

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 17th November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a relatively quiet week in school (something which I don't say often!) but the highlight for me was a stream of children coming to my office yesterday morning with a huge smile on their faces, proudly sharing their writing with me. I am not sure many head teachers can say they have far more children coming for praise than punishment!

Christmas is coming....

We are approaching the silly season in schools with Christmas quickly approaching. I am sure you will start to hear some Christmas songs at home soon! We have had a few parents ask about Winter Wonderland again this year. After holding it for the last three years, we have decided to have a break this year so we can come back again next year refreshed, full of new ideas and bigger and better than ever! We still have a range of Christmas events and activities though and have Carols Round the Tree in its place – not quite the same – but still special in its own right!

Nativities

Please look at the dates below for the different nativities and events. Please note the changes in the KS2 events from previous years. We have made the decision this year to hold a Year 3 & Year 4 Carol Service and Christingle in All Saints' Church and a Year 5 & Year 6 Nativity in the Methodist Church. This is due to our increasing numbers. We realise that this is a change in tradition that has been in place for many years, but feel that we have no choice but to split the events due to limited space in the church and school.

Nursery: Tuesday 12th December at 2.30pm - Christmas Storytime

Thursday 14th December at 10am – Christmas Storytime

Reception: Monday 11th December at 10am and 2pm in the School Hall
Year 1 & Year 2: Tuesday 12th December at 10 am and 2 pm in the School Hall

Year 3 & Year 4: Friday 15th December at 10am in All Saints' Church

Year 5 & Year 6: Thursday 14th December at 2pm and 6pm in Lanchester Methodist Church

Christmas Gifts

As December is approaching (even though some of us are still in denial how close it is!) I am sure we are starting to turn our minds to Christmas and gifts. As a staff, we are thinking about how we can help those who are less fortunate than ourselves as we are too aware of the hardships faced by many at this time of year.

As a staff, we usually have a secret Santa for each other but we all unanimously agreed that this year, we would like to put that money towards helping the local foodbank and the Salvation Army appeal who buy presents for children who have very little in our local area.

We would like to make the polite suggestion to all parents and carers that if you were considering buying a gift for any member of staff that this year, you donate the money to one of these charities instead. We never expect anything from parents at all and are often overwhelmed with your generosity. However, we know that we are all in a very privileged position and are keen to help others who find things very challenging, especially at this time of year.

We will be collecting any contributions during the month of December and will go shopping with some of the school council to purchase food and gifts that we can then donate. If you would like to make a contribution to this yourselves, then please send the money into the school office in an envelope marked 'Foodbank and Salvation Army'. Many thanks and I do hope we have not offended anybody. We don't want to think we aren't grateful – we just want to try to help others this year.

Friends of the School Christmas Shop

HOORAH! THE FRIENDS OF THE SCHOOL CHRISTMAS SHOP IS OPEN!

Using the link below you can now place orders for your child to attend the school Christmas Shop in the last few weeks of term. The children love being able to give a gift they have chosen by themselves. This is definitely our favourite event to run - the excitement and joy as gifts are chosen is magical.

Each class will visit the shop at an allocated time (to be confirmed) where they will be presented with the labels for the gifts they are to choose. They will come home that day with their wrapped and labelled goodies to pop under the tree, ready to surprise their loved ones.

This event is open to all year groups (including nursery) – gifts are £2 each. Please note the deadline for orders and payment is 1st December at 3.30pm.

If you have not made payment by then we may need to cancel your order. We are sorry to have to be strict about this but we really need this deadline to be adhered to please. Thank you – from the Friends of Lanchester EP School. https://form.jotform.com/233165777855369

Christmas Fair and Non-Uniform day

This year our annual Christmas Fair will be held in school on **Thursday 7th December** between 3.30pm – 5pm. We will have tombolas, Enterprise stands, refreshments and a variety of other stalls. If you are able to give up any of your spare time to help volunteer on the day, we would really appreciate your help. Please fill in <u>this form</u> if you are able to volunteer.

