



# LANCHESTER E.P. (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I cannot quite believe that it is December next week! The children are certainly counting down the days and we are all looking forward to sharing the festive celebrations with you.

I was so proud of Oliver, Iona, Harrison, Sophie, Daisy, Hollie, Kate, Finlay, Annabel and Poppy who were all confirmed on Sunday evening in a really special and uplifting service led by Bishop Sarah of Jarrow. This wonderful group of children have had confirmation classes with Revd Lesley and Revd Stephen over the last few weeks and it is so lovely to know that they have all made that commitment in their spiritual journey.

I am sorry to disappoint you about the Book Fair this week. I am sure many of you have very fond memories of the large, metal containers which you could browse through and enjoy looking at all the many varied books. We were informed on Monday that the books would just be loose in large cardboard boxes and with nowhere to store the books or keep them safe, we had no alternative but to abandon the fair. Disappointing but we just don't have the time or space to put out and then put away around 300 books on a daily basis.

We would like to say a huge thank you to all for your great generosity with items for the Winter Wonderland – you have been amazing! I think you will be amazed to see what your talented teaching assistants have used them all for! They are certainly far more creative than me!

Last week finished on a real high for our super athletes. A group of 23 Year 5 & 6 children went to the Louisa Centre for an athletics competition against 13 other schools and we won! They were absolutely terrific and once again, had such a wonderful attitude. Our children, no matter what the sport, just have fun and enjoy participating. They are competitive, but polite and respectful - great ambassadors for our school who just epitomise our ethos superbly well.

## **Whole School Community News**

### **Parent Governor**

We only had one parent put their name forward for the role of parent governor who was Mr Jason Exley, whose term of office came to an end on 22<sup>nd</sup> November. This means that he remains your parent governor for the next 4 years.

### **Community Café**

Lanchester Community Café and Warm Hub is a not-for-profit community enterprise based in Lanchester Community Centre. They are offering a free tea and coffee, as well as a warm space, for those in need this winter. They also offer a range of meals, light bites, cakes and freshly ground coffee at very reasonable prices. Why not try their full English breakfast priced at just £3.50. Whether you come for the warmth, the food or a friendly service, you'll leave fulfilled, knowing you've supported your local community. Opening Times:

Tuesdays: 8.30am until 4.30 pm

Wednesdays: 8.30am until 11.30am

Thursdays: 8.30am until 4.30pm

Email: [lanchester.communitycafe@gmail.com](mailto:lanchester.communitycafe@gmail.com)

### **Climate Friendly School**

We are delighted that we are part of OASES pilot scheme working with schools to be Climate Friendly Schools. I had a meeting this week to talk about the project and one of the first things we need to do is to establish an action group. The action group will be made up of our eco rangers, 3 staff, a governor and a parent. If you are interested in being part of this group and helping us work towards ensuring our school is more climate friendly,

please drop me an email: [j.davis@lanchesterep.net](mailto:j.davis@lanchesterep.net) The first meeting will be in the new year when we will complete the audit.

## **School Uniform**

I have noticed recently that fewer children seem to be wearing the jumpers with our school badge on. This does concern me slightly as I worry that we are beginning to lose our identity – especially as the logo represents us as a church school. I am really keen to know why this is and would really appreciate your honest comments and feedback so that I can try to address this issue. Please give me 5 minutes of your time and complete [this form](#) with your comments, opinions and any suggestions you have as to how we can try to redress this balance and encourage more families to purchase the official school jumper with the school badge. Thank you.

## **Attendance Information**

Week Beg. 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Attendance
<b>Reception</b>	93.0%
<b>Year 1</b>	96.5%
<b>Year 2</b>	94.1%
<b>Year 3</b>	98.1%
<b>Year 4</b>	95.0%
<b>Year 5</b>	93.2%
<b>Year 6</b>	99.2%
<b>Whole School</b>	95.6%

Week Beg. 21 <sup>st</sup> November	Attendance
<b>Reception</b>	73.5%
<b>Year 1</b>	92.9%
<b>Year 2</b>	97.4%
<b>Year 3</b>	97.5%
<b>Year 4</b>	90.7%
<b>Year 5</b>	92.3%
<b>Year 6</b>	93.8%
<b>Whole School</b>	91.2%

