



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 27th June 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am sure that the parents and carers of those children in Northern Ireland will all be looking forward to having them back later on tonight. Please keep an eye out on 'X' for their estimated time of arrival but it is expected that they should be back at school for around 10.00pm.

Four of our Year 5 children had an amazing experience when they represented the school at Durham Youth Council's Big Debate on Wednesday where they were finding out about democracy in action and how councils work before participating in debate sessions on a range of topics from banning smoking and vaping for all people through to use of social media in under 18's. They listened to arguments from members of the Youth Council before then being able to have their say. We were very proud of them and hope it has given them a taste for public speaking in the future.

Reception had a wonderful visit to the beach yesterday – I am sure they would all sleep well last night! A huge thank you to all the parents and carers who also came along and made the whole day possible. We could not do it without you!

Update on Staffing for Next Year

I would like to inform you that from September, I will be reducing my hours and working the equivalent of 4 days per week. The decision to reduce my workload has come about due to a number of personal reasons; my eldest daughter is moving abroad, I have a 90-year old mum, my husband is retired and I just feel that the time has come for me to have a little more work/life balance. Governors have agreed that this day off can be taken flexibly over the course of a half term to enable me to visit my daughter more regularly. I will still have total strategic overview of the school, with total responsibility for the leadership of the school but Mr Knighton will manage the school in my absence. Parents, carers and children will hopefully not notice any difference on a daily basis as for the last few years, I have been out of school regularly for residential, conferences and meetings. When I am not at work, I will put an out of office signature on my emails.

The information about classes will be emailed to you next week. I am sure you can imagine that this is always a really important piece of work and something that cannot be rushed – we want to get it right.

Turing Funding Application

I am absolutely thrilled to inform you that, for the 5th consecutive year, we have been successful in securing the Turing funding for our school. We have been granted almost £50,000 for visits to Delhi, Dubai, Shanghai and Istanbul next year. This is just amazing news, especially as we know of some other local schools who were unsuccessful this time. Mr McLoughlin dedicates a lot of time to completing these applications and I am very grateful to him.

It is amazing that, once again, a number of our children will enjoy a trip of a lifetime! My only wish is that we could take them all. We will also be able to take some additional children on these visits, just like we managed to this year, thanks to some additional money that has been donated into this account.

Mr McLoughlin and I will be meeting shortly to start organising dates for these visits and will be emailing parents and carers of children in Years 5 & 6 to find out who would like their child to be considered for each of the visits.

Summer Fair & Yanomamo Raffle

The Friends of the School are organising the summer fair this year which will take place on Friday 11th July from 3.30pm until 5.30pm. They are organising lots of stalls and activities and I am sure it is going to be another wonderful event in the life of our school. We are holding a non-uniform day on Friday 4th July in exchange for donations for the summer fair. We would really appreciate donations of toiletries, wine, chocolates and gifts that we can use at the fair. Donations of alcohol should be brought into school with an adult.

We are also having a raffle in the run up to the performance of Yanomamo. Tickets will be £5 per strip or £1 per ticket and will be on sale from Monday 30th June. We will also be selling tickets at the performances. If anyone would like to donate a prize or works for a company/ business who would like to donate, please can you drop them into the Office no later than Monday 7th July. We'd be grateful for vouchers, coupons, alcohol, gift sets, boxed chocolates/ biscuits etc. Thank you very much for your help in making this a great success!

Water Day

Planning water day is always a headache! The aim is, naturally, to hold it on a hot, sunny day! But we always have so much going on in school that it is very tricky to co-ordinate! The weather forecast for today was for dull, cooler and blustery weather which is why we decided to postpone it. The forecast for Monday (at the moment!) is for full sun all day and 25 degree heat! I only hope this doesn't change! But it will have to go ahead on Monday whatever happens with the weather!

Yanomamo

The rehearsals for this are going exceptionally well – it is going to be a very powerful show! Ticket sales are going well but please remember that you have until **Wednesday 2nd July 2025** to purchase up to 2 tickets per performance. After this date, we cannot guarantee tickets as they will go on sale on a first-come-first-serve basis. More tickets for each performance will go on free sale from Thursday 3rd July.