On **Friday 1**st **December** we will be holding a non-uniform day in school in return for an optional donation for the Christmas Fair. Donations can include festive treats, bottles of alcohol (must be handed into the Office), books, games, toiletries, gift sets, vouchers etc. Children can come into school in a festive jumper or their own clothes on the day.

Christmas raffle tickets will be on sale next week for £1 each (£5 per strip). As always, we will have some fabulous prizes however, we would be very grateful for any raffle prize donations from local businesses or organisations to add to the prize list. All money raised from the Christmas Fair and Raffle goes directly back into providing those 'little extras' for your children in school.

Christmas Dinner Day – Friday 15th December

Our annual Christmas Dinner is taking place on Friday 15th December for all children who are in school at lunchtimes - if your child is usually on packed lunch, your child is welcome to join us for this festive feast. If your child is in Reception - Year 2, this is free. For pupils in Nursery and Year 3 to Year 6, the cost is £2.50.

Please complete this <u>Christmas Dinner form</u> by Wednesday 29th November if your child would like a Christmas lunch.

<u>Christmas Fundraising – Deadline Friday 17th November</u>

Please remember, the deadline for ordering any Christmas fundraising items is today. Items cannot be ordered after this date. If you have already ordered items, they will be delivered to school at the beginning of December and will be sent home with your child.

LJG Sports Coaching Holiday Club – Wednesday 20th – Friday 22nd December

 \sqcup G Sports Coaching will once again be holding a holiday club in school on the first three days of the Christmas holidays – Wednesday 20th to Friday 22nd December. This is a great chance for parents to get that last bit of Christmas shopping and wrapping done before the big day, or for those parents who don't finish work as early as we finish school. The clubs are open to all children aged between 4 – 11 years old and sessions start from 8.00am and run until 5.00pm, with half sessions being able to be booked as well. There are always lots of festive craft activities on, as well as different sports and games to take part in too. To book online, please click this link: \sqcup G Christmas Holiday Club. For more

information, contact Mr Graham on <u>LIGSportsCoaching@gmail.com</u> or 07736384803. You can also find more information about the clubs they run via their Facebook page.

Staff News

Mrs Grayson has decided to take early retirement at Christmas which means that her last working day will be Tuesday 19th December. Mrs Grayson has worked at our school since qualifying as a teacher back in 2002 and has taught from Year 2 to Year 6 during her time with us. She has decided that the time is right to hang up her boots and enjoy some well-earned time with her family and friends. Mrs Grayson has always been a first-class teacher and children have always thoroughly enjoyed being in her class. She will be a big miss to the school but we wish her all the very best for a long and very happy retirement.

Obviously this leaves us needing a teacher for her class for the remainder of this academic year but I am delighted to inform you that Mrs Harding, who taught the class in Mrs Grayson's absence last month, will be employed as a class teacher for the remainder of the academic year as a Year 5 class teacher. We are in a very fortunate position that Mrs Harding already knows the children and routines and is also working across the school this half-term, so is already an established member of our team. She will be working alongside Mrs Grayson in the coming weeks to ensure we have a very smooth handover and will also be present for the parents' evenings at the end of the month. I am sure both parents and children will be pleased to hear this news.

Nursery Parents' Evenings

Booking for Nursery parents' evenings, which will be held on Monday 27th & Tuesday 28th November, will open this afternoon. An appointment can either be booked with the class teacher, Miss Butler, either day from 3.30pm – 6.00pm, or can be booked with your child's key worker on the following days and times:

Key Worker	Appointments Available	
Mrs S. Davis	Tuesday 28 th November, 3.30-4.30pm	
Mrs L. Moralee	Monday 27 th & Tuesday 28 th November, 3.30-4.30pm	
Mrs N. Newby	Tuesday 28 th November, 3.30-4.30pm	
Mrs S. Shaw	Tuesday 28 th November, 3.30-4.30pm	
Miss E. Tilney	Monday 27 th & Tuesday 28 th November, 3.30-4.30pm	

