



Lanchester E. P. Primary School



Autumn Newsletter (1)

I would like to extend a very warm welcome back to school to all our children and parents and, particularly to those new families who have just started with us here at Lanchester E.P. School. I do hope that your child has quickly settled into life at our school and is very happy.

We pride ourselves here on ensuring high standards of education combined with memorable life experiences and opportunities. Primary school should be an enjoyable time for all children and our aim is to make sure all children achieve their very best, whilst having fun learning.

Our results from the summer tests are featured later and, as usual, we are above national average in all key stages and all subjects (well above by the end of Key Stage 2). In addition to academic achievement, we believe in providing as many enrichment activities as possible. This year, we have residential visits to Dalguise, Perthshire for Years 5 & 6, Ford Castle in Northumberland for Year 6, Skiing to Les Menuires in the French Alps for Years 4, 5 & 6, another trip to the Bett Show in London for some of our Digital Leaders, our partner school in Tamworth for our Year 5 children and an overnight visit to Birdoswald Roman Fort for Year 3. We are also hoping to take Year 4 to Northumberland for their overnight visit but that is still to be organised. Each year group will also have educational visits each term. Year 2 have already been to Hartlepool Marina, Year 5 to the Centre for Life and Year 6 are having a visit from an Expochef this half term linked to their topic on the Ancient Greeks. There is always plenty happening in our school which is what makes it such an exciting place to be!

Please make a note of some very important dates for the term ahead. These include visits, nativities, carol services, parties and many other events we have booked for the children. All important dates and events are always communicated to you via the diary dates on the final page of the half-termly newsletter or on the weekly letters that are emailed and sent through the eSchools app every Friday. All our weekly letters and newsletters can also be found on our website: <http://www.lanchesterep.durham.sch.uk> so you can access the information wherever you may be in the world!

We do pride ourselves on our open and honest relationship with parents and I always appreciate your feedback. In fact, it is due to yourselves that this half-term newsletter is with you! I had decided that perhaps everything was covered in the weekly letters but I have been reliably informed that the majority of you appreciate this half-termly newsletters as it contains different information – which it does! So thank you for that feedback – I do appreciate it! For new parents, this half-termly newsletter is just that – and obviously replaces the weekly letter for that particular week.

As always, please do not hesitate to speak to us if there is anything at all that we can ever do to help.

Jane Davis

Staff News



I am delighted to tell you that Angus Arnell-Hawke is doing very well as is his mother! He is still being very well looked after in hospital where he will remain for some time. However, Miss Hawke is slowly getting used to the fact that she has a newborn son nearly three months before he was due and can start to enjoy her maternity leave – although she obviously never imagined that it would start quite as early as it has!



Mr Robbie McLoughlin, who has been a cleaner at our school for the last year, will be leaving us imminently as he begins a new life down south. We wish him all the very best for his future and would like to thank him for his dedication to our school for the last year.



Open Morning and Evening for Prospective Reception Parents



At this time of year, we receive many requests from prospective parents to come and look round school. Whilst I am always happy to show parents round individually, we thought many parents would appreciate a morning/evening as well. So, on Saturday 9th November between 10am and 12 noon and Monday 11th November from 6-7pm, we will be opening our doors and welcoming you and your child to have a look around our wonderful environment. Just come along and ask as many questions as you want! Choosing the right school is one of the most important decisions you will ever make for your children. If you are unable to make these dates, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will gladly show you around any other mutually convenient time.

Reception 2019 Admissions



For children born between **1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016**, you need to complete an application, stating which primary school you would like your child to attend. You still need to apply even if you have an older child attending the same school, and **even if you attend Nursery at Lanchester EP you must still apply for a Reception place**. Each year we have a number of children who miss out on a place in our Reception because parents have forgotten to apply for a place. **The deadline for applications is midnight on Wednesday, 15 January 2020.**

Applications must be made via <http://www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions>.

If you are unable to apply online, please download the form from: <http://www.durham.gov.uk/article/2189/Apply-for-a-primary-place-deadline-15-January>.

Please note, we have been advised by Durham County Council that we cannot send in forms on behalf of parents.

Applying for a Secondary School place 2020.



For children born between **1 September 2008 and 31 August 2009**, you need to complete an application, stating which secondary school you would like your child to attend. **The deadline for secondary school applications is midnight on Thursday 31 October 2019.** Once again, it is very important to apply for a secondary school place by the deadline, as a late application greatly reduces your chances of getting a place at your preferred school.

Applications must be made via <http://www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions>.

If you are unable to apply online, please download the form from: <http://www.durham.gov.uk/article/2192/Apply-for-a-secondary-place-deadline-31-October>.

Please note, we have been advised by Durham County Council that we cannot send in forms on behalf of parents.

Erasmus+ Projects



As you may know, our school has a long history of working with partner schools all across Europe, having had a Comenius or Erasmus+ project since September 2010. This has given our children the opportunity to visit many different countries and increase their awareness of so many different countries and cultures.

