We are really looking forward to sharing some of these festivities with you all – it really is just like the good old days this year!

Reverse Advent Calendar

Once again, we are organising a Reverse Advent Calendar when we ask anyone who is able, to donate an item of food every school day throughout December. We will then package the food up and will make up some food hampers for some of our families and also donate some to the local foodbank. Please help us to make this another resounding success this year!

Donations to The Salvation Army and Local Foodbank in lieu of Staff Gifts

If anyone would like to make donations to either of these very worthy causes, please send them into school. Our school council will be going shopping to spend any of this money and ensure it reaches those who need it most.

Friends of the School Christmas Shop

We are really looking forward to seeing the children's little faces light up as they choose their gifts this week for their loved ones. Giving is definitely more precious than receiving and our children see the absolute pleasure in this when they choose their gifts from the Christmas Shop.

The days the shop will take place for each year group are listed below. Please make sure your child brings a carrier bag into school on the day of their shop – this will help to make sure that no gift is lost or broken. Thank you.

I would like to say a huge thank you on behalf of you all to the army of volunteers from the Friends of the School who have made this possible. The work that goes on behind the scenes is immense – from ordering, storing, wrapping, collating orders, chasing up payments, replenishing stock, banking the money and the actual manning of the stalls this week. Thank you all so much – this really is a very special and popular event loved by all!

Nativities – ticket information & sign up

Tickets are selling quickly for the nativity performances. The Year 1 & 2 (KS1) morning performance is sold out and there are only 12 tickets left for the 2pm performance. We still have some tickets left for the other nativities and Christingle. If you would like to purchase any additional tickets for any performance, these will go on sale on Monday from the school office.

Nursery:	Tuesday 12 th December at 2.30pm - Christmas Storytime - Book here. Thursday 14 th December at 10am – Christmas Storytime – Book here
Reception:	Monday 11 th December at 10am and 2pm in the School Hall
Year 1 & Year 2:	Tuesday 12 th December at 10 am and 2 pm in the School Hall
Year 3 & Year 4:	Friday 15 th December at 10am in All Saints' Church
Year 5 & Year 6:	Thursday 14 th December at 2pm and 6pm in the School Hall

Christmas Fair

This year our annual Christmas Fair will be held in school on Thursday 7th December between 3.30pm – 5pm. We will have tombola's, Enterprise stands, refreshments and a variety of other stalls. If you are able to give up any of your spare time to help volunteer on the day, we would really appreciate your help. Please fill in this [volunteer form](#) if you are able to volunteer.

Christmas raffle tickets are now on sale for £1 each (£5 per strip). As always, we will have some fabulous prizes however, we would be very grateful for any raffle prize donations from local businesses or organisations to add to the prize list. All money raised from the Christmas Fair and Raffle goes directly back into providing those 'little extras' for your children in school.

Homework Questionnaire

Thank you to everyone who completed this questionnaire – we do appreciate you all spending some time filling it out. We will be analysing your responses over the next couple of weeks and let you know of any changes we make in the new year.

Attendance

Reception	93.7%
Year 1	95.2%
Year 2	96.5%
Year 3	95.3%
Year 4	96.4%
Year 5	98.3%
Year 6	94.5%

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.

Online Safety

Please read the attached information regarding schools' responsibilities around the new Online Safety Act, passed into law in October this year.

Diary Dates for Next Week

Monday 4th December 2023 – Friends of the School Christmas Shop

The volunteers from The Friends of the School will be on site on Monday morning to allow children from Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 come to the shop to choose their special gifts for their chosen people. Please remember to send them in with a carrier bag so they can carry their purchases home.

Tuesday 5th December 2023 – Year 2 Stay and Play Sessions

We are thrilled to offer Stay and Play Sessions to our Year 2 families on Tuesday. We have two sessions – one from 9-10am and the other from 2-3pm. Please sign up on [the form here](#) to indicate if you would like to come to one of the sessions. Please note, we are unable to have younger siblings attend the stay and play sessions and ask that you limit it to no more than 2 adults who come along. This is purely because of numbers involved and the size of the classrooms. Thank you!

