



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 8th December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It really is the most wonderful time of the year to work in a school. Despite the appalling weather we have had and there hardly being any daylight some days, the atmosphere in school is just wonderfully uplifting. Everywhere you go there is laughter, learning, singing, excitement and just such a positive feel-good atmosphere! The children are just a delight to be around.

I would like to say a huge thank you to the Year 1 team for such a special Poetry Recital in the Woodland on Thursday. The children were so excited and proud of their poems and there was such a very special atmosphere. We were overwhelmed with the number of families who turned up too. We hope you all enjoyed it as much as the children and staff did – despite the rain!

We would also like to thank the Friends of the School for another wonderful Christmas shopping experience for our children. The Worship theme this week was all based around giving being as special as receiving and judging by the children's little faces when choosing their gifts, this is certainly the case for our pupils. They are very fortunate that we have a group of little elves working away behind the scenes to make this all happen. We have had parents planning, ordering, storing, wrapping, organising and delivering gifts for weeks in order for this to take place. Thank you all, each and every one of you, so very much. I am sure you can imagine what their little faces will look like on Christmas morning when they give their gifts to their loved ones.

We had another tremendous turn out for the Christmas Fair yesterday – thank you all so much for coming! I think the Christmas Fair is one of those events which adults hate and children just love! Thanks also to the staff for their great organising skills as well as yourselves for all your generous donations that enabled it all to happen. We shall let you know how much we made – money which will go towards purchasing some playground equipment for both Early Years and KS1 and KS2.

Nativities

We are looking forward to seeing you all at our nativities and Carol Service and Christingle next week. It is certainly going to be a very busy but enjoyable week! For the nativities in school, please note that we will not be able to open the doors until around 10 minutes before the performance is due to start. Every morning we need to set the hall up after breakfast club with over 150 chairs to set out and every afternoon, we need to wait until the hall is cleared after dinner time before we can set the chairs up again. Therefore, we will not be able to let anyone in early.

In the past we have made hot drinks for everyone attending the nativities. Unfortunately, this is not going to be possible this year due to the numbers attending and the lack of staff.

Photos and Videos at Nativities

We have a number of children who are not allowed to have photographs or videos taken of them, for many different reasons. Therefore, photographs and videos of any nativities cannot be taken. I am sure you will all understand how crucial it is that we ALL adhere to this.

However, we do understand how important it is to have a photograph of such a key event in your child's life so at the end of the nativities, you will have the opportunity to take photographs of your child on stage. It may take a while to do this, but it has always been appreciated in the past. You might just have to bear with us as it can take some time to get through everyone who wants a photo!

No Extra-Curricular Clubs Next Week

Please note that there will be no extra-curricular activities taking place next week due to the nativities and all the additional activities happening in school. The normal wrap around care will take place as usual.

Double Yellow Lines

There seems to be an increase of drivers parking on the double yellow lines outside the field gate. This resulted in a car almost reversing into a child on the path this week. The double yellow lines are there to keep everyone safe but especially our children. Please have due care and consideration towards everyone. Thank you.

Christmas Jumper Day

We have had a few parents and carers asking if we are having a Christmas Jumper Day. I do apologise but this was omitted from the diary dates for some reason. Our Christmas Jumper Day is Friday 15th December when we have our Christmas Dinner. We are suggesting that children might like to bring a donation of food for our Reverse Advent foodbank collection on that day in exchange for wearing a Christmas Jumper. Please note, we do not want anyone to feel the need to go out and buy a Christmas Jumper especially for the day. Non uniform is fine and you can just add a piece of tinsel, Christmas bobble or Christmas headband if you want!

Dogs on grounds

Please remember that the only dogs allowed on school grounds are guide dogs and assistance dogs. No other dogs are allowed on site at all. This includes dogs in arms, dogs in cradles and dogs in a backpack. We are simply attempting to keep everyone safe. Thank you.

Reverse Advent Calendar & Salvation Army Donations

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!

If anyone would like to make donations to the Salvation Army in lieu of staff gifts, please send them into school, where the school council will use the money to ensure no one is left out this Christmas because of need. If you would like to donate any brand new toys for this appeal instead, please bring them to the School Office, and thank you to everyone who has already donated to all our fundraisers so far.

The final day for being able to accept any items or money is Friday 15th December 2023. Thank you.

Attendance

Reception	92.3%
Year 1	92.4%
Year 2	94.3%
Year 3	94.1%
Year 4	95.9%
Year 5	96.3%
Year 6	95.5%

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

I am sure many of our children will be waking up on Christmas day hoping that Santa has delivered some new state-of-the art smart technology into their Christmas stocking. Whilst this technology has some incredible benefits, there are also many dangers associated with being online & using smart devices.

Having scoured the internet for the best tips and advice on keeping your children safe online this Christmas, the general consensus from experts is that parental controls are key to helping your child to navigate the online world safely and securely. They suggest that any devices are set up with parental controls before they are given to children, as we all know how hectic Christmas Day can be and how much our children just really, really want to use their new gifts now, now, now! A great site to look at for parental control information for your child's new gizmos and gadgets is Internet Matters (<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>). It is also advised that for smart phones and tablets that you look at parental controls to stop apps being downloaded without parental permission.