We are delighted to inform you that we have been successful in being selected to receive substantial funding for another new and exciting project which will run between now and July 2021. This project is called: 'Learning Outdoors, Learning for Life' and we are working with partner schools in Poland, Sweden, Denmark and Spain.

The project begins here in Lanchester next week when we welcome staff and children from our partner schools. They are spending the week experiencing Forest Schools Activities here both in our EYFS base and our woods and also enjoying a Beach School Day with one of our Year 5 classes in Seaham. We are also taking them up the Northumberland coast to Lindisfarne, Bamburgh Castle and the Farne Islands. I am sure they will all have a great experience of life in North-East England.

The first visit for our children is to Poland in November. Alfie, Thomas, Sam and Aeden from Year 5 are delighted to be going to Bialystock in Eastern Poland at the end of November and are our first Outdoor Leaders.

Durham Lumiere Festival

Last year, Mr Taylor's current Year 5 class took part in the START Project. This project provided so many opportunities for them to develop their skills in Art. To complete the project, the class have been invited to visit the Lumiere on the evening of Wednesday 13th November. This will be a fantastic opportunity for the children to see their artwork on display before it is open to the public.

Mr Knighton's Year 5 class are also being given the chance to add their own artwork to the Lumiere and will be participating in a workshop at Lanchester Library on Thursday 10th October.

CHERNOBYL CHILDREN'S PROJECT (UK)
ПОДДЕРЖКА ДЕТЯМ БЕЛАРУСИ
Supporting Children of Belarus since 1995
Charity No 1059832 www.chernobyl-children.org.uk

Be a 'Host Family'

The Chernobyl disaster was a nuclear accident that occurred in 1986. The accident caused the largest uncontrolled radioactive release into the environment ever recorded, causing serious social and economic disruption for large populations in Belarus, Russia and Ukraine. Today, 30 years on there are still major health implications for the population.

Each summer, the Chernobyl Children's Project UK, brings children to Britain for a recuperative holiday. Doctors in Belarus state 'that a summer holiday boosts the children's immune system for at least two years, helping them to resist, or recover from serious illness'. Most of the children who come to Britain are in remission from leukemia or cancer. In addition to the obvious health benefits, a holiday in Britain provides a huge psychological boost and the children will go home with memories and friends for life.

The children come to Britain for 4 weeks, staying 2 weeks with one family then a further 2 weeks with another family. A further two host families are also required for the interpreter and doctor who travel with the children. For those wanting to help but are unable to be a host family there are other equally important roles, i.e. fund raising and planning the children's activities.

A quote from the Dornan host family in Solihull, "It is rewarding to know that we have helped two children affected by a disaster long before they were born to experience the things we take for granted, breathing fresh air, playing outside, eating fresh food and receiving medical treatment".

However, currently there are no 'host families' in Co Durham.

If you would like to explore the idea of hosting children, next summer please get in touch with Colette on 07956093050 also take a look at the charity's website for further information. www.chernobyl-childrens.org.uk Together we can make a difference to the lives of the children by bringing a group of children to Co Durham.

Digital Leaders



Our new Digital Leaders have been chosen for this academic year and 23 pupils from Y3 - Y6 are now attending Digital Leaders Club on a Thursday evening with Mr Bailey, Mr Stephenson and Mrs Boyd. Pupils become 'leaders' in using a range of different software titles and apps and then use these skills in the classroom to assist both their peers and staff members.



Digital Leaders are also role models as to how to stay safe online and on Wednesday 23rd October they will be performing an Online Safety assembly that parents/carers are invited to attend. During this half-term some of our Digital Leaders will be showcasing Learning by Questions to teachers from around the North East and we are already booked to take a group of Digital Leaders to the BETT show in London again in January 2020, along with a host of other fabulous events and experiences next year.



Library



We are currently re-developing our library area in the infant hall. Mrs Startup is working very hard with our librarians to make it a warm, welcoming environment for all our children. We have a rather luxurious and comfortable settee in there, rugs, bean bags and of course so many books! We hope the children will enjoy using it over the coming weeks and months.



New Parent Governor



A parental ballot was held during the summer term as we had a vacancy for a parent governor. We are always very fortunate in this school to have many interested parents wishing to become a governor which is great! On this occasion, Mrs Sarah Blakeman obtained the highest number of parental votes and becomes your new parent governor.

All the members of the governing body are listed below for your information.

Mr Michael Knowles	Chairman - Co-opted Governor
Mrs Fiona Wood	Vice-Chair - Foundation Governor
Mr Ossie Johnson	Local Authority Governor
Mr Chris Hockaday	Co-opted Governor
Ms Suzanne Nagel	Co-opted Governor
Mrs Margaret Matthews	Foundation Governor
Ms Margaret Walters	Foundation Governor
Mr Ben Garside	Parent Governor
Mrs Karen Deaville	Parent Governor
Mr Jason Exley	Parent Governor
Mrs Sarah Blakeman	Parent Governor
Ms Naomi Hawke	Staff Representative
Mrs Jane Davis	Head Teacher



School Council



Well done to the 22 children from Years 1-6 who have been voted for by their classmates to be representatives on this year's School Council. We had some excellent, confident speeches from our children to explain why they would make a great school councillor - perhaps some of our politicians in Westminster could take note!