Wednesday 6th December 2023 – Friends of the School Christmas Shop

The volunteers from The Friends of the School will be on site on Wednesday to allow children from Nursery, Year 3 and Year 4 to come to the shop to choose their special gifts for their chosen people. Please remember to send them in with a carrier bag so they can carry their purchases home.

Wednesday 6th December 2023 – Nursery Stay and Play Session

We have our Nursery Stay and Play session on Wednesday from 10.30-11.30am and 1.45-2.45pm. Please come along and enjoy spending some precious time with your children.

Wednesday 6th December 2023 - Author Session for KS2

We are thrilled to have signed up for virtual school visit with a great children's author, Katherine Rundell. All KS2 children will be logging on to enjoy some time both listening to and asking questions of Katherine. She is a very popular children's author who has won Waterstone's book of the year twice – in 2015 & 2023, and in 2022 became the youngest ever author to win the Baillie Gifford prize for Non-Fiction. I'm sure the children will be really inspired and enthused after this session.

Thursday 7th December 2023 – Year 1 Poetry in the Forest

You may be aware that Year 1 have been preparing for their Forest Poetry session by writing poems this week. The children have been working extremely hard and are excited to share their poems with their adults next week. The poetry session is at 9am next Thursday (7th December) in the Forest. We will have refreshments on arrival, then will hear the children read some of their Seasons poems and will finish with marshmallows and hot chocolate around the campfire. We hope you will be able to join us for this session next week. Please [sign up on the form here](#) to indicate if you would like to come along for this session.

Thursday 7th December 2023 – No extra-curricular activity clubs

Due to the Christmas Fair taking place, there will be no Year 3 & 4 Dance, Year 4 Dodgeball or Year 4-6 Shakespeare Club on after school.

Thursday 7th December 2023 – Christmas Fair 3.30pm – 5pm

I am sure this is going to be another exciting and lovely event for the whole family. We will be opening the doors at 3.30pm, once the staff have seen to all the children. The fair will take place in the Junior Hall and

Year 4 classrooms. There will be lots of activities, stalls, refreshments and local businesses with their stalls. The children will be selling their enterprise goods that they are making this week too!

At the fair will be the following stalls:

- Tombola's
- Christmas Crafts
- Pick a Bottle
- Lucky dip
- Sweet stall
- Refreshments
- Hot Dogs
- Enterprise Goods
- Christmas Raffle

Please note that children must be accompanied by an adult and unfortunately, we will not have the capacity to be able to take any children from After School Club to the fair. After School Club will take place in Nursery on Thursday. Please come along and support our Christmas Fair to make lots of money for the benefit of your children!

Friday 8th December 2023 – Friends of the School Christmas Shop

The volunteers from The Friends of the School will be on site on Friday morning to allow children from Year 5 and Year 6 to come to the shop to choose their special gifts for their chosen people. Please remember to send them in with a carrier bag so they can carry their purchases home. Any child who was absent earlier in the week will also come to the shop on Friday morning.

SEND News

Durham County Council has asked us to share information about the FEARless course that will be taking place on Monday afternoons at the Stanley Family Hub, beginning in January. FEARless is a course for parents/carers of children aged 6-14 years. The course helps where you have a child who has anxiety which might be causing them to miss school or social events. It will help you to understand your child's anxiety, recognise when your child is anxious and develop skills and techniques to help your child cope with their anxiety. Sessions run for two hours a week over six weeks. To find out more and to sign up for the course, please [click here](#).

Thank you to everyone who completed last half-term's questionnaire for parents and carers of children with SEND. One point that a few parents and carers made was about the changes to Mr McLoughlin's responsibilities this year. For the past two years, we have been able to have Mr McLoughlin not attached to a class. This meant that whilst he still had teaching commitments across the school, he did not have his own class and had a great deal of flexibility to meet promptly with parents and carers.