Diary Dates for Next Week

Monday 11th December 2023 – Reception Nativity

The Reception Nativity will take place in the Junior Hall at 10am and 2pm. Entrance will be through the Junior Hall Door.

Tuesday 12th December 2023 – KS1 Nativity

The Key Stage 1 Nativity will take place in the Junior Hall at 10am and 2pm. Entrance will be through the Junior Hall Door.

Tuesday 12th December 2023 – Year 6 Pantomime Trip

Our Year 6 children will enjoy a wonderful day out on Tuesday at the New Tyne Theatre Pantomime, Peter Pan, followed by a special Italian meal in town. They should all wear their usual school uniform and will be back in time for the end of the school day.

Tuesday 12th December 2023 – Choir singing at Lynwood House

On Tuesday, choir members from Years 3 & 5 will go along to Lynnwood House to sing at the Christmas Lunch of some elderly residents. The children will go after lunch and need to be in good singing voice!

Tuesday 12th December 2023 – Nursery Christmas Story Time

We are really looking forward to welcoming parents and carers for a very special Christmas Story Time at either 1.30pm or 2.30pm on Tuesday. There are no spaces left for the 2.30pm slot, but we do have some space for the 1.30pm slot – if you would still like to come to the 1.30pm slot, please [fill in this form](#). Please come to the Nursery doors where we will meet you. The children will be delighted to have you there!

Wednesday 13th December 2023 – Nursery and Reception Party Day

Next week we are looking forward to our EYFS Party Day on Wednesday 13th December. Your child is invited to come into school in their party clothes to have lots of fun with dancing and party games on the agenda. We are all hoping that Santa Claus will be able to make it too!

We are very much looking forward to welcoming the Littlest Elf to perform a Christmas show for us as part of the day's fun. You might like to watch this video with your child to learn to do the [Christmas Jive](#) in preparation for the show.

Your child will be bringing home a party snack bag to bring in for their party day. Please send it back in with them on Wednesday with one savoury and/or one sweet snack for them to enjoy on the day. This helps ensure that all children have a little treat which we know they will enjoy on the day. Please note that this is only for your child as we have children with allergies and food intolerances in school. We will provide drinks on the day.

Wednesday 13th December 2023 – The Littlest Elf

We have a very exciting performance of The Littlest Elf for our youngest children. Year 1 will also be sharing in this exciting performance as well. We know they will love it!

Wednesday 13th December 2023 – Choir singing at Lynwood House

Children from Years 4 and 6 will be singing for the elderly residents of Lynwood House after lunch on Wednesday. We know this will be another very special visit for all involved.

Wednesday 13th December 2023 - Performance of Beauty and the Beast

We are thrilled to be welcoming back New College Performing Arts students who will be performing Beauty and the Beast for all children from Year 2 – Year 6. They come every year and are really a very talented group of individuals. We know the children will tell you all about it as they enjoy it so much every single year.

Thursday 14th December 2023 – Nursery Christmas Story Time

We are really looking forward to welcoming parents and carers for a very special Christmas Story Time at 9.30 or 10.30am on Thursday. There are no spaces left for the 9.30am time, but there are still a few available for the 10.30am – if you would like to book a place, please [fill in this form](#). Please come to the Nursery doors where we will meet you. The children will be delighted to have you there!

Thursday 14th December 2023 – Brass and Woodwind Concert

We are looking forward to a special concert of Christmas music from those learning brass and woodwind instruments. This will start at 9am and we look forward to welcoming parents and carers to this as well. Please come to the Junior Hall door. You are in for a treat!

Thursday 14th December 2023 – Choir singing at Willowburn Hospice

Our Year 3 & Year 4 choir members are singing at Willowburn at 11.30am on Thursday morning entertaining their visitors. They will be back in time for their dinner.

Thursday 14th December 2023 – Year 5 & Year 6 Nativity Performance

Our Year 5 and Year 6 nativities take place at 2pm and 6pm IN THE SCHOOL HALL (please note that this is no longer taking place in the Methodist Church). Please wait at the entrance to the Junior Hall door for access to the hall.

Friday 15th December 2023 – Year 3 and Year 4 Christingle and Carol Service

Our Christingle and Carol Service takes place at 10am in All Saints' Church on Friday morning. Please make your way to the church for around 9.50am. We look forward to seeing you there.

Friday 15th December 2023 – Christmas Jumper Day

We are holding a Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 15th December. It would be lovely for the children to come in a Christmas themed jumper or t-shirt or even with just a Christmas bobble in their hair.

Friday 15th December 2023 – Christmas Dinner

We are all looking forward to our Christmas dinner on Friday lunchtime. We will enjoy a delicious lunch, Christmas music, Christmas crackers and make the most of the festivities together.