We had our first meeting last week to introduce ourselves and also to receive our brand new School Council badges - very exciting! It certainly looks like we have a very responsible and enthusiastic School Council this year.

Our first main job will be to organise the ever popular Healthy Tuck Shop that we run during break times. In our meeting this week we decided which healthy snacks to sell first and organised a rota to run the Healthy Tuck Shop. The snacks/drinks should arrive very soon and we will have the Tuck Shop up and running. We will keep everyone informed with the details for this. Here's to another enjoyable year for our School Council!



LJG Holiday Clubs



Mr Graham will once again be running his fantastic holiday clubs at school during the school holidays. As ever, they are proving very popular and Mr Graham has provided dates for each school holiday up to next summer for those of us who like to be super organised! I am sure his Christmas holiday day will be a much needed extra shopping day for many!

If you would like to book, please email: lewisgraham91@hotmail.co.uk or school.office@lanchesterep.net for a booking form.

October Half Term - Monday 28th, Tuesday 29th and Wednesday 30th October

Christmas Break - Friday 20th December

February Half Term - Monday 17th, Tuesday 18th and Wednesday 19th February 2020

Easter Break - Tuesday 7th, Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th and Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th April 2020

Summer Holiday - Monday 20th - Friday 24th July and Monday 27th - Friday 31st July 2020.



Early Years News



Our EYFS children are settling well into their new routines. This year, we are working much more closely together as a team and the children are benefitting from being members of a family group of Nursery and Reception children linked to a teacher and a teaching assistant. Each day, we come together for Family Group story times and share stories, songs and rhymes which support the development of early phonics skills. The Reception children love to help the younger children and show them what they know during these sessions.

For the staff, it has been a delight to see how much our older children have developed in just a few weeks and to see them involving the younger children in their more sophisticated play. As the children are settling into the new routines, we are increasingly making use of the whole of our Early Years area, with the Studio being used for dance, storytelling, drama, yoga and music sessions and the Workshop being developed as a creative space to support the delivery of structured art teaching for the children across Nursery and Reception. Children in their Reception year have starting making regular trips to Forest School and Nursery children will start their Forest School adventures after half term.

Reception children have begun to learn their letter sounds in phonics sessions and are already putting their knowledge into action when they work in the Lab, where their motivation to use their knowledge of reading and writing in their play is fantastic to see. Please follow our Facebook page (Lanchester EYFS) to see further developments and watch out for our daily tweets which show some of the 'wow' moments!



School Office News



Residentials

We have 27 children and adults eagerly awaiting the ski trip next March. £450 should have been paid by now to keep payments in line with invoice dates. Thank you for keeping to the payment schedule. We will soon be contacting the adults joining us to start the DBS procedure. Also - look out for Aldi's ski event week; lots of deals to be had there!

The deadline to sign up for the Year 5 Birchwood trip is Friday 11th October. Please do not forget that your child's place is only secured when we receive the deposit via ParentPay, even if you have already handed the form back into the office. Any outstanding EV4s must also be returned to school no later than Monday 14th October. Thank you. Please note that all bookings MUST be confirmed on Monday 14th October so we cannot accept any additional bookings after this date.

Year 6 Ford Castle deadline is 31st October with the initial deposits due no later than 4th November. This really is a wonderful opportunity for the children to spend quality time together in their final primary school year.

PGL is proving as popular as ever - please pay the deposit by 18th October to secure your child's place on this adventurous highlight of the year!

ParentPay

You may have noticed that we are no longer accepting cash payments for residentials. It really is quick, simple and safer for us all to use ParentPay for larger trip payments. You can keep track of when payments are due and how much has been paid so far.

I would like to remind you to ensure your dinner money and any wrap around care accounts are kept up to date and ideally in credit. It is amazing how quickly an arrears can build and we really do not want situations where children can no longer access meals or wrap around care until their accounts are managed correctly.

Please help us by checking your accounts regularly. You can now, via ParentPay, set up automatic reminders when your account reaches a certain level and even set up bank transfers for regular payments.

If you are new to ParentPay and need a log in or extra support, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

School Uniform



It is lovely to see the children looking so smart in their school uniforms. Thank you for adhering to our policy of black footwear and sensible hairstyles with no shaved hair or tramlines. We would also like to thank you for providing your children with the correct P.E. uniform – this too makes a huge difference!



