



LANCHESTER E.P. (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



Friday 9th September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been lovely to welcome the children back to school this week. The staff come in during the holidays to prepare for the new year but the building is always just soulless without the buzz, chatter and laughter the children bring with them!

Reception children and our new starters across school have been amazing - so settled and content - long may that last!

The weekly letter is the main source of communication on a weekly basis and as a result, can become quite lengthy and detailed. In the end of year questionnaire, many of you commented that at times, you find it rather challenging to navigate with so much information being shared.

So, we will present it slightly differently this year. After any general information, we will split the weekly letter into 3 sections - the first for Early Years information, then next for KS1 information and the third for KS2 information.

If there is anything that is for the whole school or for both KS1 and KS2, that will be written at the beginning of the letter. Hopefully that will make it slightly easier reading for you all rather than writing it chronologically. We are always open to feedback and suggestions!

Her Majesty The Queen

Like the rest of the country, we too were deeply saddened to hear the news about the death of the Queen last night. We have held a special assembly in school this morning for children in Years 1- 6 where her life has been remembered and celebrated. We also talked about her being a normal human being with emotions and feelings, finishing by showing the children the more humorous side of our Queen with Paddington Bear and James Bond! We will continue to support the children with their emotions as I am well aware that it may also be hard for some of our children who have lost loved ones in the past.

Henry Dancer Days

This is a charity very close to our hearts. Henry came here as a pupil for over 8 years and was such a wonderful young boy before he sadly lost his fight for life at just 12 years old due to bone cancer. We still have his photograph up in our staff room, remembering him very fondly, while his mum attends our leavers service every summer to award the Henry Dancer Memorial trophy to a Y6 boy who displays the same characteristics as Henry did as a child.

Mr Callum Adamson, our newly appointed teacher, used to play out with Henry as a young boy and he is running the Great North Run this year to raise money for the wonderful charity Henry's Mum set up in his memory. I know times are tough, but if you feel you are able to sponsor Mr Adamson for such a great cause, the link is below. There is no pressure at all - I just know many of you like to support this charity whenever you can: https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/callum-adamson?utm_term=KdAmmggW3

Email Communication with Parents and Carers

We are keen to ensure we have good communication with parents and carers and in this day and age, email communication is often the quickest way to get in touch with your child's teacher. However, please remember that all school emails are confidential to the addressee only - this is stated at the bottom of our school emails. It is important to remember that emails sent to you from school staff are not to be widely shared with other parents, particularly via social media platforms. Please respect school staff in this way. Thank you.

Water Bottles

This year, we have reverted back to our practice that was in place prior to Covid and have purchased water bottles for all children in Reception – 6 (Nursery children have cups in the classroom). These will remain in school and are washed and sterilised by staff. I know the constant to and fro of water bottles has caused many of you issues over the last few years (as stated on the end of year questionnaires) and they have often been left behind at home! Leaving them in school works really well and means that all children have the same water bottle so we don't have any issues with peer pressure over the latest trending water bottle!

Advance Notice: Holiday Club Dates – October & December

LJG Coaching will be running the holiday clubs in school on the following dates:

24th – 26th October

21st – 22nd December

If you would like to book onto any of these dates, please fill in the online form here: [Holiday Club Booking](#), or email ljsportscoaching@gmail.com for more information. Please note, children must be 4 years old to attend.

Uniform Donations

Thank you for all your uniform donations – these are really useful, and during the cost of living crisis it is lovely for us to be able to provide uniform to parents free of charge. However, we are asking that if you donate jumpers or cardigans that it is the logoed items only – we suggest donating the unbranded jumpers to charity instead, as whilst your child will not be penalised for wearing an unbranded jumper or cardigan, it is our policy that children should wear the logoed jumpers. We do have a number of unbranded jumpers that have already been donated into school – we will put these in the bike shelter for people to collect until Wednesday. Anything not collected by then will be taken to charity.

Labelling Clothes

Please make sure all uniform, shoes and coats are labelled with your child's name (or initials) and class. This makes it much easier for us to find it in the event it goes missing and to reunite it with its owner. We would like to keep the lost property down to a minimum this year as we simply don't have the space to keep it, so please help us to help you and label your child's clothing.