Day of the Performance: Thursday 10th July

Please note the following important points about the day of the show on Thursday 10th July:

- There are two performances and **all children are required at both shows**. We have one performance at 1.30pm followed by another at 6pm. We have the evening performance to allow working parents the opportunity to attend. However, the main reason for two shows is to allow the children to perform to as many people as possible. They have all worked so hard and have so much talent, that it seems only right and fair to do two performances.
- We will be at the Empire Theatre all day. Many of you completed the form saying you would be able to drop off at the theatre for 9am and pick up at 2.50pm. Thank you so much for this – this has saved the school over £2,000 on the cost of buses. That is a huge saving for our school. Those children who are unable to be dropped off at the Empire are to come to school as normal and will be transported to and from the theatre by bus. If you did not fill in the form but can take your child to and from the theatre then that would be great. If your child is being dropped off at school then they must be in on time, as the buses will need to leave promptly. All Key Stage 2 registers will be taken at the theatre.
- All Key Stage 2 children will need to take a packed lunch to the theatre, along with a drink.
- For the evening performance, ALL children are to be dropped off at the theatre for 5.40pm. The evening performance will finish at approximately 7.30pm.

Yanomamo Costumes

The children are all required to wear different items for the show. We are providing some items and the children are making some accessories too.

However, we are asking parents to provide the following items for costumes. They need to be brought into school in a clearly named carrier bag by **Wednesday 2nd July**.

Ants (Year 3) – Black top and trousers/leggings

Monkeys (Year 4) – Dark/Black trousers/leggings

Tribe (Year 5 Boys) – Black shorts

Cowboys – Checked shirt & jeans

River Girls – white or blue top

Year 6 (Y6 will need 2 costumes) – Dark/black trousers/leggings AND

Year 6 Girls – smart office/school wear

Year 6 Boys – jeans, white t-shirt, boots

Yanomamo Face Paint Consent

A number of the roles for Yanomamo will require face paint. If you DO NOT consent for your child to have their face painted, please fill in [this online form](#) by Friday 4th July. If you do not fill in the form, we will assume that your child can have face paint on for the performances.

Household Fund Vouchers

The summer household fund vouchers will be sent to all eligible families via the primary email address we hold on file next week. Please check your junk/spam mail if you do not receive a voucher to your inbox and please let us know if you have not received it by Friday 4th July. Any questions, please contact: school.office@lanchesterep.net no later than Friday 11th July. Thank you.

Advance Notice - Barbecue on Tuesday 15th July

We hope the weather will be kind to us during the last week of term and we intend to hold a barbecue for all children on the final Tuesday of the year – Tuesday 15th June. Children who usually have a packed lunch are welcome to have a barbecue lunch on this day. If your child is usually on packed lunch OR your child would like a vegetarian/vegan barbecue option you will need to fill in this [online form](#) by **Tuesday 1st July** and pay £2.81 on Arbor – this will be taken out of your Arbor account on the day of the barbecue.

This Week's Big Question

Our Big Question for this week has been: ***'Can you tell if a person is good or bad by the way they look?'*** Ask your child about this week's big question – they will have a great discussion with you!

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	95.2%	94.4%	Year 4	97.5%	97.3%
Year 1	98.3%	96.3%	Year 5	96.7%	97.6%
Year 2	97.8%	96.5%	Year 6	98.7%	96.9%
Year 3	95.3%	96.9%	Whole School	97.1%	96.6%

Diary Dates for Next Week

Monday 30th June – Water Day

The children are to bring their swimwear to school, along with a towel and a water pistol or super soaker for their water day in school. I am sure they will all have a great time! ALL items must be clearly labelled with your child's name.

Monday 30th June – Brass & Woodwind Concert at 9.15am

Parents and Carers are welcome to come along to school on Monday morning to hear the children who have been learning a brass or woodwind instrument this year, show off their amazing musical skills. I know you will notice a big improvement in them all since the last time too!

Monday 30th June – Reception Superheroes Event

We are hosting the School Sports Partnership Event for Reception children on Monday afternoon in our school. Our Reception children will be participating and will need to wear either PE kit, or appropriate sportswear. Reception's water day session will take place in the morning.

Monday 30th June – Playgroup at 1.30pm

This is taking place again in our Nursery grounds on Monday from 1.30pm – 2.30pm. We look forward to seeing you all again. Please note, this is our final playgroup session for this year.

Monday 30th June – St Bede's Head Teacher and Chaplain with Year 6

We will be welcoming Mrs Hamill and Karen, the chaplain, to our school today for them to spend some time with those Year 6 children who are transitioning to St Bede's in September.

Monday 30th June – Transition Meeting for Reception to Year 1 at 6pm

We are holding a transition meeting for all parents and carers of Reception children on Monday 30th June at 6pm. This meeting will just give you the opportunity to find out the differences between life in Reception and life in Year 1, meet the staff and see the learning environment. Please make your way to the Junior Hall where we will meet you.

