



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 22nd March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

This has been an incredibly short half term with only 4 days remaining next week. However, as usual, we have packed lots into every single week. We still have not received our Ofsted report so it looks like it will be after the Easter break before that is published now. This will be the final weekly letter of the term but look out for the diary dates for next half term coming out soon.

What an amazing week we have had in the French Alps with some wonderful young people! I seem as though I say this quite regularly, but I can honestly say that the group of children we have been with this week have been quite remarkable. Polite, happy, resilient, enthusiastic and friendly are only some of the adjectives that spring to mind when describing them all. They really have been so independent and keen to just live life to the full this week and been the most wonderful ambassadors for our school.

A letter has been emailed to all prospective parents and carers of Year 3, 4 and 5 children about next year's ski trip. The company we use are booked up well in advance, making it imperative that our booking is in slightly earlier than normal. Please read the letter carefully and come along to the meeting on Tuesday 16th April at 6pm when we will be able to tell you more about what you can expect on a school ski trip.

Easter Egg Decorating Competition for Parents, Carers and Grandparents

We will be holding our usual annual Easter Egg Decorating Competition for all parents, carers and grandparents. We know many of you enjoy being creative and we are always amazed by your talent! Please bring in all eggs no later than 1pm on Thursday afternoon so they can be entered into the competition and displayed in the hall. Good luck!

Attendance

Reception	94.71%
Year 1	95.29%
Year 2	95.13%
Year 3	95.93%
Year 4	96.86%
Year 5	96.85%
Year 6	95.23%

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

This week we will be sharing with you some online safety guides created specifically for Early Years and Primary School aged children by www.internetmatters.org. Internet Matters is a free online resource for every parent in the UK, and have some brilliant guides to help you protect your children online, including guides specifically aimed at parents/carers of children with SEND and care-experienced children.

LJG Sports Coaching Holiday & Football Camps

LJG Sports Coaching will be hosting both a Holiday Camp and a Football Camp in school over both weeks of the Easter holidays. The dates are: Tuesday 2nd – Thursday 4th April and Tuesday 9th – Thursday 11th April. To book online, please use the following forms:

[Football Camp Form](#)

[Holiday Camp Form](#)

If you have any questions, please contact Mr Graham via LJGsportscoaching@gmail.com.

Parents' Evenings Appointments

Parents' Evening appointments have now been closed on Arbor. If you have forgotten to make an appointment, then please get in touch with the School Office who will book an appointment for you.

Year 6 – Leavers Hooded Jumpers

It's that time of year again when we need to order our Year 6 leavers hooded jumpers. This year the children have selected 'Hawaiian blue' as their chosen colour and the design will list all the children's full names on the reverse. The hoodies will be available to buy on your child's Arbor account (in the school shop section) from today and the cost is £20. You will also need to complete this form no later than Tuesday 26th March to indicate which size you would like us to order: [Leavers Hooded Jumpers](#). Children have now tried on the samples in school, so if you don't manage to fill in the form, we will use the size that your child has chosen. Payment for the jumper must be made by **Tuesday 26th March** as orders will be placed before we break up for Easter.

Diary Dates for Next Week

Reminder: No Extra-Curricular Activity Clubs

Just to remind you there are no extra-curricular activity clubs on this week. Wrap around care will be on as usual. Please note, wrap around care will take place in the Nursery on Monday and Tuesday due to parent evening appointments being in the main hall.

Monday 25th March at 9.30am – Maths Workshop for Nursery Parents

Please come into school through the main reception for the Nursery Maths Workshop. This will last around half an hour and hopefully will give you an insight into how approach the teaching of Maths in Nursery.

Monday 25th March – Nursery Parents' Evening 2.30 – 6.00pm

Nursery parents' meetings will start at 2.30pm, and will take place in the Meeting Room until 3.30pm, when they will move into the Junior Hall.

Monday 25th March – Reception – Year 6 Parents' Evening 3.30pm – 6.00pm

Parents' evenings start at 3.30pm on Monday. Please note that the teaching staff need a little time from 3.15pm to get organised for the parents' evenings which is why you will not be able to come into school before 3.30pm. The doors will open automatically from 3.30pm. Your child's work will be in their classrooms and the teaching staff will all be based in the Junior Hall for your meeting. Please wait outside the main office before 3.30pm, rather than crowding into the entrance, as this is a health and safety risk and means people are unable to get out of the doors. Office staff will let you know when the doors are open.

Tuesday 26th March – Nursery Stay and Play Session at 1.30pm

Please note that the Stay and Play Session will be entirely outdoors and the forest is currently quite muddy, so attendees will need suitable footwear. There will be no access to toilets during the session. Please arrive 5 minutes before the start of the session and wait by the main entrance to school so that we can pick you up on our way down to the forest. I am sure you will thoroughly enjoy the experience!

