



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 22nd November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

After a relatively quiet week for us in school, we are now just gearing up for the busy build up to Christmas. With singing and carols being heard all around the building, the children are eagerly rehearsing, with the excitement mounting.

The cold spell this week has been good news for the children as it has meant they have been able to get back onto the school field again – this is always a highlight! Please just remember to name all clothing, hats and gloves to make sure that when they are discarded, we can ensure they are reunited with their owners as quickly as possible!

Please remember that the school is CLOSED on Monday 25th November to all pupils due to staff training. We re-open on Tuesday 26th November.

Parking

Once more, I am receiving reports that cars are parked on double yellow lines both outside school and in the village and also being parked irresponsibly. Last week, one of our children was hit by a car wing mirror going through the village, bruising their arm, and the car didn't even stop to check if they were alright. The concern with parking is that if we are all not more careful, a child is going to be seriously hurt. Double yellow lines are in place for a reason. It is not be awkward, it is because it is dangerous to pedestrians and other cars. Please have some consideration for our children and community and park responsibly. Do not forget that we have use of the Social Club and Kings Head for parking too.

SEND Information

Durham Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIAS) will be holding a drop-in session at Consett Family Hub for parents and carers of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. They provide impartial advice and information about the SEND system in County Durham and many families in our school have found their advice to be invaluable over the past few years. The drop-in will take place on Thursday 5th December from 9:30am until 11:30am. For more information about other services and events at Consett Family Hub for parents and carers of children with SEND, please [click here](#).

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	95.8%	95.1%	Year 4	98.5%	98%
Year 1	93.3%	96.6%	Year 5	97.2%	98.1%
Year 2	95.7%	97.5%	Year 6	98.9%	97.4%
Year 3	97.2%	97.4%	Whole School	96.7%	97.2%

Diary Dates for Next Week

Saturday 23rd November at 5.30pm – Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

Our newly appointed head boy and head girl will have the honour of helping to switch on the Christmas Lights in the Village on Saturday evening at 5.30pm on the Village Green. This is always a really festive event when we gather together to be part of this very special event. We hope to see you there!

Monday 25th November – SCHOOL CLOSED ALL DAY

Tuesday 26th & Wednesday 27th November – Captain Chemistry in School

We are delighted to welcome Captain Chemistry back into school next week, where he will be working with Year 3 on Tuesday and Year 5 on Wednesday to support their Science topics for this half term – we know the children will enjoy having the curriculum brought to life!

Wednesday 27th November – Basketball Coach with Year 6

Year 6 will enjoy their first session with the basketball coach on Wednesday morning. Please make sure all children are in PE kits for this lesson. Thank you.

Thursday 28th November – Basketball Coach with Year 5

Year 5 will enjoy another session with the basketball coach on Thursday morning. They are making very good progress and thoroughly enjoying their training.

Thursday 28th November – Book Fair Open 3.15pm – 4pm

We will be holding another Scholastic book fair in School on Thursday and Friday. The school receives 60% commission on all purchases and we usually manage to stock the library up very well following these book fairs. The book fair will be open for sales from 3.15pm – 4pm on Thursday. This will take place in the Junior Hall. Please make your way into school through the hall doors. More information about the book fair will be emailed, including how to purchase items if you cannot make it to the fair, and how to buy online at the fair.

Friday 29th November – Non-Uniform Day

On Friday we are holding a non-uniform day for all, in exchange for an item that can be used in the Christmas Fair. We respectfully ask for donations such as toiletries, sweets, chocolates, gift sets, bottles of wine/alcohol, stationery and children's games and toys. Please send any alcoholic items into the School Office with an adult. All other items can be brought into school with the children where they will be collected in class. We would also be really grateful for any bottle and gift bag donations, so please bring some in if you have a stash at home. Thank you very much, in advance, for your support with this!

Friday 29th November – Coffee Afternoon and Choir Singing and Book Fair Open 2.30pm – 4pm

We will be holding a coffee afternoon in the Main Hall from 2.30pm on Friday afternoon. Please come along and enjoy a nice warm drink and be entertained by our amazing choirs from 2.40pm until 3.05pm. Both Junior and Senior choirs will be singing. The book fair will also be open from 2.30pm so feel free to have a browse through all the book cases while you are here too.

