



# 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 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderful week of weather it has been for our first week of the summer term. The children have thoroughly enjoyed playing in our wide-open spaces, making the most of every inch of the grass!

Places were issued to all prospective parents for our reception cohort for September during the Easter holidays. We are over-subscribed this year with a waiting list for places so it is really important that we are notified immediately if you no longer require your place. Letters have gone out to all families this week with all the relevant dates for the forthcoming meetings and transition days.

It was lovely to welcome our partner school, Birchwood Primary to our school this week and especially the comforts and delights of our hall floors! They slept here last night after visiting the Angel of the North, Durham Cathedral and the Centre for Life. A few of them will be returning home with sunburn after experiencing the heat of the north-east too!

Hopefully you will have noticed the new fencing outside our reception classrooms. This has created a secure area which extends our outdoor area even further for our youngest pupils. Great thanks must go to S & D Services for all their hard work over the Easter break. The cleaning team have also been very busy during the holidays too and it was lovely to return to a sparkling school - not that it lasted very long!!

It was lovely to welcome so many to the meeting about the ski trip this week - we have never had so many interested families before! The deadline for payments of deposits is today and it looks like we will have a record number going next year.

### **Cash for Kids**

Cash for Kids is a charity that helps other children who are at risk of going hungry during school holidays. Yesterday, all our children did laps of the field to try and get as many steps in as possible. So far, they have managed to raise £170 on the online donation page. We would love to get as close to our £500 target as possible (which works out at just over £1 for each child in the school). If you have yet to donate, but would still like to, either pop some cash into the school office or donate via [Lanchester EP Primary School | Hits Radio's Walk Around the World | Our Charity Cash for Kids - Cash for Kids](#)

### **Exciting News about Nursery and 2-year olds!**

We are very excited to announce that from September 2025, we will be taking 2 year-olds in Nursery. This is something we have wanted to do for a number of years and feel that the time is right to expand our offer. We are looking forward to adapting some of our space both inside and outside to accommodate the needs of our youngest learners.

We will be offering both 15-hour and 30-hour places in our 2 year-old room, with children automatically moving to the main 3-4's room when they are ready.

Please download an application form from our website or see the office if you are interested, and of course you are welcome to come along to our Open Day on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May 10am-12pm to meet some of the key staff in school and talk about our vision.

From September, all parents will be eligible for a free Nursery place for their two year-old. To find out whether you are eligible for 15 or 30 hours please see here: <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

### **SEND Information**

It had been planned that SEN Support Plans would be emailed to parents and carers this week. Unfortunately, we have had some technical problems with the software we use to write the plans and we

are therefore working a little behind schedule. Everything has now been fixed and the plans are currently being reviewed, thankfully. Support plans for EYFS and KS1 will be emailed to parents and carers by the end of next week, with KS2 plans following the week after. Thank you for your patience with this.

### **Coffee Afternoon on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May**

On Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May at 2:15pm, we are very pleased to have an advisory teacher from the Emotional Wellbeing Team and a specialist Emotional Resilience nurse coming into school to meet with parents and carers to talk about anxiety in children. This is to build on some recent training that all staff have undertaken to help support children who may be anxious. We will be holding this as an informal coffee afternoon and parents and carers are very welcome to come along to find out more about how to support children who are anxious, as well as different support networks that are available in our local area. We hope that this will be a useful afternoon for many families in our school community.

### **Yanomamo**

Rehearsals for our KS2 musical have now started with children learning the songs in music lessons and singing with great gusto! Yanomamo is an ecological musical which describes the crisis situation in the Amazon Basin, where rainforest trees are being felled for use as commercial timber, the land cleared for ranching, and thousands of peasants from Brazil's overcrowded cities arrive in search of a better life. The Yanomami is the oldest Indian tribe living in the forest. Unlike our own civilisation, which uses natural resources with little thought for the future, the Yanomami lead a way of life in harmony with nature which, undisturbed, would survive with the forest for the next twenty thousand years and more. The Indians' existence, and that of millions of animal and plant species, is threatened by the destruction of the trees and the arrival of the incomers.

