



# 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 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

The weather has certainly felt more Autumnal this week. It is hard to believe that we only have two weeks left of this half term. I think it must be a sign of my age that the weeks just seem to fly past.

It has been another happy and lively week in school this week. I have had the luxury of spending quality time in lots of classes and have thoroughly enjoyed talking to many of our delightful children. Everywhere you go in school at the moment you hear chatter and laughter – from children and the staff alike!

Apologies to Year 6 parents – the Heights and Weights Check for your children has been postponed until Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November. Not sure why but we had an email informing us so apologies about that.

Thank you to all parents and carers who came to the Maths Parent Information Sessions that we held this week – we do hope you found them useful. The presentation from this, as well as the Phonics session can be found on the school website in the Parent Workshop section. The presentation from the Online Safety session is under the Online Safety section of the website.

### **Nursery Parents' Evenings**

We have made the decision to postpone these until November for all our Nursery parents and carers. This is partly due to staff absence and partly because the Key Workers have only just been decided and it is always good for parents and carers to talk with their child's key worker. Apologies for this but we want the meetings to be meaningful and informative and we feel by leaving them another few weeks, this will make a big difference. However, if you want to talk about your child at any time, please just ask the staff. They will gladly talk to you about all your child's achievements, accomplishments and 'WOW' moments!

### **Reception to Year 6 Parents Evenings**

Please remember, parents' evenings for this half term will be held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October between 3.30-6pm. Appointments are still available to book via your Arbor account until Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October. If you are struggling to book an appointment, please email or call into the School Office and these can be booked for you.

### **Primary Quality Science Mark (PSQM)**

I am delighted to inform you that once more, our school has achieved the Primary Science Quality Mark Gilt Award (PSQM) for our commitment to excellence in Science leadership, teaching and learning throughout the school. PSQMs have been awarded to only 425 Nursery, Infant, Junior, Primary, Middle, International and Special Schools this term. This is the second time we have been successful in achieving the award, the first being in 2020 and this award stands until 2026. Many thanks must go to Mr Stephenson who put hours into gathering all the information needed to evidence the award.

### **Reception Intake – September 2024**

I know some of our children have only just started, but applications are now open for school places for next academic year, starting in September 2024. These must be applied for through the online portal: <https://durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions> The deadline for applications is Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024. If you know any families with pre-school children feel free to tell them about our Open Morning on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October between 10am and 12 noon.

## **October Half Term Holiday Club: Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November**

LJG Sports Coaching will once again be holding a holiday club in school during half term. The dates are Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October to Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November. This is open to all children aged between 4 – 11 years old and sessions are available as 8.00 am – 1.00 pm, 1.00 – 5.00pm or a full day session from 8.00am to 5.00pm. The cost is £22 for a full day or £12 for a half-day session. To book online, please click this link: [LJG Half Term Holiday Club](#). For more information, contact Mr Graham on [LJGSportsCoaching@gmail.com](mailto:LJGSportsCoaching@gmail.com) or 07736384803. You can also find more information about the clubs they run via their Facebook page: LJGSportscoaching or on Instagram: LJG\_Sportscoaching. Please note that this MUST be booked through the company as the school cannot book places for parents. Thank you.

## **Maiden Law Bank School Crossing Patrol**

The local authority has informed us that they have been unable to appoint anyone for the School Crossing Patrol on the island at Maiden Law Bank, and that this will be unmanned for the foreseeable future. Please be mindful of this when taking your children to and from school.

## **School Carpark & Pedestrian Access**

Please note that parents and carers are not to park in the staff carpark unless you have an agreement in place to do so, and under no circumstances should anyone come into the car park once the school crossing patrol has shut the gates. Please can we also ask that the carpark and driveway are not used for pedestrian access to school. Please use the main pedestrian path onto the front yard and office if you are on foot. With cars coming in and out at the same time as pedestrians, it is just not safe for anyone. Thank you for your help with this.

## **Dogs**

There seems to be an increased number of parents walking children to school along with their dogs and over the last few weeks it has been brought to our attention that there is a notable increase in the amount of dog fouling left on the perimeter path to the school. Whilst we appreciate that the vast majority of parents are responsible dog owners, please do make sure that if your dog does make a mess, you do pick it up for the sake of everyone on their way to and from school. Please also refrain from bringing your dog to the school gate or tying them to the gates from the school car park, even if it is just for five minutes. We all know that even the nicest dog can be unpredictable when surrounded by large numbers of people and we don't want to risk something happening to anyone. Thank you for your understanding.