Tuesday 26th March – Nursery – Year 6 Parents' Evening 3.30 – 6.00pm

Parents' evenings start at 3.30pm on Monday. Please note that the teaching staff need a little time from 3.15pm to get organised for the parents' evenings which is why you will not be able to come into school before 3.30pm. Your child's work will be in their classrooms and the teaching staff will all be based in the Junior Hall for your meeting.

Wednesday 27th March – Therapy Dog Training

Woody will be having another training session in school from 9.30am on Wednesday morning.

Wednesday 27th March – Nursery Parents' Meetings 8.30am – 3.30pm

Nursery will be having their final parents' meetings on Wednesday throughout the school day. Please come to the School Office for your appointment, which will be held in the Meeting Room. Thank you.

Wednesday 27th March – Easter Services

Year 5 will be leading the Easter Service in All Saints' Church at 1.30pm. Due to the number of children and the size of the church, unfortunately, we can only invite parents and carers of Year 5 children to this service. Apologies about this but we are having to make these changes due to the increasing number of children we have in school.

Thursday 28th March – Nursery Stay and Play Session at 9.30am

Please note that the Stay and Play Session will be entirely outdoors and the forest is currently quite muddy, so attendees will need suitable footwear. There will be no access to toilets during the session. Please arrive 5 minutes before the start of the session and wait by the main entrance to school so that we can pick you up on our way down to the forest. I am sure you will thoroughly enjoy the experience!

Thursday 28th March – Easter Egg Decorating Competition

All children from Reception to Year 6 will be taking part in our annual Easter Egg Decorating Competition on Thursday morning. We ask that they all bring in 2 hard-boiled eggs (in case of any breakages!) or polystyrene/plastic eggs if you prefer and any items they would like to use to help them decorate their eggs. We will provide the usual paint and craft items from school but we know children come with a particular egg design in mind and like to bring in things to help them from home. Please note though, that all eggs are to be decorated in school and not at home!

Thursday 28th March – Coffee Afternoon and Choir Singing at 2.15pm

We will be holding a coffee afternoon on Thursday 28th March when you will be able to see all the decorated eggs.

If you would like to enter the parent/carer/family member egg decorating competition, your entry must be brought to the School Office by 12.15pm – there are always some incredible designs and we all love to see them. We also have a staff competition which is heavily competitive and allows the staff to showcase their artistic skills (in some cases anyway!). These will also be displayed in the hall and there will be prizes for the winning staff and family entries.

Our choir will also be singing at 2.30pm – I know you will all enjoy this treat! Come along to the Junior Hall for a lovely afternoon of entertainment and fun.

Advance Notices

Tuesday 16th April at 6pm

Meeting re 2025 Ski Trip

Wednesday 17th April

Year 2 Visit to Whitehouse Farm

Wednesday 1st May at 6pm

Parent Meeting for those children travelling to Madrid:
This trip is Monday 20th May to Friday 24th May 2024.

Tuesday 7th May

New School Menu Starts

Tuesday 7th May 6pm

Parent Meeting for those children travelling to Montreal:
This trip is Wednesday 12th June to Thursday 20th June 2024.

Saturday 11th May 10am – 12 noon

Nursery Open Morning

SEND News

Thank you to the parents and carers who completed the SEND parent/carer questionnaire over the past couple of weeks. It has been really useful to understand everyone's views about our SEND provision and it was particularly pleasing to see how overwhelmingly positive and supportive the responses were.

One area that stood out was that homework provided isn't always appropriate for children's particular needs. This is something that the staff team will be considering over the coming weeks and we will be trialling an adjustment to this in some year groups, with the aim of making this a stronger part of our SEND provision moving forward.

Mr McLoughlin

Early Years News



Reception visited the wonderful Kirkley Hall Zoo on Tuesday this week. We enjoyed learning about what the different animals and insects eat and which countries they came from. The children were so brave during the close encounters experience and were able to pet two different lizards. Thank you to the parent volunteers who came along, your support is greatly appreciated and we hope you all had a lovely day too!

Can we remind everyone to return any Nursery clothes that your child has borrowed if they have been changed in Nursery? We have completely run out of boy's trousers/joggers from our spares so if any accidents happen and the children don't have a bag of their own spares, we are stuck! Can we also make a plea to make sure your child's shoes are named? We have lots of children wearing the same style of shoe, which as you can imagine causes lots of problems! Thanks for your help and support with this.