Children in Reception to Year 6 will receive a copy of their official Attendance Certificate today. This is so you can keep track of your child's attendance percentage. At Lanchester EP, we have an attendance target of 97%. On your child's school report at the end of the year, you will see a breakdown of attendance percentages and what they mean:

Attendance Percentage	Below 85%	85 – 94.9%	95 – 97.9%	98 – 100%
What this Means	Serious Cause for Concern	Monitored by School	Good	Excellent
Under 90% attendance is considered 'Persistent Absenteeism'				
<p align="center"><b>How Attendance Percentages are Calculated</b></p> <p>The way attendance is calculated is as a percentage on the number of sessions that your child is able to attend up to the date the certificate is printed off. Each day is split into 2 sessions. Therefore, up to 21<sup>st</sup> November (which is when the Attendance Certificates were printed), your child had the opportunity to attend school for 98 sessions, or 49 morning sessions &amp; 49 afternoon sessions. If your child missed 1 full day of school (2 sessions) their attendance percentage would be 98%. However, if your child does not miss anymore sessions, their percentage will go up through the year.</p>				

We completely understand that there are many times when you are unable to bring your child into school. However, it is our duty, as set out by the Department for Education, to monitor your child's attendance and to inform you of our expectations. If you have any questions regarding your child's attendance certificate, or would like to speak to our Attendance Officer Lesley Sabourn, please email the School Office and she will get in touch with you. She is in school every other Tuesday. She will be back into School on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December.

## **Reporting a Pupil Absence**

If your child is not going to be in school for any reason, it is imperative that you let the School Office know by either phoning on 01207520436 and leaving a message on the absence line, or emailing [school.office@lanchesterep.net](mailto:school.office@lanchesterep.net). Please note, if your child is not in due to illness it is important that you tell us the symptoms they are off with – please do not just say 'unwell'. We need to be able to see patterns in absence and this could help us to map any outbreaks of illness in school, as well as to protect any vulnerable children & staff.

## **Individual & Sibling Photographs – Ordering Information**

You should have received the proof for your child's individual and sibling photograph this week, along with information about how to purchase your photos. Orders should be placed either online by visiting [Jane Stapleton School & Nursery Photography \(jssp.co.uk\)](http://JaneStapletonSchool&NurseryPhotography.jssp.co.uk) or via telephone on 01773717984 (Monday-Friday 9.30am-4.30pm). The access code for your images is on the proof slip (beginning p000...) – if you have lost your slip, then please email the School Office who can provide you with the code. Orders need to be placed by **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December** and will be delivered back into school within 2 weeks or can be delivered to your home for 99p. Any orders placed after Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December will not be delivered into school and will be subject to an increased £3.99 delivery charge to your home.

## **Individual & Sibling Photographs – New Date for Absences**

If your child was absent from school on the day of the individual photographs, or did not get a sibling photograph taken that day, the photography company have agreed to come into school again on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January. If your child missed their individual photo or sibling photo originally, please fill in this form: [January Photograph](#) by Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January, so we can let them know the numbers of children to expect. Please only fill this form in if your child did not have a photograph taken. We will be in touch with you nearer the time with more information.

## **Road Safety & Community Planning Information**

You may have noticed recently that some children have been out in their high visibility vests at drop off times. These are some of our conscientious Road Safety Stars, who are helping to look out for any issues that come up at these key times of the day. A number of issues have already been spotted, including turning in the road, parking on the yellow lines & on keep clear road markings. We plan to make these patrols a regular occurrence in order to better monitor the parking situation around school. Please also remember if you are walking to school with your children the importance of crossing safely and to make sure that you can be seen in all weathers – it is well worth investing in some reflective stickers or strips to help to keep you and your children safe.

## **Diary Dates for Next Week**

### **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November at 6pm - Switching on the Christmas Lights**

Lanchester Parish Council (not the Partnership as I wrote in a previous email) have organised the Switching on of the Christmas Lights which takes place on the Village Green on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November at 6pm. As usual, we were asked to nominate two children from Year 6 to carry out this honour. James and Iona are both very proud to be asked to do this and know they will do it with great pride.