SEND News

Haystax is running a funded SEND holiday club over the Christmas holiday on 20th and 21st December from 10am to 1pm. They have a high staff ratio and a team with lots of experience working with young people with additional needs. The sessions involve a range of low-demand and teacher-led craft activities, sensory activities and if the weather is good, a campfire and with marshmallows and hot chocolate. The children can try everything or focus on one or two crafts and they will get a packed lunch at the end of the session. Parents and carers have the option of either staying to join in, or leaving the children with Haystax staff so they can have a well-earned break. There is an on-site cafe if you would prefer to stay close. To find out more information and to book, please go to <https://bookwhen.com/haystaxhub>

The Durham Family Hubs have updated their events pages for the Spring term. Family Hubs support families in County Durham when things can feel a little challenging at home. They are able to offer help, support and guidance, including support to manage your children's SEND needs at home. Depending on where you live, your closest Family Hub may be in Consett, Durham or Stanley. To find out more about what the Family Hubs are able to offer, please [click here](#).

Mr McLoughlin

Early Years News

Thank you to all of you who attended our Stay and Play sessions in Reception last Friday and Nursery on Wednesday. We had a wonderful time welcoming you into school and hope to repeat this in the Spring term.

We cannot wait to welcome you into school next week on Monday for Reception's Nativity performance and on Tuesday afternoon/Thursday morning for Nursery's Christmas Story Times. Children are welcome to attend in Christmas-themed clothing on the day of their events.

Across EYFS, we are very much enjoying our Forest School sessions. Most of our Nursery children have now been down to explore and these sessions will continue on Tuesday afternoons and Thursday mornings in the new year. Reception children are timetabled to go on Friday mornings. If your Reception child has their own waterproofs which they would like to use for the forest, please send them in a named bag on Fridays. We have a lot of tall children this year and our supplies of the larger suits, in particular, are limited!

Miss Butler

Key Stage One News

It has been a fantastic week in Key Stage 1 and it was wonderful to welcome parents into Year 1 and 2 this week.

Year 2 had a 'Stay and Play' session in which they made Christmas Crafts. The children especially enjoyed making penguin booklets and decorating their Christmas tree decorations for the School fair.



In Year 1 we welcomed parents to a Forest Poetry Session. The children have worked so hard on writing poems about the seasons and it was lovely that they got to share them with their adults. I was so proud of them performing in front of such a large crowd of parents. We managed to have a wonderful time together despite the weather!

We are really looking forward to welcoming you to our performance of 'Baarmy Bethlehem' on Tuesday 12th December.

Mr

Innes

Key Stage Two News

Christmas Parties

The festive season is upon us and we are eagerly anticipating the build-up to the end of term and the Christmas break. The dates for our Christmas parties are as follows:

	Monday 18th December	Tuesday 19th December
Morning	Year 3	Year 5
Afternoon	Year 4	Year 6

We are all looking forward to games, dancing and eating!! We are asking all children to come to school dressed in their party clothes for the whole day, regardless of whether their party is in the morning or afternoon. There is no need for you to provide anything for the children – all party food will be organised by ourselves.

Year 6 Panto Time!



Our annual Year 6 trip to the pantomime will take place on the Tuesday 12th December. This year, we will be going to the Tyne Theatre and Opera House to see Peter Pan. The children will be joining the boy who never grew up as he flies off to Neverland. Afterwards, we will go for lunch at Insieme Italian Restaurant. The children can bring a small drink and snack with them for the theatre. I am sure we will have an amazing time!

Year 3 and 4 Christingle and Carol Service

Year 3 and 4 are busy rehearsing their readings and singing in preparation for this very special church service. The children will re-tell the story of that very first Christmas through a series of readings and song. Our Year 3 children are also really looking forward to making and sharing their Christingles with you. We think you will be very impressed with both year groups!

Christmas 1914 Performance

Year 5 and 6 are putting the finishing touches to their performance of Christmas 1914. The Year 6 children brought home a note on Tuesday with a list of their costume requirements for the play. We would be grateful if the children could bring these clothes into school in a named plastic bag. The Year 5 children need to wear black trousers and a black shirt or a black dress. I am sure you will enjoy the performance.

For the 6pm performance, children need to come back into school for 5.15pm. The performance will finish at about 7pm – any children without parents in attendance will need to be collected from the main office entrance once the performance is over.

Mr Knighton

Positive Thinking

***We expect too much at Christmas.
It's got to be magical. It's got to be right.
Feasting, fun, the perfect present.
All that anticipation. Take it easy.
Love's the thing. The rest is tinsel.***

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

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	Y3 & 5 Choir Members singing at Lynwood 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	Year 4 & 6 Choir Members singing at Lynwood 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	Year 3 & 4 Choir Members 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	All Day	Christmas Jumper/Non-Uniform Day
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
<i>Holiday Club: Wednesday 20th to Friday 22nd December 2023</i>		
<i>Email: ljgsportscoaching@gmail.com</i>		
Wednesday 3 rd 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		