This year, due to budget constraints, he has had to go back into class and is the class teacher for one of our Year 1 classes, in addition to his role as special needs co-ordinator (SENCO) across the school. He has one day per week out of class for his SENCO responsibilities and has some dedicated times during this day available to meet with parents and carers. However, if you would like to discuss your child's specific needs, their class teacher is always the best person to speak to first, as they work most closely with your child throughout the week.

We always welcome feedback on our SEND provision, so please feel free to contact Mr McLoughlin by email if you would like to share any thoughts at all. His email address is s.mcloughlin@lanchesterep.net

Mr McLoughlin

Early Years News

We warmly invite you to our Nursery Christmas Story Time sessions on **Tuesday 12th December at 1:30 or 2:30pm** and **Thursday 14th December at 9:30 or 10:30 am**. These sessions will be held

in the Rainbow Room in Nursery and space will be limited. Please sign up for **only one** of these sessions to allow as many of you to attend as possible. Please note that we can only offer a maximum of two places per child. [Book your place here.](#) Children are invited to attend these sessions dressed for a Christmas celebration. Don't forget to bring your singing voices!

Your EYFS child will be bringing home a wooden peg today (or on Monday for Monday-Wednesday children in Nursery). You are invited to help them to decorate it and bring it back into school for the class Christmas Tree. Your child may wish to decorate it as an angel, turn it into a reindeer, colour it in to become Spiderman, make it into a snowman... we welcome all ideas to make our Christmas Tree as spectacular and individual as your child! Please remember to clearly label your child's peg with their name so that it can be easily returned at the end of term to hang on your tree at home.

As the weather turns colder, please ensure that your child has their warm coat with them in school. We would appreciate your help in teaching them to put their own coats on. This is a very important life skill, but something many of our children struggle with. You might like to watch this video with your child to give them some strategies which will help them <https://youtu.be/lamT7QYMTFI> Although we understand that it is often quicker and easier to do it for them, your child will gain not only independence, but also a huge boost to their self-esteem, by you supporting us in teaching them how to do it themselves. Next step - zips!

Miss Butler

Key Stage One News

It has been another busy and exciting week in KS1. We all really enjoyed going to All Saints Church for the Narnia prayer journey. There has also been some exciting Writing going on in Year 2 about The Great Explorer as well as some Science looking at woodlice habitats. Year 1 have been learning about Hannukah in RE and enjoyed an exciting visit from the Wright Brothers on Tuesday.

Rehearsals for the Christmas performance 'Baarmy Bethlehem' are well under way and the children are doing a fantastic job with all of the singing, acting and reading roles.

You may have seen already on Twitter that Year 1 have been preparing for their Forest Poetry session by writing poems this week. The children have been working extremely hard and are excited to share their poems with their adults next week. The poetry session is at 9am next Thursday (7th December) in the Forest. We will have refreshments on arrival, then will hear the children read some of their Seasons poems and will finish with marshmallows and hot chocolate around the campfire. We hope you will be able to join us for this session next week.

Mr Innes

Key Stage Two News

Year 3 and 4 Christingle and Carol Service

Our Year 3 and 4 children are putting the final touches to their Christingle and Carol Service which will be held at the church. Our Christingle is a warm, moving and joyful celebration that brings our community together to share the light of Jesus and spread a message of hope.

The Year 3 children will each make their own Christingle and take part in a procession around the church. Each element of a Christingle has a special meaning and helps to tell the Christian story:

- The orange represents the world
- The red ribbon (or tape) symbolises the love and blood of Christ
- The sweets and dried fruit represent all of God's creations
- The lit candle represents Jesus's light in the world, bringing hope to people living in darkness.

The Year 4 children will be leading a traditional Carol Service with readings and Christmas carols. We hope that you will join us at 10am on Friday 15th December to share this wonderful occasion where the children will celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.



Year 5 and 6 Christmas Performance – Christmas 1914.



Year 5 and 6 are busy learning songs and lines for their performance of Christmas 1914. The play is set in August 1914 at the beginning of the First World War. The story tracks Joe and his friends as they rush off to enlist to the army, leaving anxious families and friends behind. Once the grim reality of war takes hold, letters to and from the trenches become ever more important. As Christmas comes, the community gathers for a carol concert, whilst even the misery of the trenches is briefly lightened by the Christmas Truce. The show ends with a poignant moment of remembrance for absent loved ones as thoughts turn to the birth of Jesus. Everyone is looking forward to sharing this story with you on Thursday 14th December at 2pm and 6pm.