Use of Language

We are increasingly aware that some of our youngest children in school are being exposed to some inappropriate language. Can you please be very aware that whatever is said at home or in the heat of the moment will, most probably, be repeated by your child after hearing it? This may be from yourselves or other adults but obviously, there is a need to protect all children from language that is not appropriate as children often repeat words they have heard. As a Church school, we will always challenge the use of 'Oh God' and 'Oh Jesus' when used as a profanity. We do thank you for your support with this.

Parent Phonic and Reading Workshops

We thought it would be useful for parents and carers to come into school to see phonics sessions in action across Reception and Key Stage 1. As Reading is also such a high priority across KS2, we are also inviting parents and carers to come into school and see a Reading lesson in action in each year group across Key Stage 2. The dates for these are below and also in the Diary Dates at the end of the letter.

Please note that these sessions will take place with a small number of children from each year group to make sure there is enough space in the classrooms. These sessions are not stay and play sessions or for parents to work with their child – the sessions are to allow you to see how your child is being taught on a daily basis. We hope they will help you to be able to support your child at home too.

Reception Phonics Parent Workshop:

Year 1 Phonics Parent Workshop:

Year 2 Phonics Parent Workshop:

Year 3 Reading Demo Lesson:

Year 4 Reading Demo Lesson:

Monday 20th November at 9am

Wednesday 22nd November at 9am

Monday 27th November at 9am

Tuesday 28th November at 9am

Year 5 Reading Demo Lesson: Wednesday 29th November at 9am Year 6 Reading Demo Lesson: Thursday 30th November at 9am

Attendance

Reception	95.4%
Year 1	96.5%
Year 2	98.1%
Year 3	98%
Year 4	97.6%
Year 5	98.7%
Year 6	97.3%

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 are sharing with you some useful links where you can find more information about how to keep your child safe online. These share specific information about a range of smart devices, such as mobile phones and smart speakers, as well as how to keep your child safe on social media. We have also attached a leaflet to the end of this letter with some useful websites for children that can help keep them safe online. There are also some great information for children on: Own It - A place to help you boss your life online - Own It - BBC.

Useful links for parents:

Parents and Carers - UK Safer Internet Centre

Parents Protect - Internet Safety Links

Parents - help kids make the most of their lives online - Own It - BBC

Diary Dates for Next Week

Monday 20th November – Reception Phonics Parent Workshop at 9am

This will start at 9am in the Reception classrooms. Please come to the Main Entrance where we will sign you in before taking you along to the lesson. It will last approximately half an hour in length and there will be opportunities for you to ask questions as well.

Tuesday 21st November – Year 1 Phonics Parent Workshop at 9am

This will start at 9am and after dropping your child off at the field gate, please walk round to the Main Reception where we will ask you all to sign in before taking you down to the Year 1 classrooms. Again, this will last approximately half an hour.

Tuesday 21st November – Parent Meeting for Ski Residential at 6pm

The meeting for all parents and carers going on the ski residential will take place in school at 6pm on Tuesday. We will talk you through what the week will look like for the children, share photos and videos as well as talk you through a kit list and organisation for the week. We hope you will find this informative and I have no doubt that it will start to generate plenty of excitement amongst the children.

Wednesday 22nd November – Year 2 Phonics Parent Workshop at 9am

This will start at 9am and after dropping your child off at the field gate, please walk round to the Main Reception where we will ask you all to sign in before taking you down to the Year 1 classrooms. Again, this will last approximately half an hour.