House Captains



The Year 6 children held a vote at the beginning of the new term to elect the new house captains for the upcoming year. Each candidate was asked to prepare a short presentation on why they thought they would be suitable for the position. Mr Mordue was very impressed at the quality of the presentations and it was clear that a lot of thought had been put into them - he was just pleased he didn't have to choose himself! The final vote was very close but the captains that were elected to these highly prestigious positions were:



	CAPTAINS	VICE-CAPTAINS
ROMANS	Sophie and James	Annabelle and Daniel
SAXONS	Caitlin and Aiden	Anna and Aaron
DANES	Jasmine and Jake	Emily and Jack
NORMANS	Caitlin and Thomas	Ruby and Mason-Brook

As usual, throughout the year we will be holding various House events and it is always lovely to see the older children working with and supporting some of our younger children in school. Dojo points are awarded to the children for good work, effort, kindness, manners and a variety of other things. Friendly competition exists among all the children (and staff) who are keen for their houses to be the best they can!

eSchools app



Our eSchools app is a great way of keeping up to date with what is going on in school. As soon as newsletters are published they are sent straight to the app. This enables you to know straight away our latest news and events. eSchools also contains some important information on the class pages about what your child will be learning.



We also offer parents evening appointments via this app. You will be able to see clearly what dates and times are available that suit you. When your child starts school at Lanchester E.P., all parents are issued with a username and password for eSchools which is all you need to get started.

If at any point, you forget your username or password, please get in touch with the school office who can reissue the details. If you have any further questions, please just contact the school office.

Parents' Evenings



Our termly parents' evenings are being held during the last week of this half term – Monday 21st and Wednesday 23rd October between 3.45 and 6 pm (apart from Mrs Grayson who will be seeing parents on Wednesday 23rd and Thursday 24th October). The booking system is now open on eSchools. Nursery parents will have their parents' evening appointments with the staff after half term. This just allows the children a little longer to settle. We hope to have appointments both during the day and after school for our Nursery parents. This is always a very useful time to meet your child's teacher and to discuss how they have settled in, their targets and the plans for the year. We will look forward to welcoming you soon.



School Teacher Training Centre



Once again, we are welcoming a number of students into our school this year as they embark on their teacher training. As a School Training Centre for students on both the BA Education and PGCE (Post Graduate Certificate in Education) courses from Durham University, we have a number of students on placement in our school. We will be welcoming 4 BA Education students into our Early Years and will also have some Year 2 BA and PGCE students on placement in school.





Twitter



Our number of Twitter followers continues to grow rapidly (1,363) and our pupils receive some amazing learning experiences via this platform. In the past few years we have interacted with authors, athletes and even an astronaut! The response from parents to our school Twitter account has also been very positive and we urge you to follow us: [@lanchesterep](https://twitter.com/lanchesterep).

By positively using social media in school, pupils are learning how to post correctly and how not to share personal information online. With this in mind can we please request that you **DO NOT NAME CHILDREN** when making comments on our school Twitter account. No individual child should be identifiable from images posted online and so it is important that names are not associated with these images. We love receiving your comments and photographs online, but request that you use generic terms such as my child, my son, my daughter etc. when commenting about specific children.

Your response to the twitter homework challenges continues to be superb too – thank you! It is really lovely to see what your children are doing, even when on holiday. Thank you for engaging so brilliantly with it!



Buddies



For many years, our Y5 children have volunteered to be our playground buddies, helping out on the yard during break times. However, this year we are trialling a new system whereby our Year 5 children have each been buddied up with a Year 1 child. This is with the aim of each of our KS1 children having a familiar face to turn on the yard should they need it. This pairing will last for the duration of their KS1 time (Y1 and Y2). Applications have also now been handed in for 'Playground leaders' and the children will hear very shortly about this new role.



Boys Football

Sports News



The boys are hopeful of an enjoyable season and to play some impressive passing football. Early in the season, there are signs that when we pass the ball well we are capable of scoring fantastic goals. As always, we will be looking to play football in a fantastic spirit.

Girls Football

The girls football team have made a solid start to the new season. A much changed team this year, they currently have nine points from their opening seven games, producing some very good performances. Their 3-0 victories against Shotley Bridge and Leadgate were a particular highlight so far. The team received an unexpected boost with messages of support on Twitter from England assistant manager Bev Priestman and Casey Stoney, the current Manchester United manager.



Year 4 Whole Class Music Lessons with the Ukulele



Year 4 children are being taught how to play the Ukulele as part of the music curriculum this year. It is a fun and exciting instrument to play and helps to develop a wide range of musical and non-musical skills.

Children often ask about buying their own ukuleles to use at home. This is, of course, entirely up to yourselves - we have enough ukuleles to be used in school but sadly they cannot be sent home. If you felt your child would like to develop their skills at home, you may want to consider purchasing one for a birthday or Christmas present. We are playing Soprano ukuleles but be careful of the toy ones as they may be cheaper, but will not work properly.

Please find below a list of suggestions where you can purchase them from - other sources are also available.