### **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November – School Closed**

Please remember that the school is closed all day for a Teacher Training Day.

### **Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November – Non-Uniform Day for Nursery Children**

We are asking our Nursery children to come to school in non-uniform on Wednesday in exchange for an item for the Christmas Fair. We are asking for donations of any gifts such as chocolates, toiletries, gift sets, children's games or stationery, alcohol and sweets. All money raised at the Christmas Fair does go directly back to your children.

### **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December – Non-Uniform Day for Reception – Year 6 Children**

We are asking all children from Reception to Year 6 to come to school in non-uniform on Wednesday in exchange for an item for the Christmas Fair. We are asking for donations of any gifts such as chocolates, toiletries, gift sets, children's games or stationery, alcohol and sweets. All money raised at the Christmas Fair does go directly back to your children.

# **Christmas Information**

## **Friends of the School Christmas Shop**

Orders for The Friends of the School Christmas Shop close on **Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November at 5pm**. This is a wonderful opportunity for children to choose gifts for parents, carers and siblings in school and take them home fully wrapped to give to their loved ones. Each gift costs £2 and the children can choose their gift at the Christmas Shop in school which will be held during the week of Winter Wonderland. Once the children have chosen the gifts they would like, they take them home, all wrapped, with the labels on, ready to give at Christmas. Please note the deadline is 30<sup>th</sup> November at 5pm. If you would like your child to take part in this special Christmas shop, please complete the form here and follow instructions given for payment and ordering:

<https://form.jotform.com/223056980275359?fbclid=IwAR2jTRrAofe-814pCiVzFnANCNg4JPPImbWMIEFtemn9Cvk9VxbjIdaITo>

## **Christmas Fundraising Items**

If you have ordered any Fundraising items you should have received them this week. If you have not received them by Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November, please email the School Office. If there are any discrepancies with your order, please let us know by completing [this form](#) no later than Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November and we will try and rectify it for you. Please remember, the only items that were available for you to buy were the coaster card, magnet and hanging decoration. Unfortunately, it is now too late to place any new orders.

## **Winter Wonderland Tickets**

If you have ordered tickets for Winter Wonderland you should have received them this week. If you have not received them by Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November, please email the School Office. You must have these tickets with you on the evening of Winter Wonderland for entrance into the forest.

## **Christmas Fair and Christmas Market**

We are holding our Christmas Fair on the same day as Winter Wonderland. Our Fair will be open in the Junior Hall from 3pm – 5pm. All the children's enterprise products will be on sale as well as hot dogs, refreshments, tombolas, pick a bottle and a number of other children's stalls.

From 4pm – 7pm on the yard outside, will be our Christmas Market. Here we have a number of local stalls all selling their products which include cupcakes, wreaths, Christmas gifts, jewelry, jams and other fabulous goodies.

## **Raffle Tickets**

Christmas raffle tickets will be sent home with your child on Wednesday next week. These are £1 per ticket and the raffle will be drawn on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December. Please send in your completed Raffle tickets, along with the correct payment in an envelope, either in your child's bag or hand them into the School Office. As usual, there will be a great range of prizes including hampers, gift vouchers, alcohol and a cash prize.

## **Nativity Tickets – Reception & Key Stage 1**

Nativity tickets for the Reception & Key Stage 1 Nativities will go on sale from the School Office on **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December** for £1.00. You can either buy tickets directly from the school office, or send an envelope into school with your child with the correct change in and the following information written clearly on the front: Child's Name, Child's Class, Number of Tickets Required for Each Performance (for example: John Smith; 1G1; 2 x 10am 1 x 2pm - £3 enclosed)

The dates and times of the nativities are as follows:

**Reception Nativity** – Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am and 2.00pm

**Key stage 1 Nativity** – Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 10.00am and 2.00pm

Tickets are limited in the first instance to 2 per family per performance time. Any spare tickets will go on sale on **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December**.

## **Early Years News**

### **Christmas Pegs**

Each year we invite the children in Nursery and Reception to decorate a peg to put on our Christmas tree. They can decorate it however they wish, with or without help, and then bring it back to school ready to put on our tree. Our Christmas tree is always special and beautiful because of the individual decorations the children make! Please send your child's peg back into school in a named bag or envelope so they can be stored until it is time to decorate the tree. We are sending the pegs out early to give you plenty of time to get them back to us. When we get to the end of term, your child can bring their peg decoration back home with them to put on their own Christmas tree if they wish.