## **Attendance**

<b>Reception</b>	94.5%
<b>Year 1</b>	98%
<b>Year 2</b>	96.1%
<b>Year 3</b>	98.8%
<b>Year 4</b>	98.3%
<b>Year 5</b>	98.9%
<b>Year 6</b>	98%

## **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.

## **Online Safety – How to Support Children to Deal with Upsetting Content**

It often feels like we are being bombarded by bad news stories online – upsetting things are happening in many places in the world and children are being exposed more and more to these upsetting stories online, which can lead to them feeling anxious and scared. In fact, a study carried out by SWGfL, a charity working to understand how children use technology, found that over a quarter of children in Year 4-6 surveyed said

that they had seen things online that had upset them. It also found that one of the four main categories causing upset online is news stories and the media. With this in mind, this week's online safety guide from National Online Safety is about how to support children and help them to deal with upsetting content. This guide is attached to this newsletter.

Unfortunately, it just isn't possible to avoid upsetting content, but there are things that you can do to help support your child – the key thing having open communication with your child so that they know they can talk to you. According to NetSafe, the most important thing you can do if your child confides in you about something that has upset them online is to take them seriously, and not minimise their feelings – what is upsetting to one person may not upset someone else, but that doesn't make what they are feeling any less valid. Their other recommendations on having a successful dialogue about what they have seen are:

- Not to assign blame about how they came across the material
- Reassure them that it isn't their fault
- Don't trivialise what they have seen – it important to deal with their feelings first
- Provide comfort and assurance
- Normalise their response, e.g., 'It's normal to be scared/angry/upset/confused'
- Don't overreact by taking away the technology – this will make them less likely to talk to you if something else happens and it can make them feel like they are to blame
- Make sure that they know you are glad that they came to you about it

We hope you find this information useful, and please note that the link to last weeks Online Safety Parents Workshop is on the website in the Online Safety section.

### **Nasal Flu Spray for Reception – Year 6**

The nasal flu vaccinations will take place in school on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Please consent or refuse the vaccination via this online form: <https://nhslmms.azurewebsites.net/session/ae3de544>. The link contains the form and also some additional information such as FAQs regarding the vaccination. The link will close on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2023. If your child has already had the Nasal Flu vaccine since September 2023 you don't need to do anything. If you have any problems accessing the link, please telephone the Immunisation team on 03333 583 397.

### **Extra-Curricular Clubs – Autumn 2**

You will receive a separate email regarding the extra-curricular activity clubs for next half term, and sign up will be available via Arbor from this afternoon at 4.30pm. Activity clubs run by LJC Sports Coaching will have a cost of £10 for the half term. Activity clubs will start in the first week back after the half term break.

### **Christmas Fair Preparation**

Preparations for our Christmas Fair are well underway. Donations for raffles and stalls etc will be communicated nearer the time but if you would like a table to sell any homemade items/ gifts, please contact the Office.

Any vouchers/ gift cards/ gift experiences etc for the main Raffle would also be greatly appreciated. All funds raised from the raffle go towards providing those extra experiences for your children.

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

#### **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October - Sponsored Walk for Assistance Dogs**

Margaret and her assistance dog Chelsea are leading a fun walk on October 14th to raise funds for "Dogs for Good", the charity that trained Chelsea, and Benny her predecessor. They would very much appreciate your support. Donating through JustGiving is simple, fast and totally secure. Once you donate, they'll send your money directly to Dogs For Good, so it's the most efficient way to give - saving time and cutting costs for the charity. You can donate to their JustGiving page by [clicking here](#).

#### **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023 – Paul Cookson in School**

National Poetry Day was on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October and to celebrate that, we have asked Paul Cookson back to school on Tuesday next week. Paul Cookson is a poet who joined us for the day back in March and the

children thoroughly enjoyed his humorous poems. He will hold a whole school assembly before holding workshops with all year groups. I am sure the children will come home full of their day. He usually brings some of his books for children to purchase too. Once I know the cost, I will email you with this information if anyone would like to buy some.

### **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

Mr Bailey and myself are taking six of the digital leaders (along with the digital leaders of our partner school Birchwood Primary in Tamworth) to Bletchley Park near Milton Keynes and the Wonde offices which is a national company who help control the data of thousands of schools in the country.

### **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October – Year 1 at Hancock Museum**

Our Year 1 children are visiting the Hancock Museum in Newcastle to complement the work they have been doing this half term on Dinosaurs. All children are to come to school in their uniform with a packed lunch. They will return in time for the end of the school day. I am sure they will thoroughly enjoy their day and are excited already

### **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October 10 – 12 - Open Morning for Prospective Nursery and Reception Families**

Come along on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October and see for yourselves our environment, the classrooms and meet the staff. It is the ideal opportunity to bring your child and have a play and chat on a Saturday morning!