Thursday 23rd November – Year 3 Graffiti Day

This is the well-anticipated day for our Year 3 children as they await the arrival of a graffiti artist in school. Mrs Coyle's will enjoy their session in the morning so that they can still have their Forest Schools session in the afternoon, while Mr Stephenson's class will do theirs in the afternoon. This is such an informative and

wonderful day to supplement their learning about Scribble Boy, their class text for this term. All children will come home with their own graffiti work and I know they will be absolutely buzzing about their day! It would be very helpful if all children can bring an old large, over-sized t-shirt or shirt that they can wear over the top of their clothing to help protect them. Thank you.

Thursday 23rd November – Year 5 World War 2 Day

On Thursday, Year 5 will take part in a 'World War 2 Day' in school. They will take part in a range of exciting and interactive activities throughout the day and we ask where possible for children to come into school dressed in WW2 themed clothing. This does not have to be anything elaborate and could just be ragged clothes or a tag round their neck to be an evacuee, or some may wish to come dressed as a land girl or soldier (no toy guns please), or could choose to come dressed as Winston Churchill. We do have some costumes in school, so will strive to ensure that all children are given a costume where possible.

Mr Bailey will be leading the day alongside Mr Taylor and Mrs Grayson and the children will use green screen technology to transport themselves back to the 1940s, create a blitz-themed stop motion animation, take part in a WW2 now>press>play experience and write a postcard as if they were an evacuee. This day is always one of the highlights of the year for our Year 5 pupils and staff.

<u>Thursday 23rd November – Book Fair Open after school 3.15-4pm</u>

We take the delivery of a book fair on Wednesday with a multitude of books in different cases for parents and carers to buy if you wish. The children will have the opportunity to visit the fair during the day but will not be able to purchase anything until after school. This is simply because we don't want children bringing money into school. There is no obligation to buy anything at all but if you are thinking about buying books as gifts for Christmas, you might consider buying from the book fair. The school gains 65% commission on all books purchased which we use to purchase books to supplement our library selection.

Friday 24th November – Coffee Afternoon and Book Fair Browse 2.30pm – 4pm

We are holding a coffee afternoon from 2.30pm on Friday afternoon when the book fair will also be open. This is for parents only to allow you to browse for any books without children being around! Or feel free to come along and just enjoy a coffee and chat in the school hall.

After School Club on Thursday and Friday

Please note, this will be held in Nursery for everyone due to the Book Fair being open in the Main Hall. If collecting your child prior to 4.15pm, please come to the Nursery door, but after 4.15pm they will be back in the main hall. Thank you.

SEND News

This half-term is always filled with many different events, from Children In Need Day to Christmas parties, with Christmas jumper days and performances in between. For many children, this is a time of year that is filled with excitement and anticipation.

However, we also know that for some children in our school community, this time of year can be very overwhelming. The shops and streets are filled with bright flashing lights and Christmas music playing loudly, which can lead to sensory overload for children who have sensory sensitivities.

In school, we try very hard to ensure that the sensory impact of the festive season is managed as carefully as possible. There will, of course, be festive activities in school, however we always prepare the children for these. The approach used for this depends on the child's needs - some children need a social story in the days leading up to different activities, while other children are happy to just have the activity listed on that day's visual timetable, which is displayed prominently in each classroom.

We always take children's lead on this and if school staff identify that a child is finding Christmas activities to be too unsettling, they will intervene to ensure that the children are able to remain as regulated as possible. We know that this time of year can be challenging for many of our children with sensory differences, but we hope that by making reasonable adjustments to what we do in school as a matter of course, everyone will be able to enjoy the next few weeks in their own individual ways.

Early Years News

Our Reception classes are learning all about hibernation this half term and as a part of this, they are having a Hibernation Celebration Day on **Wednesday 29**th **November**. Your child is invited to come to school wearing pyjamas and bring with them a hibernating cuddly friend.

Our Nursery children will be starting Forest School sessions next week. We will be running on a fortnightly pattern, starting with Badgers next Tuesday afternoon and Hedgehogs on Thursday morning. The following week, it will be the turn of the Squirrels. We have waterproof suits for the children to wear, but if you would prefer your child to wear their own warm, waterproof clothing, please send it to school in a bag to go on their peg and let a member of staff know. If you have any questions, please ask.

