



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 10th October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I think we have made the most of the lovely weather in school this week – the children certainly love it when they are able to get onto the field!

We were thrilled to welcome Jane Natrass this week from the charity, Henry Dancer Days. Jane talked to us all about Henry, the charity and the work the charity funds. She really was quite inspirational and such a good example of a courageous advocate. Henry Dancer Days is one of our school charities for the year, along with Willowburn Hospice. Watch this space for the first event of the year coming very soon.

Head lice

Headlice are very common in young children and their families. They are not caused by dirty hair and are picked up by head-to-head contact. They can often be an issue in schools where children play in close proximity to one another. NHS guidelines state that the only way to be sure if someone has head lice is by combing their hair with a special fine-toothed comb. This needs to be done weekly to be able to detect them. We do have outbreaks of head lice across school at the moment so I would urge you to purchase a fine-toothed comb and check your child's hair regularly.

Harvest Festival - 1,000 Can Challenge

Thank you all so much for your wonderful contributions for our Harvest Festival this week. Your children brought in over 500 cans this week – such a wonderful achievement. Thank you all so much! We all enjoyed very special celebrations – both in church and school. I am sure our local food banks are going to be exceptionally grateful for our donations.

Year 5 & 6 Boys Football Team

Our Year 5 & 6 Boys Football Team came runners up in the league, being beaten only once by Catchgate Primary School. They played well, were great sportsmen and we are very proud of them. Well done boys!

Parent and Carer Meetings

We are all looking forward to meeting you all next week and sharing with you how well your children are progressing in school. Please note that the teaching staff don't stop teaching until 3.15pm and need a short break prior to starting their meetings. Therefore, the doors will not open until 3.30pm. Please enter school through the Main Reception. All meetings with your child's teacher will take place in the Junior Hall but please make sure that you take the time to look at your child's work in their classrooms as well.

Early Years News

Nursery parents of 3 year-olds - please remember to book your parent consultation on Arbor. If you have booked two slots, please let us know if you are wanting to speak to Mrs Moralee (Owl Group) or Miss Butler (Squirrel Group) so that we can release the other slot to allow others to book. If you are not sure which group your child is in, please check Evidence Me or ask a member of staff.

Good communication and language skills are vital for every child's learning, relationships, and confidence. They help children express themselves, understand others, and thrive at home and school. Speech and Language UK have created a **Progress Checker** to help parents see how their child's talking and understanding are developing. It's quick and easy to use, and it offers lots of practical ideas to support children from 0-11 to develop their speech, language and communication skills <https://progress-checker.speechandlanguage.org.uk/>

Thanks to those parents who have sent waterproof suits in for their Nursery or Reception child. This has helped enormously. If anyone else would like to send a suit in, this would be very welcome.

Please ensure that your Reception child has their bookbag in school every day and that their reading book and reading diary are always in the bag. Supporting your child with reading practice is the best way to help them learn and grow in confidence as a reader. Please remember to set aside regular times to read with your child, encourage them to say the sounds and listen for the word when they are reading their books. If your child needs some help when they are reading you can:

- Encourage them to use their finger under the word from left to right.
- Ask them to 'say the sounds and read the word'.
- Tell them to 'listen' for the word as they say the sounds.
- If they need more help, tell them the sounds in the word and ask them to listen and blend them to say the whole word.

Our EYFS children are very much enjoying den-building at the moment. If anyone could donate any unwanted sheets/duvet covers/curtains or anything else that could be used to build a den, we would make very good use of them!

A final plea - can you make sure that your child's jumpers and cardigans are clearly named? We cannot track down missing items if they do not have your child's name on them.

Staffing

One of our Teaching Assistants, Miss Anna Corper, will be leaving us at the end of this half term as she is moving abroad to live. She has worked at our school for four years across many different age groups and I know she will be a big miss in our school. We all wish her all the very best for her now life overseas!

We advertised and then interviewed last week for a new teaching assistant and I am delighted to inform you that we appointed Miss Holly Richardson to our team. Miss Richardson has been in school this week working in Reception and will be working most of the time over the next two weeks so that the children become familiar with her. A trained teacher, she will be a huge asset to our school and brings with her experience, energy and enthusiasm. I am sure your children from Reception may have already talked about her at home! For those coming to the Open Morning tomorrow, she will be there too.

This Week's Big Question

This week's Big Question has been, '**What does Harvest mean to you?**' We have all been thinking about Harvest this week and lots of discussions have arisen from this Big Question. Ask your child their thoughts about it all this weekend.

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 (%)	to Date (%)	Year Group	Current Week (%)	to Date (%)
Reception	95.4	97.8	Year 4	96.7	96.5
Year 1	98.5	97.5	Year 5	97.3	98.3
Year 2	98.8	99	Year 6	98.7	98.6
Year 3	98.7	98.6	Whole School	97.7	98

Diary Dates for Next Week

Saturday 11th October – Early Years Open Morning 10am – 12 noon

We are looking forward to welcoming any interested families to school on Saturday morning to see our Nursery and Reception learning environments. As we are now welcoming 2-year old children into our Nursery, we are keen to welcome lots of families of young children into school. Application forms will be available as well as all the key staff to answer any questions. We look forward to seeing you there.

Tuesday 14th October & Wednesday 15th October – Parents' and Carers' Meetings 3.30pm – 6pm

Please come to the Main Entrance and make your way to the Junior Hall for your meeting and to your child's classroom to see their work. We look forward to seeing you then. Please note, doors will not be opened before 3.30pm. Wrap Around Care will take place in Nursery on these days. Extra-Curricular Clubs will still take place on these days (Choirs, Dodgeball & Story Club) and will be dismissed as usual from the front of the school at 4.15pm.

Wednesday 15th October – Year 1 at The Great North Museum (Hancock)

Year 1 are looking forward to their visit to The Great North Museum on Wednesday which supports their topic 'Dinosaur Planet'. All children should come to school in full uniform and with a packed lunch. They will return in time for the end of the school day.

Thursday 16th October – Brass Demonstration

Mrs Weaver from Durham Music Service will be giving a brass demonstration on Thursday at 2.30pm to allow children in KS2 to hear different brass instruments and the sound they all make. Interested children who wish to learn an instrument will be given further information after the demo next week.

Friday 17th October – Year 5 Wind Warriors

Mr Stephenson's class will be enjoying a day with a member of staff from the OASES team, enjoying a Supergrid Wind Turbine Workshop. This follows a climate they led about Climate Change and a workshop on Climate Change, looking scientifically at why climate change is occurring and how we can mitigate the effects through use of sustainable energy. This workshop on Friday involves the class taking on the role of a wind turbine technician and I am sure they will have great fun at the same time!

Positive Thinking

'Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but the seeds that you sow.'

As usual, if there is anything at all that you would like to talk about, please do not hesitate to contact us. Hope you have a lovely weekend.

Best Wishes,

Jane Davis

Mrs Jane Davis
Head Teacher