Tuesday 1st July – Transition Day for Year 6 St Bede's Children

Year 6 have their first transition day at St Bede's on Tuesday 1st July. Letters have been sent to all parents and carers of Year 6 children transferring to St Bede's. Children are to make their own way there – no children transitioning to St Bede's are to come to our school on this day. For any questions or more information about these transition days, you will need to contact the Secondary Schools directly.

Tuesday 1st July - Year 2 at St Mary's Lighthouse

Year 2 are looking forward to a wonderful day at St Mary's Lighthouse on Tuesday. Children are to come to school in normal uniform and need a packed lunch and drink. Please note, that they will also need sun cream and a sun hat, or perhaps a raincoat! Please check the weather forecast for the day. They will return to school in time for the end of the school day.

Tuesday 1st July (Morning) - Durham County Primary School Athletic Finals

Some of our Year 6 children did so well in their last athletic competition that they qualified for the Durham County Primary School Athletic Finals. They will be taken to and from the event by staff, and will be back in time for their lunch. Those who are involved in the competition have been emailed separately.

Tuesday 1st July – Principal of Consett Academy with Year 5 & Year 6

Mr Urwin will be visiting our Year 5 and Year 6 children on Tuesday afternoon. He will be talking to Year 5 first about the school before meeting the Year 6 children transferring to the Academy in September. The children will have the opportunity to ask any questions.

Wednesday 2nd July – Transition Day for Year 6 at St Bede's and at Consett Academy

Children going to St Bede's are to go straight to St Bede's School for their transition day. Those children transferring to Consett Academy are to come to our school as normal and will be transported to the Academy by bus. They will return to our school in time for the end of the school day. For any questions or more information about these transition days, you will need to contact the Secondary Schools directly.

Wednesday 2nd July – Year 5 at Beamish Museum

Year 5 are visiting Beamish Museum on Wednesday to learn more around their current topic. They will need to come to school in normal uniform with sun cream applied before school due to the weather. They will also need to bring a thin rain coat in case. All children will also need a packed lunch and plenty of fluids. The bus leaves school at 9.30am and will be back in time for the end of the school day.

Wednesday 2nd July – Orienteering Day for Year 3 and Year 4

Our Year 4 Geography Club members, along with Mr Taylor, have been planning a fantastic day of orienteering for their peers to take part in on Wednesday. This is always a very popular event in the calendar, and a brilliant way to see Geography in action, away from the confines of the classroom.

Wednesday 2nd July – Nursery Parent Lunch

We look forward to welcoming some of our Nursery parents into school for lunch in the hall with their children. Please come to WHERE at WHAT TIME and you will be escorted to the hall by your child, and will get the chance to sample Dave's delights (or a school lunch!).

Thursday 3rd July – Transition Day for Year 6 at Consett Academy

Again, children transitioning to Consett Academy are to come into school as normal and will be taken to the Academy by bus. They will return here for the end of the school day. For any questions or more information about these transition days, you will need to contact the Secondary Schools directly.

Friday 4th July – Belmont Community School, Framwellgate School Durham & St Leonard's Transition Day

Any Year 6 children attending the above schools will have received information from the secondary schools regarding this transition day.

Friday 4th July - Non Uniform Day in aid of the Summer Fair/Yanomamo Raffle

We are holding a non-uniform day on Friday 4th July in exchange for donations for the summer fair or items for us to use in our Yanomamo raffle. We would really appreciate donations of toiletries, wine, chocolates and gifts that we can use at the fair. Donations of alcohol should be brought into school with an adult.

Friday 4th July – Inspirational Sportsperson in school

We are very lucky to have the incredible Alex Dewar, former captain of the British Invictus Team, in school to talk to the children on Friday. Alex is a great example of what you can achieve with resilience and determination and we know the children will learn a lot from his inspiring story.

Friday 4th July – Rocksteady Band Concert at 2.15pm

Some of our children have been having lessons with Rocksteady, creating their own bands and learning their instruments. We are really looking forward to seeing all the bands perform in the hall on Friday, as we know how hard they've all been working, and the bands include children from Year 1 all the way up to Year 6. If you would like to come and watch your child, please head to the Junior Hall door for 2.05pm, and be ready to be blown away by the talents on display. Their band leader will be helping them prepare for their performance and will be there to support them on the day. We look forward to seeing you there.

Positive Thinking

No kid is unsmart. Every kid's a genius at something.

Our job is to find it. And then encourage it.

Robin S. Sharma

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