Auditions will be taking place on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May for soloists, small groups of singers and for our narrators. Children auditioning for the singing parts are asked to prepare a song of their choice (unaccompanied) to sing. They may also be asked to sing part of the final song from the show as well. Please complete this [online form](#) if your child would like to audition for any parts.

### **Messy Church for Years 1 and 2**

On **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May**, Year 1 and Year 2 will be going to All Saints' Church for an hour of Messy Church where parents/carers/grandparents are also invited to join us. Year 1 will be there from 1pm – 2pm and Year 2 from 2pm – 3pm. Children will need to return to school for normal dismissal. We hope you can join us. A link to sign up will be sent with next week's letter.

### **This Week's Big Question**

This week's Big Question has been ***'What Makes a Place Special?'*** Ask your children about this over the 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 Attendance Percentage (%)	Attendance Percentage to Date (%)	Year Group	Current Week Attendance Percentage (%)	Attendance Percentage to Date (%)
<b>Reception</b>	97.5	95.0	<b>Year 4</b>	97.5	97.4
<b>Year 1</b>	99.3	96.3	<b>Year 5</b>	98.8	97.7
<b>Year 2</b>	98.2	96.6	<b>Year 6</b>	97.4	96.8
<b>Year 3</b>	96.9	97.1	<b>Whole School</b>	<b>97.9</b>	<b>96.7</b>

## **Diary Dates for Next Week**

### **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May – Nursery Visit to Hall Hill Farm**

We are very much looking forward to our Nursery trip to Hall Hill farm next Wednesday. The bus leaves at 9:45am and will return to school for 2:15pm. Please ensure children are in school by 9am so that we can get them ready and, on the bus, promptly. Children should come dressed in their uniform and wear wellies. They can wear their Nursery wellies but please check before Wednesday that these are in school and still fit. Everybody will need a packed lunch and drink. Thanks to all the volunteers who have offered to help. We are hoping for a great day out. Please note, Nursery is closed to anyone not attending the trip.

### **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May – Cricket Coach in School**

We are looking forward to welcoming a cricket coach in school on Wednesday who will be working with children in KS1 and KS2. Children do not need to wear PE uniform unless it is a normal PE day. Thank you.

### **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May – VE Celebration Service**

Some of our children will be taking part in the special VE Celebration Service that will take place on the village green at 2pm on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May. This is an important part of the village celebrations taking place during the week.

### **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May – Open Morning for Nursery and Reception – 10am - 12pm**

We are looking forward to our Open Morning which takes place on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May between 10am and 12pm. This is open to all families who would like to come and see the Early Years environment. Whether your child will be starting Reception in September or Nursery at some point next year, or you would like to come and talk about our 2-year-old provision which will be in place from September, please feel free to come along. Staff will be on hand to answer all your questions too!

### **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May – Confirmation Service at 6pm**

We have a number of our young people being confirmed and baptised in a special service at St Andrew's Church in Stanley at 6pm on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May. Families of those being confirmed should be there by 5.30pm. All are welcome to come along and support our children as they take a very important and special step in their Christian faith.

### **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May – Service at 10.30am in All Saints' Church with Senior Choir**

The senior choir will be singing in All Saints' Church on Sunday morning following the confirmation service the previous day. Please complete the online form if your child is able to sing next week. They will have some rehearsals with Mrs Knighton next week. <https://forms.office.com/e/WtwSh7Jiu4>

### **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May – Woodland Worship at 3pm in Forest**

Mr Innes and Revd Lesley will be leading our Woodland Worship in our Forest at 3pm next Sunday. Please complete the online form if you will be attending so we have an idea of numbers. Entry to the woodland will be via the path at the side of the Muga. We look forward to seeing you there.

<https://forms.office.com/e/2fDDJrexjM>

### **Positive Thinking**

***If you are positive, you will see opportunities instead of obstacles.***

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