



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 5th May 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am sure many of you have enjoyed the four-day week which has been made even better with the prospect of another four-day week to come! I did smile at an email received from the Department of Education at the beginning of the week saying that they were sending some wildflower seeds to every primary school in the country in honour of the coronation and to help empower children to discover the joys of nature. We will certainly look forward to receiving ours because as stated in last week's newsletter, we already had this planned!

Year 6 Statutory Tests

Next week is an important week in the life of all primary schools with Year 6 children across the country sitting their KS2 statutory tests. We have reassured the children on countless occasions that these tests are really a measure of the school rather than them but obviously they want to do their best for their own sense of pride.

As you all know, we care passionately about the well-being of every single child in our school and just want them to be happy and fulfilled. We have regularly reminded the children that these tests measure just a very small part of their skill set and do not measure all their other talents which should also be celebrated.

Our wonderful Year 6 cohort have worked so very hard this year. They are unique individuals who are resilient, compassionate and caring with an abundance of wonderful talent. We have some superb sportsmen/women who excel in football, netball, swimming, cricket and rugby. We have some magnificent musicians who are such great singers and performers who play so many different instruments so well. We also have some amazing artists whose creativity never ceases to impress me! These are just a few of their talents which will not be measured next week and it is our job to make sure that our exceptionally skilled children know they are all successful in ways that the statutory tests will never show. We need to keep reminding them of this and ensuring they know how special and talented they all are – each and every one of them. Year 6 parents, please remind your children that their health and happiness outweighs by far, the importance of the tests next week.

We still hope to make next week one to remember for our Y6 children – in the past, they have always said it was the best week of the year! So we are asking them all to come into school for a special breakfast at 8.15am every morning. Please send them through the Junior Hall door where they will make their way down to the classrooms for a party breakfast each day, free of charge!

Year 2 Statutory Tests

Our Year 2 children are also working very hard at the moment with their 'quizzes'. The excitement they feel when they find out that it is their turn to do a 'quiz' reassures me that we have exactly the right approach! They must not be forgotten but it is a very different experience for them as we try to make it just normal classroom practice for them all.

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.

Communication with Nursery and Reception Parents

I would like to apologise for the mix up regarding Nursery children and the Coronation celebrations this week. To avoid this happening again, communication to **ALL** parents will only come from the school office by email. No important information which needs actioned will be shared with our Early Years parents on Evidence Me. Evidence Me will be used purely as a portal for observations of your children.

If there are any messages that need to be communicated to Nursery parents, this will be via email from the school office. This will mean that the office is then fully aware of everything taking place in school and therefore able to answer any questions which arise from parents and families. It also helps to streamline our forms of communication with all parents.

Iron On School Badges



We now have these in stock at the price of £1.50. These can be easily ironed onto plain school jumpers or polo-shirts. They are available to purchase from the school shop section of Arbor. Once we have received your order, badges will be sent home in an envelope with your child. They are really easy to apply - just put your iron to the maximum temperature, dampen the area where you will apply the badge very lightly (about 5-7" down from the shoulder and 3-4" from the centre of the garment), place the badge with embroidery facing you and cover it with a thin cloth. Press firmly with the iron for 60 seconds on both sides. Turn the item inside out and repeat the process. Once this is done, check the edges of the badge are properly bonded and allow it to cool. After 24 hours, your item will be ready to wear and wash safely. This was a suggestion from parents and carers from the recent questionnaire to help keep costs down. I hope you find them useful to have.

Attendance

Reception	97.2%
Year 1	98.1%
Year 2	97.9%
Year 3	93.2%
Year 4	94.8%
Year 5	96.7%
Year 6	95.9%

Booking Breakfast & After School Club – Essential

Now we are fully up and running with Arbor, it is essential that you book your child in for both breakfast and after school club. In the past, people haven't always been able to book in on the day. However, on Arbor you can book children in up to the moment they turn up at breakfast club, and up until the start of after school club so there is no reason not to book your child in. As you can imagine, it is a lot more time consuming for school to have to book in twenty children than it is for you to book one or two children in. If you book your child into a club but then they don't go for any reason, don't worry, you will not be charged. Attendance is taken at each club and if a child is absent, they won't get charged. Thank you.

Toys in School

Reminder, children are not permitted to bring toys into school. We have noticed that more children are bringing toys in recently and in order to prevent them going missing or getting broken we would like to ask that they are kept at home. Thank you.

Early Years News

Our EYFS children have been looking at life-cycles as part of their SCARF sessions and have been fascinated by the tadpoles in our pond in the forest. Some of the children in Reception have been watching a time-lapse video about frogs. You might like to share this at home <https://youtu.be/gmlaclb3K2o> It certainly provoked lots of interesting talk and interesting vocabulary in class.