Advance Notice: Space Week Special Menu

This year we will be celebrating Space Week in School from Tuesday 4th October. There will be a special lunch on Thursday 6th October for all children in school and we will be inviting those on packed lunch to join those on school meals in sampling the interplanetary space food, prepared by our very own Kitchen Aliens (we have been told they come in peace). Please look out for a letter closer to the date with special meal choices on for all children.

Early Years News

We have loved welcoming some of our children back into Nursery this week. 6 weeks really makes a difference - they all look so grown up in their uniforms! It has been wonderful having our new Nursery children come to visit us this week too - there have been more tears from parents than the children! Our new Reception children have had an amazing start and are settling quickly into their new routines. We think they will all be glad of a rest at the weekend, but we hope they will be raring to go again next week!

Thank you to those of you who have shared things with us on Evidence Me - it really is a fantastic way to communicate with us. If you are still unable to access the Evidence Me app, please contact Miss Brown or Miss Butler.

With Parent Share in Evidence Me you will be able to:

- View reports (complete with photos) via the app or web site, showing you what your child has been learning and the new skills they are developing.
- Send us your comments and feedback by simply adding them to the reports which will help our staff to support your child more effectively in the classroom.
- Upload things that your child has done outside of school that you think the teacher would like to see.

Participation is optional, but we really recommend getting involved. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact the school directly.

Please visit: <http://help.evidence.me/parent-share/help-for-parents> for further information and guidance.

Just to remind you, if you have a question for us, it is much easier if you email us directly as we cannot answer you easily via Evidence Me.

Can we remind parents of Nursery and Reception children that they need to bring in a pair of named wellies to keep in school for outdoor play please? Reception children also need a book bag in their team colour. Bookbags are available from Moette in Langley Park, if you have yet to purchase one. Please remember to check your child's book bag each night as they may contain letters or all-important party invitations!

2 Year Olds Questionnaire

Last year we sent out a link to parents and carers to find out if there would be any interest in sending your children to Nursery if we could offer places for 2-year olds. There most definitely is the interest there from you all but unfortunately, at this current point in time, we just do not have the capacity to be able to offer this provision. Our Nursery continues to be almost at capacity for 3-year olds and we would need additional space/building to be able to accept 2-yr olds. I am in contact with the Local Authority about this as I am well aware of a lack of provision for our Under 3s in the village. This is something which we most definitely are aiming towards but it looks as though it may be a rather long process.

Free School Milk (Nursery & Reception)

All children in Nursery and Reception are signed up for free milk before they start with us (unless there are any allergies or dietary requirements we are aware of). This ensures that your child gets milk from the day they start and parents will only need to sign them up once they turn five and are no longer eligible for the free milk. Unfortunately, there seems to have been a bit of confusion about that this year. We will do our best to make sure your child receives milk each day, but a number of children will not receive milk from coolmilk until 19th September.

Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 News

Year 2 Visit to Hartlepool Marina on Monday 12th September

On Monday, Year 2 are going on their first educational visit of the year. They will be enjoying a wonderful day at Hartlepool Marina to support this term's topic of 'Land Ahoy'. All children need to come to school in their uniform with a packed lunch. They will return in time for the end of the school day. Don't forget to email Mrs Startup if you are able to come on this visit with your child and she will be in touch with you if there is a space. I know they will have a great day!

Turing Visits to India and Dubai

The children who will travel to India in January were all chosen and informed during the summer holidays. We are just awaiting final confirmation about flights and then will set a date for a meeting towards the end of this month for those families whose children will be going on a trip of a lifetime to India.

The online form for those wishing to put their names down for a visit to Dubai was also emailed out on Wednesday. It is hoped that this will also be organised this month and we are hoping to travel there in February. We are just waiting to hear back from our partner school before the final dates are confirmed.

Confirmation Classes

We are, once again, in a position to be able to offer Confirmation Classes to children in Years 5 & 6 who would like to become confirmed into the Church of England. Revd Lesley Sutherland will lead these classes during the school day along with her curate, Revd Stephen. Letters will go out shortly to parents and carers of Year 5 and Year 6 children with more details about what this involves and for you to give your permission for your child to attend the classes. The Bishop will be confirming the children at a service on Sunday 20th November. Look out for more information to follow.

Swimming Timetable Information

Since 1994, swimming and water safety has been a statutory element of the national curriculum for physical education in England. This means that every 11-year old child should leave primary school with the skills to keep themselves safe while enjoying swimming with friends and family.

