



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 7th February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

There has been a real buzz around school again this week. Our Early Years children were absolutely thrilled to be able to have Forest Schools again now it has been made safe following the high winds. Year 2 had a tremendous visit to the Mosque on Wednesday and returned to school full of even more facts about Islam while Year 6 had a great time playing with their Reception buddies again on Thursday afternoon. Today, the Year 6 and 4 children have been concentrating hard during their archery workshops and it's been great to see them persevere and master some new skills. The Year 5 & 6 Lego Robotics Team have also been making us proud at the First Lego League Competition today – they have worked brilliantly as a team to create their Lego robot. We have also held assemblies on Children's Mental Health Week and spent time with the children reminding them that talking about any worries is really important. They have also enjoyed some mindfulness activities too.

Meanwhile, Year 5 excelled with their performance of The Fairy Queen at Consett Empire Theatre. This was a project we applied to be part of and it has been so worthwhile. To see the faces of our children take part in a full-blown operatic production with a combined orchestra of The Age of Enlightenment and Consett Academy Orchestras, Durham Youth Choir, operatic singers and actors and hundreds of children making up the chorus was something I will remember for a long time. This was a wonderful experience for them all and an experience I hope they will cherish for a long time to come. Their behaviour and attitude was first class and their singing was just terrific.

A huge thanks must go to Mrs Knighton for the hard work that has gone into the rehearsals for this over the last few weeks. Well done also to our four main sprites who took centre stage in so many of the scenes with their acting looking so natural too! I know we had some very proud parents and teachers this week.

Parking Issues in the Village

We have received a complaint this week from a resident in Bluebell Court – the small estate next to The Black Bull Pub. This small estate is a cul-de-sac with a small parking area for visitors. However, recently, it appears that some of our parents have been parking in this visitor parking area and also using it as a turning circle. The entrance to the estate is regularly blocked too with parents ignoring the Keep Clear Signs.

Please note that this area is private property and only for use by these residents. There is plenty of parking at The Kings Head and Social Club where you can park and walk the short distance to school. I know parking can be a challenge at key times of the school day but it is imperative that we respect the neighbours who do have a lot to put up with on a daily basis. Thank you for your help.

The Kings Head Coffee and Social Mornings

The Kings Head has just launched their weekly coffee socials. The aim is to create a hub for people of all ages to get together and catch up or meet others in similar situations. They are serving soft drinks, alongside hot drinks, cakes and traybakes.

Each Wednesday, they will open their doors at 9am for parents to grab a much needed coffee and catch up with other parents after the school run. Then from 10.30am, they will host 'senior socials', aimed at over 60s looking to socialise. On Thursdays from 10.30am, they are welcoming parents of pre-schoolers and their little ones.

Why not park in their car park on a Wednesday morning, walk your child along to school, then call in for a well-earned coffee and chat with friends! This is a great thing they are doing for our community. Why don't we try to make it a big success?

Year 5 & 6 Confirmation Invitation Letter

If your child is in Year 5 or Year 6 you will have received an email from Reverend Lesley Sutherland regarding confirmation, which will take place this year in St Andrew's Church in Stanley on Saturday 10th May. If you would like your child to be confirmed (baptised and confirmed if they are yet to be baptised), please fill in this [online form](#) by Friday 14th February 2025. For more information please contact Rev'd Lesley Sutherland on 01207 529166.

Asthma Log

Earlier in the week you will have received an email regarding the school's asthma log. We are updating this to ensure our information is correct and so we can get parental consent to use the school emergency inhaler if ever required. We will also require an individual asthma plan, which you should have received from your child's doctor/asthma nurse at their last review. **It is imperative this form is filled in if your child has asthma.** Please also fill it in if your child has an inhaler, even if they have not been diagnosed with asthma.

Once the form is completed, we will send a hard copy of the parental consent form for the use of an emergency inhaler at school. This will need to be returned to the office along with a copy of your child's most recent Asthma Plan. The online form can be found [here](#).