Please note that due to unavoidable circumstances, this will now take place in school. We are holding the second performance at 6pm in an attempt to accommodate working parents. We are hoping and presuming that all children will return for the 6pm performance as well, whether or not they have a main part. All children are important and we hope that the children will realise the importance of their presence as well as their desire to show their support to their peers and teachers.

Mr Knighton

Positive Thinking

CHRISTMAS TO-DO-LIST

- ***Buy Be presents***
- ***Wrap gifts- someone in a hug***
 - ***Send gifts peace***
 - ***Shop for Donate food***
 - ***See Be the lights***

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)



Lanchester Endowed Parochial Primary School



DIARY DATES for Autumn 2

Wk: Monday 4 th December 2023	All Week	Enterprise Week
Monday 4 th December 2023	Morning	Friends of the School Christmas Shop for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2
Tuesday 5 th December 2023	9am – 10am	Year 2 Stay and Play Session
Tuesday 5 th December 2023	2pm – 3pm	Year 2 Stay and Play Session
Wednesday 6 th December 2023	All Day	Friends of the School Christmas Shop for Nursery, Year 3 and Year 4
Wednesday 6 th December 2023	10.30 – 11.30am	Nursery Stay and Play Session
Wednesday 6 th December 2023	1.45pm–2.45pm	Nursery Stay and Play Session
Thursday 7 th December 2023	9am	Parents of Year 1 - Poetry in the Forest Session
Thursday 7 th December 2023	3.30pm-5pm	Christmas Fair and Social Event
Friday 8 th December 2023	Morning	Friends of the School Christmas Shop for Year 5 and Year 6 and any absent children earlier in the week
Monday 11 th December 2023	10am	Reception Nativity
Monday 11 th December 2023	2pm	Reception Nativity
Tuesday 12 th December 2023	10am	Key Stage One Nativity
Tuesday 12 th December 2023	2pm	Key Stage One Nativity
Tuesday 12 th December 2023	1pm	Choir singing at Lynnwood House Christmas Lunch
Tuesday 12 th December 2023	2.30pm	Nursery Christmas Story Session with Parents
Tuesday 12 th December 2023	All Day	Year 6 at Newcastle for Pantomime and Meal
Wednesday 13 th December 2023	All Day	Nursery and Reception Party Day
Wednesday 13 th December 2023	Morning	The Littlest Christmas Elf for EYFS and Year 1
Wednesday 13 th December 2023	Morning	New College Performing Arts Department performing 'Beauty and the Beast'
Wednesday 13 th December 2023	1.15pm	Choir singing at Lynnwood House for Residents
Thursday 14 th December 2023	9am	Brass and Woodwind Christmas Concert
Thursday 14 th December 2023	10am	Nursery Christmas Story Session with Parents
Thursday 14 th December 2023	11.30am	Choir singing at Willowburn Hospice
Thursday 14 th December 2023	2pm	Year 5 & Year 6 Christmas Nativity
Thursday 14 th December 2023	6pm	Year 5 & Year 6 Christmas Nativity
Friday 15 th December 2023	10am	Year 3 & Y4 Christingle and Carol Service in All Saints' Church
Friday 15 th December 2023	Lunchtime	Christmas Dinner in School
Monday 18 th December 2023	Morning	Year 3 and Year 1 Christmas Parties
Monday 18 th December 2023	Afternoon	Year 4 and Year 2 Christmas Parties
Monday 18 th December 2023	3.30pm	Christmas Carols and Hot Chocolate around the Tree
Tuesday 19 th December 2023	Morning	Year 5 Christmas Party
Tuesday 19 th December 2023	Afternoon	Year 6 Christmas Party
Tuesday 19 th December 2023	5.15pm	School Closes for Christmas Holiday

