



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.'*



KEY STAGE NEWS

Early Years News

Reception Drawing Club

This week in Reception, we have introduced Drawing Club. Each Drawing Club session incorporates story sharing, speaking and listening, drawing, writing, vocabulary, mathematics, imagination and collaboration. Every week we have a new focus story or animation. The children learn new vocabulary linked to the story or animation and are invited to Drawing Club, where they may draw a character, setting or event. They can innovate their drawings and add secret passwords, magic powers, hidden symbols, letters or numerals. The children love coming to Drawing Club!

Hats & Gloves

Now that the weather is colder, please remember to send your child in to school with a hat and mittens/gloves all clearly marked with their name. In Nursery, we are training children to keep these in their trays rather than on their coat pegs - remind your child to collect them from their tray at the end of the day. Our EYFS children spend a lot of time outdoors, so it is really important that they can feel warm and comfortable whatever the weather. If anyone with older children have woolly hats or gloves/mittens that they have outgrown, we would gladly add them to our spares drawer.

Sensory Walks

If you are looking for something to do over the weekend, you could try going on a sensory walk with your child and make the most of the opportunity to develop their language skills. Tiny Happy People has lots of good advice on how to extend your child's vocabulary, speaking and listening skills [here](#), including an outdoor adventure checklist for your child to tick off as they explore. If you do try this, please let us know how you get on via Evidence Me.

EYFS Plea for Knitters!

Calling all knitters: If you know anyone who is handy with a pair of knitting needles, Early Years would be over the moon if they could knit us some play food for our home corners. We have some knitting patterns and can supply wool if needed. Please let Miss Butler know via s.butler@lanchesterep.net if you or a family member could help. Thank you!

Reception PE Day Change

Please note that from next week, Reception will be having PE on a Wednesday and a Thursday, instead of a Friday. Forest school will also take part on a Thursday from now on. Please make sure you send them to school in PE kit on a Thursday from now on, and uniform on a Friday. Thank you.

Advanced Notice: Reception Reindeer Dash – Friday 6th December

Reception children will be taking part in a fundraiser for St Cuthbert's Hospice on the morning of Friday 6th December. Parents and carers can come and join their child in a festive dash around the village before finishing with some refreshments and songs around the fire – there may even be someone with a very red nose to cheer you all on (and we don't just mean Mr Innes!)

Key Stage One News

Learning about Diversity

Across Year 1 and Year 2, our current PSHE units are all about diversity and valuing the differences that make us unique. The children have learned about what makes them special, who is special to them and things that we can do to celebrate everyone's differences.

We have a lovely collection of books in our school library dedicated to diversity and we will continue to share these with the children in Key Stage 1 over the next few weeks. If you would like to read some books about diversity at home with your children, there are some recommendations below. Why not take a trip to your local library to see if they have any in stock for you to borrow, or to read to your children there.

Recommended Reading:

Benny doesn't Like to be Hugged by Zetta Elliott

Maddi's Fridge by Lois Brandt

It's Okay to be Different by Todd Parr

The Same but Different by Molly Potter

All are Welcome by Alexandra Penfold

Year 2 Puppets

For DT this half term, Year 2 will be making puppets. To start this off, we would love it if you have any examples of puppets at home, you could send them in with your child on Tuesday, so that we can have a closer look at the different types of puppets you can make, and talk about our own designs too.

Key Stage Two News

Homework

At Lanchester EP, we appreciate how important the links between home and school are, and the need for us to work together to ensure a good education for all children. It is for this reason that we believe that it is important that children have homework set that will support learning within the classroom. We have reviewed our homework policy and procedures in Key Stage 2 and have made a number of changes to the work that we will set the children. Homework will focus on the following key skills:

Reading

Evidence suggests that children who read for enjoyment every day perform better in reading tests than those who don't, but also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures.

All children in Key Stage 2 select their reading books from our Accelerated Reader scheme. *They will be bringing them home each day so you can listen to them read and talk to them about their reading.*

Spelling

Spelling is an essential skill as it helps children to communicate effectively in written form and builds a strong foundation for their education, helping them to write clearly and increase confidence in their abilities. Without it, reading comprehension can suffer and children can become frustrated with the learning process.

The children will be bringing home spelling lists and activities each week for homework linked to our Sounds and Syllables programme.

Recall of key mathematical facts (multiplication tables, division facts, number bonds etc.)

Mental maths strategies are the foundations for most of the areas of mathematics that use numbers. Without these, children can often struggle to quickly and fluently calculate.

The Key to learning times tables and number bonds is frequent repetition and regular revision. 5 to 10 minutes every day is better than an hour a week. *All children have a login for Times Tables Rockstars which they can access at home to help them learn these basic skills.*