In Reception, the children have been making amazing progress in their mathematical understanding of odd and even numbers and doubles, and we are growing even more confident about using our subitising skills to see how many objects we have without needing to count them. To support the children in their preparation for the move to Year One, we are starting to work on number formation. There are lots of things you can do at home to support this, with some ideas to be found here: <https://www.theotttoolbox.com/how-to-teach-number-formation/> It is important that we use consistent messages about how to form numbers, so you could use the same rhymes that we use in class, which can be found here:



One of our main aims in EYFS is to support your child's communication and language development. If your child can speak clearly and confidently, listen and follow instructions and use and understand a wide range of vocabulary, then they are all set for success in the future. You might like to look at Tiny Happy People by the BBC here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people> where you can pick up lots of useful tips and ideas to get your child communicating with confidence. If you have any questions about this, please see your child's teacher.

Key Stage 1 News

This week we have all been very lucky in KS1 to work with Captain Chemistry. Both Y1 and 2 have been looking at plants. Activities have included dissecting flowers, collecting and identifying leaves, observing parts of plants underneath a microscope and investigating how plants disperse their seeds. The children have not only gained a lot of knowledge but have also gained valuable practise working like scientists and conducting experiments in a calm, orderly and sensible manner.

Captain Chemistry has really brought Science alive this week and it has been wonderful to see how excited the children were during his sessions and how much they have loved their learning.



Key Stage 2 News

It has been a very busy start to the summer term – especially for our Year 6 children who have been working incredibly hard in preparation for their SATs next week. Every one of them has been superb and are more than ready for the assessments. However, I am sure that the children are most excited about their ‘SATs breakfast’ in school and their Domino’s Pizza extravaganza when they complete their last test next Friday.

For those of you wondering what the children are actually preparing for, here are a couple of questions that have been on previous Year 6 papers. How will you do?

Rewrite the sentence below in the **passive**.
Remember to punctuate your answer correctly.

The children grew vegetables.

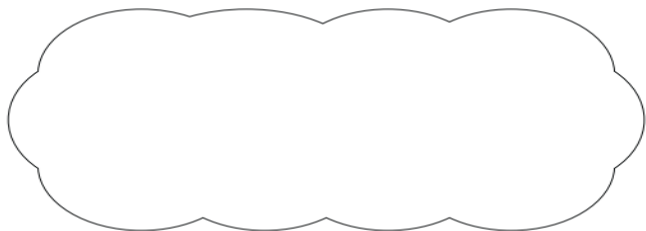
7 3 | 3 0 6 6

Jack says,

When you square a prime number, the answer has only two factors.



Explain why Jack is **not** correct.



Some of the questions can challenge the minds of the staff, never mind the children! I am sure you will all join us in wishing our Year 6 children the very best of luck for next week!

Key Stage 2 Class Novels

Each year group has started reading a new novel linked to their topic.

Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6

All children in our Key Stage 2 classes use these texts to take part in whole-class shared reading lessons. We teach comprehension skills using the reading domains from the National Curriculum. These are taught to children through our VIPERS approach to reading (vocabulary, infer, predict, explain, retrieve and summarise.)

Why not ask your child about their whole class book and how they are using it to learn about their topics?

Sunday 7th May 2023 – Sing for the King!

On Sunday evening at 6pm, our school choir will be taking part in a special service in All Saints' Church, Sing for the King! They have three very special songs which they will be singing with great gusto. Please come along and support them as well as enjoying a super Sunday evening service.

Monday 8th May 2023 – School Closed for Bank Holiday Monday

Tuesday 9th May 2023 – Year 6 Breakfast at 8.15am

We would like all Year 6 children to come to school for 8.15am on Tuesday, followed by every day next week. They will enjoy a party style breakfast every morning in their classrooms and hope that they enjoy their fine selection of fruit, waffles and yoghurts that will be on offer.

Wednesday 10th May 2023 – Meeting for Parents

A meeting for Year 6 parents and carers of children travelling to Istanbul will be held at 6pm in school on Wednesday 10th May. The final itinerary will be shared as well as the kit list and the travel arrangements for the week. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting on Wednesday.

Thursday 11th May 2023 – Meeting for Parents

A meeting for Year 6 and carers of children travelling to Madrid will be held at 6pm in school on Thursday 11th May. The final itinerary will be shared as well as the kit list and the travel arrangements for the week. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting on Thursday.

Friday 12th May 2023 – Coffee Morning at Consett Academy for Year 6 Parents

This coffee morning is for prospective parents and will be held at Consett Academy. It starts at 9am and parents wishing to attend are to just head up to the main entrance just before 9am.

Friday 12th May 2023 – Domino's Pizza Lunch for Year 6

Year 6 do not need a packed lunch or to pay for a school dinner on Friday. Instead, the children will be enjoying a post-SATs celebratory pizza lunch in the classroom. I think they will have earned their treat by then!

Positive Thinking

The key to success is to focus on goals, not obstacles.

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