### **Nursery Library**

We would like to set up a library session twice a week for our Nursery children to borrow a book to take home. If you might be interested in helping to run this on a weekly or occasional basis, please let Miss Brown know. This would involve coming into Nursery to set the books out, checking books in and out and packing books away again – approximately 20 minutes. Sessions would run on Tuesday 11:30 – 11:50 and Thursday 2:55 – 3:15. We hope that if we get a few volunteers, this could be done on a rota basis so it isn't a weekly commitment. If any parents of children further up school would like to get involved, we would welcome the support.

### **Can you help?**

We are always on the hunt for resources to support the children's play throughout EYFS. Currently, we are collecting empty hand soap/ gel dispensers to enhance our creative area in Reception and allow children to dispense their own paints and also (as always!) kitchen equipment such as utensils, old pans, baking trays etc to use in our mud kitchen/water and sand play areas. We are also always on the lookout for items we could use in our home corners, especially clothes/hats/scarves that the children could use for dressing up – ordinary clothes, rather than commercial dressing up costumes, please. Thank you in advance for all your support.

### **Applying for a Reception Place**

Applications for Reception School Places are now open and close on **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023**. It is essential that you apply within these timescales as late applications are not guaranteed a school place. We are full in Reception this year with a waiting list so it really is essential that you apply for a school place on time.

Please follow this link to apply for a school place: <https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/2189/Apply-now-for-a-primary-school-place-deadline-15-January-2023>

## **Advance Notices**

### **Choir Parents and Carers**

The choir are singing at Lanchester Garden Centre on **Wednesday 7th December at 3pm** and we are hoping that some parents and carers may be able to help us with lifts. Members of the choir will be emailed a link to sign up for this separately.

### **Holiday Club Dates – December**

LJG Coaching will be running the holiday clubs in school on **21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> December**. If you would like to book onto any of these dates, please fill in the online form here: [Holiday Club Booking](#), or email [ljsportscoaching@gmail.com](mailto:ljsportscoaching@gmail.com) for more information. Please note, children must be 4 years old to attend.

Diary Dates		
Week Beg. Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	All Week	Winter Wonderland
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	3.30pm	Choir Singing at Lanchester Garden Centre in aid of Henry Dancer Days
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	11am	Choir singing at Willowburn Hospice
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	4-7pm	Winter Wonderland & Christmas Market open to the community
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	3 – 5pm	Christmas Fair in Junior Hall
Week Beg. Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	All Week	Erasmus+ Visit to Ajka, Hungary
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Morning	New College performing The Lion King in school
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Afternoon	The Big Sing-Along
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	All Day	Year 6 Pantomime Visit to Tyneside Theatre & Special Lunch in Newcastle
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	11am	Family Christmas Songs & Stories for Nursery Families (Morning & Mon – Weds Children)
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	Morning	Year 3 Christmas Party
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	Afternoon	Year 4 Christmas Party
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	All Day	The Little Elf Performance for EYFS & KS1
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	All Day	Parties for Nursery and Reception
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	Morning	Year 1 Christmas Party
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	Afternoon	Year 2 Christmas Party
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	9.30am	Reception Nativity in School Hall
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	Lunchtime	Christmas Dinner in School
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	2pm	Reception Nativity in School Hall
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	All Day	Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	Morning	Year 5 Christmas Party
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	Afternoon	Year 6 Christmas Party
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	2.15pm	Family Christmas Songs & Stories for Nursery Families (30 Hours & Weds – Fri Children)
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	10am	KS1 Nativity in School Hall
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	2pm	KS1 Nativity in School Hall
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	10am	KS2 Nativity and Church Service
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	1.30pm	KS2 Nativity and Church Service
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	5.15pm	Break Up for Christmas Holidays

### **Positive Thinking**

***Life is all about balance.  
You don't always need to be getting stuff done.  
Sometimes, it's perfectly okay and absolutely necessary  
to shut down, kick back and do nothing.***

Best Wishes,  
*Jane Davis*  
Mrs Jane Davis  
Head Teacher