Shops

Argos

JG Windows (Metro Centre)

Online

Amazon

Price

£19.99 (Martin Smith Soprano Ukulele)

£25.99 (Maholo Soprano Ukulele)

From £17.99 packages available with tuner, case, books etc



Key Stage 2 Choir



After saying farewell to our Year 6 choir members in the summer as they move on to their secondary schools it has been lovely to welcome some new choristers from Year 3 and other year groups. All Key Stage 2 children are welcome to attend choir - we meet on Wednesday lunchtimes and new faces are always welcome. The children have started working on a medley of 'The Lion King' songs along with a selection of other pieces. Our first concert of the year is booked with All Saints Church for a Christmas concert with the church music group on Thursday 5th December at 7pm. We have been asked to sing at Lanchester Garden Centre – more details will follow when this has been confirmed – and we are also entering two competitions. Exciting times are ahead for our school choir!



Lumiere with Year 5



On Thursday 10th October, Mr Knighton's class will be working with artist Dawn Belshaw at Lanchester Library. The workshop will involve using plastic bottles, which the children will colour with permanent markers and cut to create a chandelier or bottle festoon. A bottle festoon is a unique and eco-friendly artwork of glittering, icicle-like chandeliers made from clear or green plastic bottles. Once the children have made a collection of these at the workshop with Dawn, they will be sent away to have lights added. They will then be on display at one of 3 bottle festoon locations during Lumiere 2019 in Durham from 14th to 17th November. We will be informed where our festoon will be on the Lumiere map, so parents or family members who may be visiting this year's event, can see our artwork.

The library are collecting washed bottles, but if each child could bring at least 2 of the bottles that would be really helpful.

What works best – see example pictures.

- Green and clear, we can use other colours too!
- 2 litre plastic bottles work best; however, we can use 1litre and 500ml bottles too.
- Washed out – please make sure nothing sticky is left inside! Just rinse out with hot water and leave to dry.
- Labels removed.



What doesn't work – we don't want these please!

Smaller fruit and smoothie bottles, milk cartons, hard plastic bottles, household cleaning, un-washed out bottles.

Each group we are working with will be asked to collect plastic bottles – you need between 30 and 50 plastic bottles to create each chandelier. Please encourage friends, families and colleagues to get involved and get collecting!



Year 2 visit to Hartlepool Maritime Museum



First we went on the bus to Hartlepool to see the Trincomalee. We felt very excited as we chatted away. Next we had a tour of the deck and we were shocked that the captain had two toilets and everyone else had to share one. Then it was lunchtime. I had my favourite sandwich and it was delicious. Eventually, they fired the cannon. I covered my ears but it was so loud that I could still hear it. Finally, we sketched the ship and then I had a sunbathe on a plastic hammock.

Rosa

Last Thursday Year Two class went on the coach to Hartlepool. We went to learn about sailors in the past. First we went to the play ship. It was so fun because it was new. It had a slide, a roundabout and a hammock. After that we went on the Trincomalee. We saw the captain and he was called Richard. He told us that when sailors died they got wrapped in a hammock and chucked in the sea. Later, we had our delicious lunch and I had two chocolate bars, a cheese sandwich and an apple. Finally, the man fired the cannon. We covered our ears because it was loud.

Elliot



Year 5 Visit to The Centre for Life



As part of our 'Stargazers' topic, Year 5 visited The Centre for Life in Newcastle on Monday 9th September. We all took part in a range of fantastic activities, linked to both space and science. We viewed how the Earth looked from outer space in the planetarium and then experienced the Moon landing on the 4D motion simulator ride. The ride was a bit bumpy but we all made it back to Earth safely! We also took part in a 'Destination Space' workshop. This involved wearing space gloves to perform repairs to a rocket, using a robotic arm and calculating how much urine could be held in an astronaut's 'Maximum Absorbency Garment (better known as a space nappy!) By the time we had finished, we were ready to join NASA. Everyone had a great day and learned so much. This was a brilliant way to 'launch' our 'Stargazers' topic!

The New Curriculum for Years 1 – 6

We are currently developing our curriculum from being subject based to a more creative and thematic approach. We have decided to use the Cornerstones resource to support our changes to the curriculum and help us to deliver Imaginative Learning Projects (ILPs). We are aiming to provide a rich menu of exciting and motivating learning activities that make creative links between all aspects of children's learning. The resource is based on four key principles:

Engage

Hook learners in with a memorable experience.

Set the scene and provide the context for learning.

Ask questions to find out children's interests.

Spark children's curiosity using interesting starting points.

Develop

Teach facts and information for deeper understanding and knowledge.

Demonstrate new skills and allow time for consolidation.

Provide creative opportunities for making and doing.

Deliver reading, writing and talking across the curriculum.

Innovate

Provide imaginative scenarios that encourage creative thinking.

Enable children to apply previously learned skills.

Encourage enterprise and independent thinking.

Provide opportunities for collaborative working and problem solving.

Express

Provide environments for reflective talk.