Every half term, we send a different Key Stage 2 class swimming to the Louisa Centre. Swimming takes place on Thursday mornings and when it is your child's turn to go swimming they will need to bring into school a swimming costume, towel and a swim hat. Swim hats must be worn in the pool; if your child does not have one, you can send in £2.50 with your child in an envelope for them to purchase one from the Louisa Centre in the first week of their swimming lessons. Please note, goggles are not permitted to be worn during swimming lessons. The rules on swimming hats and goggles are Local Authority rules by which we have to abide.

Half Term	Class Swimming	Day & Time
Autumn 1	3MS	Thursday am
Autumn 2	3SC	Thursday am
Spring 1	4CA	Thursday am
Spring 2	4SJ	Thursday am
Summer 1	5KG	Thursday am
Summer 2	5PT	Thursday am

Year 5 & 6 Walking Home from School Unaccompanied

Thank you to everyone who has already filled in the form, emailed the office or been in to the office to give your child permission to leave school by themselves. The children do really appreciate this little bit of freedom and it's a great way to start to prepare them for Secondary School. If you have yet to get in touch with school but would like your child to be able to leave by themselves, please make sure you fill in the online form: [Year 5 & 6 Walk Home Permission](#) by Sunday 11th September, as we will close the form then. This makes sure that staff have the most up to date information. If you decide after this date that you would like your child to walk home unaccompanied, please contact the office. Thank you.

Whole School Walk – Wednesday 28th September

This is always a very popular day and one which the children and staff both thoroughly enjoy. It is part of our curriculum and school calendar and like any other educational visit, is not optional. This year, we are also delighted that our European Erasmus+ visitors from Hungary, Spain and Germany will also be able to join us for the day. Letters have been emailed out with further information.

Physical Education

The children have 2 PE lessons every week (one of these may be Swimming). For children in Years 1 – 4, PE kits should remain in school for the duration of the half term. Children in Years 5 & 6 are to come to school dressed in their PE kits for the days they have PE. However, Year 5 & 6 children must still wear their ordinary school jumper and NOT an ordinary hoodie for their PE day and lessons.

Please note that our PE kits include:

- T-Shirt in their Team Colours
- Dark Joggers or leggings
- Trainers or Plimsolls
- School Jumper for Year 5 & 6 P.E.

Days for this year are as follows:

Year 1 Monday and Friday

Year 3 Wednesday and Friday

Year 5 Monday and Thursday

Year 2 Tuesday and Thursday

Year 4 Monday and Wednesday

Year 6 Tuesday and Wednesday

Please note – Nursery and Reception do not change for any PE lessons they have as they have regular movement lessons. Reception children will need to bring a PE kit to school after Easter but more information will be shared on this nearer the time.

Extra-Curricular Activities

The form has been emailed today to all parents and carers of children in Years 1 – Year 6. We have increased the numbers for most clubs. Please make sure that you sign up for a club using [this online form](#) by Monday 12th September at 3.30pm and we will inform parents and carers on Monday afternoon whether your child has secured a place. Clubs will begin on Tuesday next week.

Year Group	Extra-Curricular Activity	Activity Leader	Day	Maximum Number	Finish Time
Year 2	Multi Sports	Mr Graham	Monday	30	4.15pm
Yea 5 & 6	Boys Football	Mr Stoker	Monday	30	4.15pm
Year 3 – 6	Key Stage 2 Choir	Mrs Knighton	Tuesday	30	4.15pm
Year 1	Family Forest School <i>Parent/carers are welcome to attend with their child</i>	Mr Innes Mrs S Davis	Wednesday	20 children 20 adults	4.30pm
Year 3	Lego	Mrs Coyle	Wednesday	20	4.15pm
Year 5	Ukulele	Mrs Knighton	Wednesday	20	4.15pm
Year 4 – 6	Girls Football	Mr Taylor	Thursday	30	4.15pm
Year 4 – 6	Digital Leaders	Mr Bailey Mrs Boyd Mr Stephenson	Thursday From 22nd September	Existing members only	4.15pm

Positive Thinking

When life seems hard, the courageous do not lie down and accept defeat; instead, they are all the more determined to struggle for a better future.

Queen Elizabeth II

Best Wishes,

Jane Davis

Mrs Jane Davis
Head Teacher