Parents' Evenings

Spring Parents' Evening appointments for children in Reception to Year 6 are on Monday 17th & Tuesday 18th February from 3.30pm until 6.00pm. Nursery Parents' Evening appointments will be held at slightly different dates and times, depending on your child's group/key worker:

Child's Group	Keyworker	Appointment Date	Appointment Times
Owls	Mrs Moralee	Monday 17 th February	3.30 – 4.30pm
		Wednesday 19 th February	3.30 – 4.30pm
Squirrels	Miss Butler	Monday 17 th February	4.30 – 6.00pm
		Tuesday 18 th February	4.30 – 6.00pm
Hedgehogs	Mrs Davis	Tuesday 18 th February	3.30 – 4.30pm
		Wednesday 19 th February	3.30 – 4.30pm
Badgers	Miss Tilney	Tuesday 18 th February	3.30 – 4.30pm
		Wednesday 19 th February	3.30 – 4.30pm

Appointments can be booked via Arbor or by contacting the school office.

RSC Performance of The Tempest

Tickets are still available for the RSC performance of The Tempest on Thursday 13th February. This is open to the public and will be at 6pm in the hall. Tickets can be purchased on Arbor or from the school office for £5.

Reception Donations Request – Bikes & Costumes

Our Reception children are making wonderful progress in their cycling skills thanks to all the donated balance bikes. If you have any bikes with 14/16 inch wheels which are no longer needed, then we would gratefully add them to our collection. We are also looking to collect dressing up costumes in larger sizes (5-6 or 7-8) for our Reception children to use. Thank you in advance!

Friends of the School AGM

The Friends of Lanchester EP will be holding its annual general meeting on Tuesday 25 March 7pm till 8pm at Lanchester Community Centre. All volunteers and the wider school community are welcome to attend. More details can be found on the Friends of Lanchester EP Facebook Page. If you wish to attend please RSVP at: <https://forms.gle/zTcZuuPh36ePGfeq8>

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 Attendance Percentage (%)	Attendance Percentage to Date (%)	Year Group	Current Week Attendance Percentage (%)	Attendance Percentage to Date (%)
Reception	94.8%	93.9%	Year 4	98.6%	97.7%
Year 1	99.6%	96.2%	Year 5	97.4%	97.4%
Year 2	95.9%	96.5%	Year 6	97%	96.6%
Year 3	98.9%	97.5%	Whole School	97.5%	96.5%

Diary Dates for Next Week

Monday 10th February 2025 – Year 6 at The Mosque

Year 6 will be visiting the Central Mosque in Newcastle on Monday morning. This is to support their work on Islam in Religious Studies. They will leave at 9am and return to school in time for their lunch. Full school uniform is to be worn for this visit.

Monday 10th February 2025 – Rabbi Dovid with Year 5

Rabbi Dovid is from Gateshead and has visited our school before to talk to some of our younger children about Hanukah. We are delighted to be able to welcome him back again on Monday to talk to our Year 5 children about life as a Jew in Modern Britain.

Tuesday 11th February 2025 – Safer Internet Day

Tuesday is National Safer Internet Day and we will be leading assemblies as well as carrying out some work with the children about how to stay safe online.

Wednesday 12th February 2025 - Year 4 at Iskcon Hindu Temple

On Wednesday morning, our Year 4 children will be visiting Iskcon Hindu Temple in Newcastle to support their R.E. work on Hinduism. They will spend the morning there and return to school in time for lunch. They will need to wear full school uniform for their visit.

Wednesday 12th February 2025 – Mini Police with Year 5

Our Year 5 children will enjoy their second Mini Police project on Wednesday afternoon. They thoroughly enjoyed this last week and know they will look forward to their second session.

Thursday 13th February 2025 – RSC Workshops

We are welcoming some actors from the Royal Shakespeare Company on Wednesday who will be leading workshops with our Year 4 children during the day. This is such a great opportunity for our Year 4 children who will, I know, get so much from these workshops.

Thursday 13th February – RSC Performances of The Tempest

We are thrilled to host the Royal Shakespeare Company to our school on Thursday. Year 4, 5 & 6 will enjoy a performance of the abridged version of The Tempest on Thursday afternoon.

Thursday 13th February – Girls Football at Consett Academy

The girls' football league continues again at Consett Academy on Thursday after school.

Thursday 13th February – The Tempest at 6pm

We are opening the school up to the community for a performance of The Tempest at 6pm on Thursday evening. Tickets are £5. Please tell your friends and family – this is a great opportunity for all adults and children. We would love to have a full hall for this performance.

Positive Thinking

“You, yourself, as much as anybody in the entire universe, deserve your love and affection.” - Buddha

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