Create opportunities for shared evaluation.

Celebrate and share children's success.

Identify next steps for learning.

Engaging children and 'hooking' them into their learning is key to ensuring they are provided with a range of memorable experiences. Our carefully planned themes will provide imaginative scenarios that encourage creative thinking and provide opportunities for collaborative working and problem solving. Each year group is linking their theme to a class novel that will provide opportunities for children's reading and writing.

Our projects for this half term are as follows:

Year 1 **Bright Lights, Big City**

Year 2

Land Ahoy

Year 3 **Tribal Tales**

Year 4

Burps, Bottoms and Bile

Year 5 **Stargazers**

Year 6

Gods and Mortals

We believe children learn better when they are encouraged to use their imagination and apply their learning to engaging contexts. Our curriculum provides many learning challenges throughout the academic year that require children to solve problems, apply themselves creatively and express their knowledge and understanding effectively.



Questionnaire Results



At the end of every academic year, we send out a questionnaire for parents and carers so that we know what you think we are doing well and which areas you think we could improve upon. The results of the questionnaire are below. They are, once again, overwhelmingly positive which is very pleasing for us as we do work exceptionally hard to ensure the children in our care are both well cared for and educated, as well as trying to ensure that relationships with parents and carers are positive. We really do appreciate you taking the time to complete the questionnaires and many of your comments were greatly appreciated by us all.

We care passionately about the children in our care, wanting the very best for them and working tirelessly to do our very best. We were quite overwhelmed with so many positive comments – thank you so much for that feedback. We have summarised some of your many comments – thank you for them all. The numerous comments, suggestions and ideas that you all made have been shared with staff and will be shared with our full governing body at the next meeting and discussed in detail. Thank you so much for taking the time to share them all with us. We really do appreciate it.



Parent & Carer Questionnaire Summer 2019

		Strongly Agree/Agree	Disagree/ Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1	My child likes coming to Lanchester Endowed Parochial Primary School.	99%	1%	-
2	Everyone is made to feel welcome at this school.	99%	-	1%
3	Teaching is good at this school.	99%	-	1%
4	My child is making good progress.	100%	-	-
5	I am kept informed about my child's progress.	100%	-	-
6	Staff expect my child to work hard and do his or her best.	100%	-	-
7	The school provides appropriate homework.	91%	3%	6%
8	Parents are encouraged to play an active part in the life of the school.	99%	-	1%
9	The school seek the views of parents and takes account their suggestions and concerns.	98%	1%	1%
10	I feel comfortable about approaching the school with questions, suggestions or a problem.	100%	-	-
11	I find it easy to contact my child's teacher.	100%	-	-
12	The school's website and Twitter feed is useful.	100%	-	-
13	The school is well led and managed.	100%	-	-
14	The school achieves high standards of behaviour.	99%	1%	-
15	My child feels safe at this school.	98%	1%	1%
16	There is a good range of activities that my child finds interesting and enjoyable.	100%	-	-
17	I feel welcome in the school and am encouraged to take part in school activities and events.	100%	-	-
18	The school's values and attitudes have a positive effect on my child.	100%	-	-
19	I would recommend this school to other parents.	100%	-	-
20	NURSERY AND RECEPTION PARENTS ONLY: The arrangements for my child to settle into their new class were good.	100%	-	-
		YES	NO	
	<i>We are considering becoming a paperless school as much as possible. This would mean all weekly letters and newsletters will be electronic only. Would you support this?</i>	100%	-	-
	<i>Did your child participate in any after school activity clubs this year? If not, why not? Which clubs did your child particularly enjoy? Which clubs would you like to see offered next year?</i>	72%	28%	-

Comments:

What are we doing well?

- A safe and welcoming environment
- I think the school has a good set of values
- The values of the school are strong
- The schools feels very welcoming and that the staff enjoy teaching and being part of Lanchester EP
- School takes an interest in every child
- Head teacher is very approachable
- Good communication with parents.
- Excellent teaching
- Giving the children many different experiences
- The culture and ethos of the school is exemplary – a school which demonstrates its commitment to inclusion for ALL benefits very child. The range of cultural opportunities is excellent.
- Relationships between staff and pupils are very good – it is a happy school and an important part of the community.
- Excellent communication
- Kind, caring, compassionate ethos/culture at the school
- Focus on the well-being and happiness of the children as well as their academic performance
- Leadership of the Head Teacher, valuing all children and their qualities.
- The children of Lanchester are lucky to have this school. There are so many wonderful opportunities available outside of the classroom that proved a more ‘rounded’ education. This adds to the fantastic learning experiences that are given by a committed, enthusiastic, passionate, caring and professional body of staff.
- Making school and learning fun
- I love the personal statements from the teachers and headteacher who summed up the children perfectly.
- Ethos and values. Leadership is not afraid to fight for what they believe in – SATs not ‘the be all and end all’. Our children are looked at as a whole child and are not churning out academic robots. As a result, my child is growing up to be a well-rounded, kind, caring, resilient, bright child who values everything about school and the wider world.
- Emphasis is placed on fun and enjoyment as well as high expectations of behaviour and learning.
- Emotional support provided for both children and parents is outstanding!
- So many extra-curricular opportunities and experiences that have given so much confidence and broadened A’s horizons.