Holiday Club: Wednesday 20th to Friday 22nd December 2023

Email: ljgsportscoaching@gmail.com

Wednesday 3rd January 2024

7.30am

School re-opens for Spring Term 1

KS2 Statutory Assessment Tests - Week Beginning Monday 13th May 2024

Year 4 Multiplication Check - Week Beginning Tuesday 3rd June 2024

Year 1 & Year 2 Phonics Screening Check - Week Beginning Monday 10th June 2024

What Schools Need to Know about THE ONLINE SAFETY ACT

The Online Safety Act was passed into UK law in October 2023, with the aim of establishing major new layers of protection for children when they're online. The government has pledged "a zero-tolerance approach to protecting children from online harm" – and the act certainly includes more powerful legislation which should help to safeguard young people in the digital world. Our guide summarises the key points for schools ...

WHAT THE ACT WILL DO

HARMFUL CONTENT

Social media sites must rapidly remove illegal and/or harmful content such as bullying or harassing comments; pornography; and content that supports extremist activity or encourages or depicts violence, suicide, self harm or eating disorders. If they fail to do so, they can be fined up to 10% of their global revenue while their executives may even face jail time.

ANIMAL CRUELTY

Content featuring cruelty to animals is now prohibited, even if it originates from abroad (where the law may be different). Again, it is the platform's responsibility to remove this.

MORE TRANSPARENCY

Sites must be transparent about the hazards that any children using them could encounter – by publishing risk assessments for their platforms, for instance.

HOSTING MISLEADING ADVERTS

Seams and fraudulent adverts must be blocked or removed, or the hosting companies are liable to be fined.

NON-CONSENSUAL SHARING

It's now easier to convict online abusers or people who share intimate images without consent, while legislation on the criminality of deepfakes has been clarified. The new laws also relate to any individuals who even threaten to share such images. This should help to protect women and girls in particular online.

REPORTING AND FILTERING

Sites should have easy reporting mechanisms for children (or their parents and carers) to flag up problems quickly. They must also provide options to filter out unwanted content.

AGE-RESTRICTED MATERIAL

Sites must prevent children from accessing age-inappropriate material. This includes enforcing age limits and implementing robust age verification.

What this means for you

The act has some specific implications for schools: it's essential that leaders understand the new legislation's scope and limitations. The act is certainly a positive step, but as artificial intelligence and other advances in tech continue to produce new challenges, schools will still need to remain extremely vigilant.

KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP

Look out for the Code of Conduct that Ofcom is creating in response to the Online Safety Act. Note that the new legislation doesn't mean an instant change: many of its elements will only come into force at the end of 2023. An Ofcom consultation on 'protecting people from illegal harms online' will be running until February 2024.

REMEMBER THE ESSENTIALS

Remain mindful of your organisation's own online activities: the legal duty for schools to maintain appropriate software monitoring and filtering, for example, will not change.

WATCH FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

There are some issues on which the legislation remains less clear for now: whether it's possible for Ofcom to scan encrypted private messages (such as on WhatsApp) has yet to be resolved, for instance – making this an area where, for the moment, young people have less legal protection.

UNDERSTAND AND EXPLAIN

Staff should learn how to raise concerns with tech companies whose platforms contain anything upsetting or unpleasant. Students also need to be made aware of the newly strengthened laws relating to cyber-bullying, sexting or posting inappropriate content. Young people do make mistakes online – so the clearer their understanding of the possible consequences, the better.

ENGAGE WITH PARENTS

Schools should also explain to parents and carers the new possibilities that the Online Safety Act affords them in terms of protecting their children. Many parents may have previously felt that there was little they could do about changing online platforms' content; they now have a far greater level of support when complaining about a company or the behaviour of an individual.

Meet Our Expert

Luke Ramsden is Senior Deputy Headmaster and Director of Safeguarding for the St Benedict's family of schools. He is a regular speaker at conferences and writes in the TES (among other journals) on school leadership, pastoral care and safeguarding. In 2022, he was named Pastoral Leader of the Year at the National Awards for Pastoral Care in Education.



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