



# 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 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has just been amazing. What a privilege it is to be head teacher of a school with such a terrific group of children, staff and parents. I always knew our children were wonderful but seeing them all this week up on that stage has made me realise just how talented and confident they are. They have performed with such gusto, enthusiasm and enjoyment – from the very youngest in Reception singing their Christmas songs to the oldest in Year 6 acting and singing with such talent.

This week we have enjoyed total of 6 Nativities, 4 Christmas Story Times in Nursery, 3 Choir Performances, 1 Carol Service & Christingle, 1 Party Day for Nursery & Reception, Christmas Dinner for over 400, Forest School Sessions for Reception & Nursery, a brass & woodwind concert and a day out for Year 6 at the pantomime in Newcastle. I really do not think we could possibly have squeezed anything else in! Thank you to all parents and carers for coming along to support your children, especially to those in Year 5 & 6 at the 6pm performance. We do this as so many of you are working parents and we do know how important it is to include you whenever possible! I just hope you were all as proud of your children as we all were!

This term has been an incredibly busy one and I think all children and staff are more than ready for a well-earned break. I am sure you all are too. I would like to thank you all for your amazing support this year. From Tuesday we will all be enjoying some precious time with our own families and recharging our batteries for next year – a year in which we do expect a visit from Ofsted. In preparation for that inspection, we would like to urge you to complete the Parent View Questionnaire: <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

## **Christmas Fair**

It was lovely to see so many of you at the Christmas Fair last Thursday – what a busy hour that was! We opened the door as soon as it was feasibly possible but I know some of you still got wet in the rain that seems to visit us every day at the moment! Thank you for your patience. We raised a terrific £1,615 in one hour which is just amazing. Thank you so much for your generosity. We will be asking the school council to talk to each class as we have some suggestions on what to spend it on, but want to give the children the opportunity to make that decision.

## **Request from EYFS**

When you are tidying up after Christmas, please think of us in EYFS. We would welcome your old Christmas cards and wrapping paper and also any decorations you may no longer need. If you are clearing out books to make way for new ones, we always welcome donations to top up our class libraries. Please send them in with your child in the new year.

## **Wrap Around Care Reminder**

Please remember that our after school club finishes at 5.15pm Monday – Thursday, and 5.00pm on Friday. We have a number of children who are regularly being picked up late, which has an impact on our after school club coach, who has jobs to go to after he finishes here. Please be mindful of this. Thank you.

## **School Dinner & Wrap Around Care Debts**

Please can we politely ask that if you have any outstanding dinner money or wrap around care arrears that these are cleared on later than Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December. We recommend that you check your Arbor account on a regular basis to ensure it remains in credit.

If your child is usually on packed lunches but has joined us for a Christmas dinner today (and is in Nursery or Y3-Y6) please ensure their meal is paid for on Arbor by Tuesday. Many thanks.

### **Diary Dates for Next Week**

#### **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December – Carols and Hot Chocolate Around the Tree**

This will take place in the school hall on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 3.30pm. Please make your way round to the Junior Hall and we will let you in as soon as possible after the end of the school day. Please note – children must be accompanied by an adult. We will enjoy singings some traditional carols, popular Christmas songs and hopefully we might have enough choir members there to have a couple of songs from the choir. Hot chocolate will be served and we hope you enjoy our final festive event in school. Wrap Around Care will be held for all children in the Nursery on Monday because of this.

### **Christmas Parties**

Next week are Christmas Party Days! The children are to come to school in their party clothes for the day of their party. The dates for these are as follows:

|                  | <b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December</b> | <b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December</b> |
|------------------|--|---|
| <b>Morning</b>   | Year 1<br>Year 3                       | Year 5                                  |
| <b>Afternoon</b> | Year 4<br>Year 2                       | Year 6                                  |

### **Christmas Thoughts**

***Christmas Gift Suggestions:  
To your enemy, forgiveness,  
To your opponent, tolerance,  
To a friend, your heart,  
To a customer, service,  
To all, charity,  
To every child, a good example,  
To yourself, respect.***

I hope you all have a very special Christmas, spending time with your families and enjoying the company of loved ones. We look forward to welcoming your children back to school on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024.

Best Wishes,

*Jane Davis*

Mrs Jane Davis  
(Head Teacher)



# 12 Top Tips for Children and Young People to Enjoy a TECH-FREE CHRISTMAS

The Christmas holidays are tailor made for families to enjoy relaxed quality time in each other's company – but with distractions like pinging phone notifications, the lure of games consoles and online Boxing Day sales, that can be more difficult than it sounds. Staying off our phones, laptops and tablets, however, can really help us to appreciate the things that genuinely matter at this special time of year. Follow our 12 top tips for a tech-free festive season ... Yule be glad you did! Merry Christmas!

## CHRISTMAS CRAFTING

Get out the paper, glue and scissors and have a go at hand-making cards or gift tags. You could also create your own decorations to add a uniquely personal touch to the Christmas tree.

## NATURE QUEST

Try a scavenger hunt in the garden or your local park. Challenge yourself and your family to find natural treasures that are symbolic of this time of year – like holly or pinecones, say.

## CAROL KARAOKE

Sing your hearts out with a Christmas carol karaoke night. Pick out your favourite tunes and enjoy a musical celebration with family and friends.

## WANDER DOWN MEMORY LANE

How about making a scrapbook filled with your favourite memories from Christmases gone by? Unleash your creativity while you enjoy reliving those magical holiday moments.

## TRY REFLECTIVE JOURNALLING

Dot down your thoughts, feelings and reflections on the holiday in a notebook or diary – you could also list some of your main goals for the new year.

## WRAP IT UP

Take time to get inventive with some luxurious gift wrapping. Break out the wrapping paper, ribbons and bows to make parcelling up those presents into a creative adventure.

## WALK IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

Delight in the great outdoors with some gentle walks over the holiday. The family can all wrap up warm as you add to your step count and savour the crisp winter air together.

## BE A SEASONAL CHEF

Get the whole family working together in the kitchen for some Christmas cooking. Choose a recipe and whip up a festive feast that all of you can enjoy.

## ENJOY A CHRISTMAS STORY

Christmas is a perfect time for sparkling stories. Get cosy and lose yourself in a brilliant book, from Dickens to Dr Seuss or a more modern favourite by Chris van Allsburg or Tom Fletcher.

## SNOWY SCULPTURES

If we're fortunate enough to get a white Christmas this year, make the most of the opportunity by having a family snowman-building competition!

## GAMES NIGHT GALA

Dive into some old-school fun with a tech-free games night. Classic board games and card games have stood the test of time for a reason!

## GOODWILL TO ALL

You and your family could spend a day volunteering – perhaps at a food bank or helping a local charity. After all, kindness and thinking of others are part of what Christmas is all about.

## Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.



The National College



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

@natonlinesafety

/NationalOnlineSafety

@nationalonlinesafety

@national\_online\_safety