What could we do better?

- Build an upper extension and keep the children until they do GCSEs so they don’t have to leave!
- It would be great if Stay and Play sessions could be planned at the beginning of the year so that we can arrange time off work.
- Parents’ evenings would be better scheduled in the evening (beyond 6pm) for those who work.
- I think the variety of pupil led groups is excellent – but wonder if the role of the school council could be expanded.
- Perhaps provide parent sessions to show methods used for teaching Maths etc (as this can vary even from school to school) to enable parents to help at home without confusing children.
- Children could mix/work with children in the other class in their year group – feel more friendships could be formed and could help with differentiated work.
- Please consider working parents when you hold special events. Plenty of notice/after 5pm sessions would be beneficial especially all the festive activities are aimed at people who don’t work 9-5 full time and tend to be during working hours.
- Develop cleverer storage ideas so that there was not so much of an issue over school bags.

We have summarised the questionnaire comments received as it is just impossible to share them all. However, we do consider all suggestions made and there are some that we have already acted on e.g. dates for Stay and Play Sessions communicated, role of the School Council being considered and children beginning to mix and work with the children from the other class in the same year group.

However, there are some issues that will no doubt remain to be a concern for you all that are out of our control. For example, parents' evenings. It is impossible to hold these after 6pm as all teaching staff have a daily teaching commitment. We have appointments until 6pm which is the same, or better than primary and secondary schools across the region. We always try to give as much notice as possible so that arrangements to attend can be made.

We have the same issue with parents requesting later/evening events, especially at Christmas. In the past, we have held nativities in the evening but found that some parents just did not send their children back to school and children do get tired – especially towards the end of a term. In addition to this, I do have to consider the well-being of both the children and the staff and whether it is in their best interests to have events later in an evening. We do try to have a mixture of times e.g. meetings and workshops tend to be held at 6pm but it is just not always appropriate to have children in school later on an evening. I am more than happy to talk this through with you though if anyone has any suggestions to make!

2019 Statutory Assessment Results

Early Years 2019

This data shows the number of children achieving a Good Level of Development (GLD) by the end of Reception in **all** the prime areas (Communication and Language, Personal, Social and Emotional Development and Physical Development) and Reading, Writing, Number & Shape, Space and Measures.

Percentage of children achieving a GLD

	School	National (2018)	Cohort
2019	78%	72%	60

Year 1 Phonics Screening Test 2019

This national test is administered in June and tests the phonics knowledge of the children – their ability to decode and read words, rather than their understanding. Children who do not reach the required standard are tested again at the end of Year 2.

Percentage of children achieving the Expected Standard in the Year 1 Phonics Screening Test

	School	National	Cohort
2019	81%	82%	53

Key Stage 1 Results 2019

Number in Cohort – 51

	Reading		Maths		Writing	
	At Least Age Related Expectations	Working at Greater Depth	At Least Age Related Expectations	Working at Greater Depth	At Least Age Related Expectations	Working at Greater Depth
2019	78%	35%	78%	33%	71%	25%
National	75%	25%	76%	22%	69%	15%

Key Stage 2 Results 2019

Number in Cohort – 50

	Reading		Maths		GAPS		Writing	
	Achieved Expected Standard	Achieved High Scaled Score	Achieved Expected Standard	Achieved High Scaled Score	Achieved Expected Standard	Achieved High Scaled Score	Achieved Expected Standard	Working at Greater Depth
School	90%	42%	90%	32%	90%	42%	86%	28%
National	73%	27%	79%	27%	78%	36%	79%	20%

National Standard = Scaled Score of 100 – 109

High Scaled Score = Scaled Score of 110 - 120

Reading, Writing & Maths Attainment (combined)

	Achieved National Standard in Reading, Writing & Maths	Achieved High Scaled Score in Reading & Maths & Working at Greater Depth in Writing
School	80%	22%
National	65%	11%

Progress from KS1 to KS2

	Progress in Reading	Progress in Maths	Progress in Writing
School	+3.0	+1.6	+1.6
National	0	0	0

Progress scores will be centred around 0, with most schools within the range of -5 to +5.