Miss Butler

Key Stage One News

It has been another action-packed week in KS1. The children continue to work hard and impress us with how much progress they are making. The children have worked so hard in writing this week that Mrs Davis had a line outside of her door to see all the wonderful work.



In Year 1 we have been learning about the Seasons and the Weather. In Forest school on Wednesday we took some time to measure the weather. We recorded the temperature, wind and set a rain gauge to measure how much rain will fall this week. The children enjoyed making their own weathervanes. It has been wonderful to make science so practical and get outside and the children have loved it!



This week Year 2 have been making some puppets in DT and it has been lovely to see the care and precision with which they have been cutting and sewing.

Mr Innes

















Key Stage Two News - Writing Update



This week, we thought we would like to share what each Key Stage 2 class is focusing on in their writing in school. Our whole school writing cycle begins with an assessment of the last 'Gold Write' that the children wrote to see what skills we need to work on next. We then read, analyse, discuss and interrogate a model piece of writing so we can identify the key features that the children need to include in their own work. Staff teach these features

before the children plan their next 'Gold Write.' The class teachers model the writing process at all times to enable the children to understand what is expected. Finally, once the 'Gold Write' is completed, the children 'polish' and improve their writing. This is assessed by their teacher before the cycle begins again.

Our current writing tasks are as follows:

Year 3 are reading Scribbleboy this half term and are currently writing a diary recount based on their work, whilst Year 4 are writing an alternative ending to Viking Boy. Year 5 are also writing a diary recount from Willie, an evacuee in Goodnight Mr Tom. Finally, Year 6 are writing a multi-sensory setting description of a workhouse based on Street Child.

You could support your child at home with these writing strategies:

Provide a place for your child to write

The area should be an area that is quiet and well lit. Stock the area with supplies such as paper, pencils and crayons. You can also gather family photos and magazines that can be used as story starters.

Read, read, read

The best activity to improve writing is reading. If your child reads good books, they will be better writers. Reading exposes children to general vocabulary, word study and content-specific vocabulary. Through reading, children see a variety of authors' techniques that they can use in their own writing.

Encourage your child to keep a reflective journal with writing

This is excellent writing practice, as well as a good outlet for venting feelings. Encourage your child to write about things that happen at home and school. This reflective journal can be used to develop the "senses" of writing. Have your child write about what they saw, heard or felt on a trip or adventure. Encourage your child to write about personal feelings — pleasures as well as disappointments.

Provide authentic writing opportunities for your child

Have your child write their own thank-you notes, party invitations and letters to family. Let your child make the grocery list. Finding a pen pal for your child would make writing "real." Helping children make the connection between writing and the "real" world will increase an interest in writing.

When writing at home, ask questions!

Always ask your child questions when he writes. Ask specific questions about your child's writing such as: "How did that happen?" "How did that make you feel?" "Can you tell me more about that...?" "What are some other words you could use to describe...?"

If you have any questions about writing in school or at home, please contact your child's class teacher.

Mr Knighton

Positive Thinking

Worrying does not take away tomorrow's troubles. It takes away today's peace.

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)