Christmas Information

Friends of the School Christmas Shop

Please remember that today is the last day to submit orders for the Christmas shop which will take place during December in school. If you would like your child to visit the shop to buy their Christmas gifts, orders and payments must be submitted by 10pm tonight. Thank you. <https://forms.gle/Bvg65DT6ZY3W4SCw9> If you have any problems or questions, please email the Friends on: friendsoflanchesterep@gmail.com.

Christmas Dinner – deadline reminder

Reminder: Our annual Christmas Dinner is taking place on Friday 13th 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 £2.81 and you will be charged for the meal after Friday 13th December. Please ensure you have enough credit in your Arbor account to cover this. If you haven't already done so, please complete this [Christmas Dinner form](#) no later than **Wednesday 27th November** so that the correct number of provisions can be ordered. You still need to fill in the form if your child is usually on a school meals to make sure they get their preferred option (Meat, or Vegetarian). If your child has a special diet that school is aware of (e.g. vegan) they will be given a meal in line with their needs.

Reception Reindeer Dash for St Cuthbert's Hospice – Friday 6th December

Reception will be taking part in a Reindeer Dash on the morning of Friday 6th December to raise money for St Cuthbert's Hospice. Parents and carers will be invited to join in with their child, and the dash will finish off with hot chocolate around the fire in the Nursery wild area. We may even have some special Reindeer guests to help cheer them on! Your child's sponsor form will be coming home with them today.

Christmas Fair – Friday 6th December 3.30pm – 5pm

Our Christmas Fair will take place on Friday 6th December from 3.30pm until 5pm. At the fair we will have a number of stalls including the usual tombolas, hot dogs, refreshments, enterprise gift stalls, a variety of games and stalls for the children as well as hopefully a visit from the big man himself. We also have a number of stalls from small companies including sweet treats from Creative Kitchen. If you would like a stall at the fair, please contact the School Office via school.office@lanchesterep.net. Both choirs will also be singing at the fair. Please put the date and time in your diaries as it is always a very popular event for the children!

Christmas Fair Volunteers

As always, our Christmas Fair would not be possible without the help of our community. If you are able to spare some time to help us on the day, then please fill in the form [here](#). We will need people to help set up the Fair, man the stalls, and to clear up afterwards. Thank you.

Raffle Tickets

We are having another grand raffle this year with some fantastic prizes, including some brilliant vouchers and a £25 cash prize. Every child will be given 5 raffle tickets which cost £1 each. Please return them, along with the cash, any time before the Christmas fair takes place. The draw will be made in school on the Monday after the Christmas fair, and all winners will be contacted to collect their prizes.

Nativity Tickets

This year we have decided that to avoid parents and carers missing out on getting nativity tickets by the cut-off date, each family will get one free nativity ticket per performance. These will be sent home with your child on Tuesday next week. You will then be able to purchase extra tickets for the nativities via Arbor. Additional tickets will cost £2 each. Limits will be as follows due to the capacity of the hall/church.

Nursery & Reception	2 extra tickets per performance
Years 1 – 6	1 extra ticket per performance

Please make sure you look out for your free tickets coming home, as we will not be able to replace these.

Cash for Kids Mission Christmas

As a staff we often find ourselves overwhelmed by your generosity at Christmas. However, we are all too aware that we are living in a grossly unjust world and that we are incredibly fortunate.

Instead of getting a gift for any of us, we would much prefer that any money you were thinking of spending is given to those who are going through some tough times. This year we will be supporting Cash for Kids Mission Christmas. If you would like to donate to this, please send in an envelope with your donations in and we will take some children to choose some toys and games to donate on behalf of our community. This supports children locally who would otherwise have nothing at Christmas. Thank you.

Reverse Advent Calendar

Our prefects will be organising a Reverse Advent Calendar again, collecting food and toiletries each day during advent that we can donate to the local foodbank, helping those who may be struggling over the Christmas period. We will have a collection in the hall and will be adding to this each day. The children really enjoy seeing the donations grow. Thank you, in advance, for your support for this.

Positive Thinking

***Today I read that butterflies rest when it rains because it damages their wings.
It's okay to rest during the storms of life. You'll fly again when it's over.***

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)