Average Scaled Score

	Reading	Maths	GaPS
School	107	106	108
National	104	105	106

(Scaled Score of 100 is National Average)

School Holidays - Academic Year 2019 - 2020

Holiday	Closing Date	Date re-open for teaching purposes
October Half Term	Thursday 24 th October 2019	Monday 4 th November 2019
Christmas Holiday	Thursday 19 th December 2019	Monday 6 th January 2020
February Half Term	Friday 14 th February 2020	Monday 24 th February 2020
Easter Holiday	Friday 3 rd April 2020	Monday 20 th April 2020
May Day	Thursday 7 th May 2020	Monday 11 th May 2020
Summer Half Term	Thursday 21 st May 2020	Monday 1 st June 2020
Summer Holiday	Friday 17 th July 2020	To Be Confirmed

Important Dates for 2019 - 2020

Key Stage 1 (Yr 2) Statutory Assessment Tests - May 2020

KS2 (Yr 6) Statutory Assessment Tests - Week Beginning Monday 11th May 2020

Year 1 & Year 2 Phonics Screening Test - Week Beginning Monday 8th June 2020

DIARY DATES

Monday 7 th October	All Week	Erasmus+ Visit-Sweden, Denmark, Spain and Poland
Monday 7 th October	2pm	Harvest Festival Service in All Saints Church – led by Year 4
Monday 7 th October	3.30pm	Girls Football at Delves Lane Primary
Tuesday 8 th October	9.30 am	Welcome Assembly for Erasmus+ Visitors
Tuesday 8 th October	3.30pm	Full Governing Body Meeting
Wednesday 9 th October	All Day	Year 5 (Mr Taylor’s Class) at Seaham for Beach School
Wednesday 9 th October	All Day	Pirate Ron with Year 2
Wednesday 9 th October	3.30pm	Boys Football at St Mary’s
Thursday 10 th October	Morning	Year 5 (Mr Knighton’s Class) Lumiere Workshop
Sunday 13 th October	Afternoon	Messy Church at All Saints Church
Monday 14 th October	3.30pm	Girls Football at Delves Lane Primary
Tuesday 15 th October	6pm	Friends of the School Meeting
Wednesday 16 th October	9-11am	Foundation Stage Stay and Play Sessions
Wednesday 16 th October	12.45-2.45pm	Foundation Stage Stay and Play Sessions
Wednesday 16 th October	3.30pm	Boys Football at Tanfield Primary
Thursday 17 th October	Morning	Year 1 Visit to The Baltic, Newcastle
Thursday 17 th October	All Day	Year 4 Science Day and Workshops with Captain Chemistry
Thursday 17 th October	All Day	Year 5 Visit to The National Space Centre and Overnight Visit
Friday 18 th October	All Day	Year 5 Visit to Cadbury World, Birmingham
Monday 21 st October	4-6pm	Parents’ Evening for Reception – Year 6
Wednesday 23 rd October	4-6pm	Parents’ Evening for Reception – Year 6
Thursday 24 th October	4-6pm	Parents’ Evening for Mrs Grayson’s Class
Friday 25 th October	All Day	School Closed for Staff Training
School Closed for Half Term Holiday		
Monday 4 th November	7.30am	School re-opens for Autumn 2
Thursday 7 th November	3.30 – 4.30pm	Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Disco
Thursday 7 th November	4.45 – 6pm	Years 3 – 6 Disco
Saturday 9 th November	10am – 12pm	Open Morning for Foundation Stage and Prospective Parents
Monday 11 th November	3.30pm	Full Governing Body Meeting
Monday 11 th November	6pm	Open Evening for Foundation Stage and Prospective Parents
Tuesday 12 th November	2.45 & 6pm	Parent Workshops – Teaching Approach to Maths in KS1&2
Wednesday 13 th November	Evening	Year 5 (Mr Taylor’s class) at Durham Lumiere Preview
Friday 15 th November	All Day	Children In Need fundraiser day
Sunday 17 th November	Afternoon	Messy Church at All Saints Church
Week Beg. Mon. 18 th November	All Week	Erasmus+ Visit to Poland
Wednesday 20 th November	All Day	Photographer in School for Individual Photographs
Wednesday 27 th November	Afternoon	Theatre Visit to School
Week Beg. Monday 2 nd December	All Week	Enterprise Week
Thursday 5 th December	Evening	Choir singing in concert at All Saints Church, Lanchester
Friday 6 th December	2-4pm	Christmas Fair
Tuesday 10 th December	All Day	Year 6 at Theatre Royal Pantomime and Newcastle
Wednesday 11 th December	10am & 2pm	Foundation Stage Nativities
Sunday 15 th December	Afternoon	Messy Church
Monday 16 th December	10am & 2pm	Key Stage One Nativities
Tuesday 17 th December	Afternoon	KS1 (Year 1&2) and Lower KS2 (Year 3&4) Christmas Parties
Tuesday 17 th December	3.30pm	Carols Round the Tree
Wednesday 18 th December	Afternoon	Early Years and Upper KS2 (Year 5&6) Christmas Parties
Thursday 19 th December	10am & 2pm	KS2 Nativity and Christingle in All Saints Church
Thursday 19 th December	Morning	Theatre visit for Early Years
Friday 20 th December	All Day	Holiday Club in School
Friday 20 th December	School Closed for Christmas Holiday	

Monday 6th January 2020

7.30 am

School Re-opens for Spring Term