Tuesday 12th December 2023

Tuesday 12th December 2023

Lanchester Endowed Parochial Primary School

Academic Year 2023 - 2024



Autumn Term 2

DIARY DATES Monday 20th November 2023 **Reception Phonics Parental Workshop** 9am Tuesday 21st November 2023 Year 1 Phonics Parental Workshop 9am Tuesday 21st November 2023 Ski Residential Meeting for Parents and Carers 6pm Wednesday 22nd November 2023 Year 2 Phonics Parental Workshop 9am Thursday 23rd November 2023 All Day Year 3 Graffiti Workshop Thursday 23rd November 2023 3.15pm **Book Fair Open** Friday 24th November 2023 Coffee Afternoon and Book Fair 2.15pm Saturday 25th November 2023 Christmas Lights Switch on – Village Green 5.30pm Monday 27th November 2023 **Reception Vision Tests** All Day Monday 27th November 2023 9am Parental Workshop for Year 3 Reading Monday 27th November 2023 Phase 1 Phonics Parental Workshop 9am Monday 27th November 2023 Parents' Evenings for Nursery Parents with Miss Butler 3.30pm-6pm Monday 27th November 2023 Parents' Evenings for Nursery Parents with Mrs Moralee 3.30-4.30pm or Miss Tilney Monday 27th November 2023 3.30pm-6pm Parents' Evenings for Mrs Grayson Tuesday 28th November 2023 9am Parental Reading Workshop for Year 4 Tuesday 28th November 2023 Parent Meeting for Dubai Residential 6pm Tuesday 28th November 2023 Parents' Evenings for Mrs Grayson 3.30pm-6pm Tuesday 28th November 2023 3.30pm-6pm Parents' Evenings for Nursery Parents with Miss Butler Tuesday 28th November 2023 Parents' Evenings for Nursery Parents with Mrs Davis, Mrs 3.30-4.30pm Moralee, Mrs Newby, Mrs Shaw and Miss Tilney Wednesday 29th November 2023 9am Parental Reading Workshop for Year 5 Reading Thursday 30th November 2023 Parental Reading Workshop for Year 6 Reading 9am Friday 1st December 2023 All Day Non-uniform Day in exchange for a gift donation for the Christmas Fair Friday 1st December 2023 9 - 10am Reception Stay and Play Session Friday 1st December 2023 2pm - 3pm **Reception Stay and Play Session** Wk: Monday 4th December 2023 All Week **Enterprise Week** Monday 4th December 2023 All Week Friends of the School Christmas Shop Tuesday 5th December 2023 9am - 10am Year 2 Stay and Play Session Tuesday 5th December 2023 2pm - 3pm Year 2 Stay and Play Session Wednesday 6th December 2023 **Nursery Stay and Play Session** 10.30 - 11.30Wednesday 6th December 2023 1.45pm-2.45pm **Nursery Stay and Play Session** Thursday 7th December 2023 Parents of Year 1 - Poetry in the Forest Session 9am Thursday 7th December 2023 3.30pm-5pm Christmas Fair and Social Event Monday 11th December 2023 10am **Reception Nativity** Monday 11th December 2023 2pm **Reception Nativity** Tuesday 12th December 2023 **Key Stage One Nativity** 10am

Key Stage One Nativity

Choir singing at Lynnwood House Christmas Lunch

2pm

1pm

Tuesday 12 th December 2023	Afternoon	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		
Thursday 14 th December 2023	9am	Woodwind Christmas Concert		
Thursday 14 th December 2023	Morning	Nursery Christmas Story Session with Parents		
Thursday 14 th December 2023	2pm	Year 5 & Year 6 Christmas Nativity in Lanchester Methodist		
		Church		
Thursday 14 th December 2023	6pm	Year 5 & Year 6 Christmas Nativity in Lanchester Methodist		
		Church		
Friday 15 th December 2023	10am	Year 3 & Y4 Christingle and Carol Service in All Saints'		
		Church		
Friday 15 th December	Lunchtime	Christmas Dinner		
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		
Holiday Club: Wodnorday 20th to Eriday 22nd December 2022				

Holiday Club: Wednesday 20th to Friday 22nd December 2023

Email: ljgsportscoaching@gmail.com

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



Produced by The Lucy Faithfull Foundation for Internet Safety seminars delivered in schools.





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CBBC



www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/ topics/stay-safe

www.thinkuknow.co.uk



Thinkuknow

Websites to keep safe help you online!



www.kidsmart.org.uk

www.childline.org.uk



ChildLine

0800

ChildLine

send them an email if you or Helpline or Call their

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