We are looking forward to welcoming parents and carers of **Nursery** children to our Easter Stay and Play sessions in the forest next Tuesday afternoon at 1:30 and Thursday morning at 9:30. You can still sign up for a session [here](#). Please note that these sessions will be entirely outdoors and the forest is currently quite muddy, so attendees will need suitable footwear. There will be no access to toilets during the session. Please arrive 5 minutes before the start of the session and wait by the main entrance to school so that we can pick you up on our way down to the forest.

Miss Butler

Key Stage One News

It has been another busy and exciting week in KS1 with lots of interesting things happening. In Year 1 the children really enjoyed getting outside in Science this week. The children learned about common garden and wild plants and then went on a hunt around the forest and school grounds to see if we could recognise any plants. The staff were amazed at the children's knowledge of plants and how many different species they could recognise. I have also been so impressed by the writing in Year 1 this week. We have been writing a diary entry from the Great Fire of London and the children have written some amazing sentences using their senses to describe what they could see, hear and smell during the Great Fire. Next week we are all looking forward to our DT week when we will be using sliders and levers to make a moving picture book.

In Year 2, all the talk has been about times tables and the TT Rockstars battle between both classes which has lasted all week. Things got very competitive but eventually Mr Osmond's class came out victorious and Mrs Tate may have to wash Mr Osmond's car as a result! Well done to all the children who spent so much time on TT Rockstars this week. Mrs Tate and Mr Osmond have been blown away by how hard you have all worked.

Year 2 have also started a new book in English called Handa's Surprise and have been working really hard to learn their story map and doing some excellent reading and writing.

Key Stage Two 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 this term – the glitz of Dubai, the scenery and snow of the French Alps and the culture of India. These are amazing memories for staff and children that will last a lifetime. We are very lucky at Lanchester EP.

This week, Year 5 and 6 have been supporting the work of Lanchester Parish Council to create a 'solar trail' along the Lanchester Valley Cycle Path. The children have been considering what they would put into a time capsule to be opened 50 years into the future, thinking about space travel and writing about themselves for someone in the future to read. This is an exciting project that will lead to the creation of a scale model of the solar system along the cycle path. The 'sun' will be located in Lanchester and the planets will be lined along

the trail towards Consett, with information about each one for walkers and cyclists to read. Two children from Lanchester EP will be invited to the official opening of the trail in the summer.

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.

Positive Thinking

***Most of the important things in the world have been accomplished by people
who have kept on trying when there seemed to be no hope at all.***

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 Spring 2

Saturday 23 rd March 2024	Afternoon	Year 4 – 6 Ski Trip Returns
Monday 25 th March 2024	9.30am	Nursery Maths Workshop
Monday 25 th March 2024	2.30 – 6.00pm	Nursery Parents' Meetings
Monday 25 th March 2024	3.30 – 6.00pm	Reception – Year 6 Parents' Evening
Tuesday 26 th March 2024	1.30pm	Nursery Stay and Play Session
Tuesday 26 th March 2024	3.30 – 6.00pm	Nursery – Year 6 Parents' Evening
Wednesday 27 th March 2024	8.30am – 3.30pm	Nursery Parents' Meetings
Wednesday 27 th March 2024	1.30pm	Easter Service in All Saints Church
Thursday 28 th March 2024	Morning	Easter Egg Decorating Competition
Thursday 28 th March 2024	9.30am	Nursery Stay and Play Session
Thursday 28 th March 2024	2.15pm	Coffee Afternoon
Thursday 28 th March 2024	5.15pm	School Closes for Easter Holiday
LJG Sports Coaching Holiday & Football Camp in School Tuesday 2nd – Thursday 4th April and Tuesday 9th – Thursday 11th April 2024		
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		

School Holidays 2023 – 2024

Holiday	Last Day at School	Re-open for Teaching
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	Thursday 23 rd May 2024	Tuesday 4 th June 2024
Summer Holiday	Friday 19 th July 2024	Wednesday 4th September 2024

School Holidays 2024 – 2025

Holiday	Last Day at School	Re-open for Teaching
		Wednesday 4 th September 2024
Autumn Half Term	Friday 25 th October 2024	Monday 4 th November 2024
Long Weekend	Friday 22nd November 2024	Tuesday 26th November 2024
Christmas Holiday	Friday 20 th December 2024	Monday 6 th January 2025
Spring Half Term	Friday 21 st February 2025	Monday 3 rd March 2025
Easter Holiday	Friday 11 th April 2025	Monday 25 th April 2025
May Day	Friday 2 nd May 2025	Tuesday 6 th May 2025
Summer Half Term	Thursday 22nd May 2025	Monday 2nd June 2025
Summer Holiday	Friday 18 th July 2025	Tuesday 2 nd September 2025