### **SEND News**

The North East Autism Society is running online workshops over the next couple of months, specifically for parents and carers of autistic children. The webinars will be on Zoom, and places are limited, so must be pre-booked. The webinars offered and the dates are:

***Introduction to supporting autistic children:*** 16<sup>th</sup> November 1pm-3pm

***Supporting the emotional wellbeing of autistic children:*** 7<sup>th</sup> December 1pm-3pm

To book, please email [Rebecca.Welch@ne-as.org.uk](mailto:Rebecca.Welch@ne-as.org.uk) or phone 01914 109 974.

### **Early Years News**

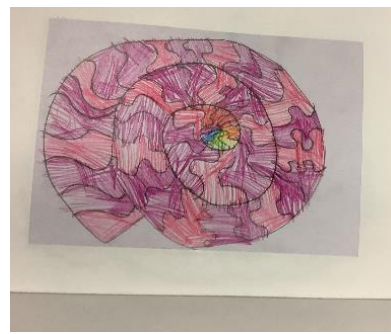
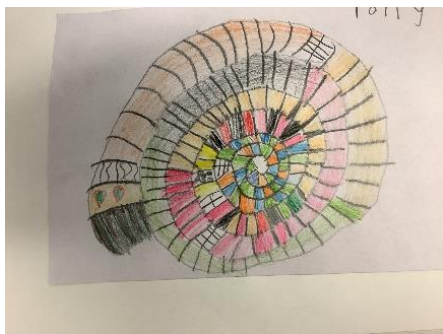
This week, in EYFS we have been learning all about Autumn and seasonal changes. If your family are out on an Autumnal walk this weekend, we would really appreciate some additional Autumn treasures to add to our nature tables for our children to explore within the learning environment. We would also be grateful for any old equipment to support scooping skills such as trowels, forks, ice cream scoops and spoons.

As the weather is getting colder and wetter, please ensure that your child has clearly labelled hats, gloves and coats. Children access our outdoor learning environment on a daily basis come rain or shine, and children having spare clothes and gloves (preferably waterproof) for wet and water play is essential at this time of year. We are also hoping to attend forest school next week and explore the wonders and endless learning opportunities within our magical forest, so hats and gloves will definitely be needed.

### **Key Stage One News**

The children have continued to work hard this week and we are seeing some good progress across the Key Stage.

As well as working hard in English and Maths the children have also been enjoying some learning in the foundation subjects. This week the children have particularly enjoyed Computing. In Year 1 we have been learning how to log on to a computer and use a mouse which has not been easy as the children are so used to touch screen technology. In Year 2 the children have been learning about the 'digital 5 a day' and learning to limit screen time, use a range ICT for a variety of different purposes and promote good mental health. The children have also been doing some amazing art in school and it has been wonderful to see what creative and imaginative artists the children are. In Year 1 we have been exploring colour by drawing ammonites using a range of mediums and in Year 2 they have been making pirate printing blocks using a range of materials. Here are just a few examples of their amazing work.



## Key Stage Two News – Spelling Update


# sounds & syllables

the sensible spelling system

In Key Stage 2, we are introducing a new scheme to support the children's spelling. 'Sounds and Syllables' builds on our phonics teaching in Key Stage 1 and uses many of the same principles that help our younger children learn to read.

At the heart of Sounds & Syllables is a simple but powerful spelling sequence that is used with all children across Key Stage 2 (and beyond) to spell any word. This sequence is simple to learn and is used when teaching and practising spelling, but also when attempting spellings while writing. The Sounds & Syllables sequence consists of these five simple steps.

### spelling sequence

-  say the word clearly
-  snip the word into syllables
-  say sounds and write spellings
-  target tricky spellings
-  lock in tricky spellings

#### Step 1: Say It



Good spelling starts with good pronunciation. The children are taught to pronounce words clearly and crisply in a way that illuminates the relation between sound and spelling. The children develop their 'spelling voice' which is a key weapon in the armoury of any good speller.



#### Step 2: Snip It

The next step in the Sounds & Syllables sequence is to snip words into syllables and spell each syllable at a time.



#### Step 3: Say & Spell It

Using clear pronunciation, the children say each speech sound and write spellings of each syllable in turn. Saying speech sounds aloud as children write the spelling that represents it helps lock the spelling into long term memory.



#### Step 4: Target It

Step four in the Sounds & Syllables spelling sequence, ensures the children are supported to identify mistakes at the sound-spelling level. This is the key to correcting errors and misconceptions.



#### Step 5: Lock It

Once tricky spellings have been targeted, the children lock the spelling into their memory using a range of individual, paired and group activities.

The children will be bringing home spelling lists and activities each week for homework. Why not ask them to show you how they have been taught to spell their words?

If you have any question about our new approach to spelling, please contact your child's class teacher.

**Positive Thinking**

***Worrying is carrying tomorrow's load with today's strength – carrying two days at once.***

***Worrying doesn't empty tomorrow of its sorrow – it empties today of its strength.***

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)