



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 20th October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was great to welcome the wonderful Paul Cookson back into school this week. The children always thoroughly enjoy listening to him and working with him and he does an amazing job of really bringing poetry to life! We hope to compile all the poems he wrote with the children and share them with you! It was just heart-warming to see the children's reaction when they spotted him in the corridor prior to school starting – speaks volumes about his poems too!

Year 1 had a fabulous visit to the Hancock Museum this week too. Their enthusiasm and eagerness to share their knowledge was wonderful for staff to witness. The visit was the perfect climax to a very popular topic for them all. Thank you to all the parents who joined them for the day too – we do appreciate it!

I had the pleasure of accompanying six of our female digital leaders along with Mr Bailey, to Bletchley Park and the offices of Wonde this week. The girls were a credit to our school, great company and so polite and well-mannered. They threw themselves into their time at Bletchley Park, learning so much about Alan Turing (very topical for our school), the code breakers and the significance and importance of the work they all did during the Second World War.

After staying overnight in a very comfortable Air BnB, we drove to Newmarket and the offices of Wonde where the girls learnt so much about the work undertaken there and the wide range of jobs and roles the staff have. As well as being great careers advice for them, they also learnt some highly important information as well! Another excellent visit making some very good connections!

Climate Friendly School Status

Over the last few weeks, Mr Adamson, the Eco Rangers and members of the Climate Friendly Action Team have been striving towards making Lanchester EP a more climate friendly school. They have completed a range of tasks such as litter picks, tree planting sessions at Burnhope, seed planting in KS1 as well as highlighting our energy usage around school. Additionally, we have started building a new bug hotel using recycled materials in our forest school area. As a result of this, and other ongoing work, we are one of the first schools to have been awarded the Climate Friendly School status. Thanks must go to Mr Adamson for all the work and time that has gone into this over the past year.

Environmental Health

I am delighted to inform you that we had the annual, unannounced visit from Environmental Health this week and our Kitchen has, once again, been awarded the highest grading of 5*. We would not expect anything less, but it is always good to have our high hygiene standards endorsed officially. Well done to Mr Southern and all our great staff who work so hard providing such tasty meals for our children (and staff!).

Parents' Evenings

We are looking forward to seeing you all on the evenings of Monday 23rd October and Tuesday 24th October. Please leave some time to go to your child's classrooms to look at their work before or after your appointment with their class teacher. All staff will be based in the Junior Hall for your appointment.

Mrs Grayson's parents have been informed that, due to her being absent for some of this half term, her parents' evenings will take place on Monday 27th and Tuesday 28th November.

Nursery parents will be contacted during the first week back after half term to arrange their parents' evenings.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Please remember that the only extra-curricular clubs that will be taking place next week are Year 1 Family Forest School on Wednesday & any club run by LJG Sports Coaching (Mr Graham). Wrap Around Club is taking place as usual.

After School Club – Monday & Tuesday

On Monday and Tuesday, After School Club will take place in the Nursery and all children are to be collected from the Nursery door. This is due to the parents' evenings taking place in the main school.

Friends of Lanchester E.P. Primary School

We are very fortunate to have a core group of parents and carers who organise different events for our children (and parents) whilst raising money at the same time. I think the overnight camp on the school field was the most popular event last year but the Christmas shop for the children (coming again soon....) was loved by the children. Read below for information of their first meeting of the year:

*The Friends of Lanchester EP group is looking for new members. We are a friendly group of parents and carers who organise various events for the kids during the year and also fundraise for the school. The next planning meeting is on **Thursday 9th November at 5.30 pm** in the school. Please come along if you would like to get involved. We welcome all levels of involvement, any time that you can give, no matter how small, would be very much appreciated and any ideas for events you would like to take place in school. Please come to the door at the main entrance at 5.30 pm on Thursday 9th November and a friendly face will let you in!*

Governing Body

We had our first full governing body meeting of this academic year on Tuesday and I thought it would be useful to let you know of some changes to our governing body. Mr Jason Exley has made the difficult decision to stand down as our Chair of Governors due to work commitments and we now have the luxurious position of having two chairs of governors and two vice chairs as you can see below:

Chair of Governors:	Mr Michael Knowles and Mr Ben Garside
Vice Chair of Governors:	Revd Lesley Sutherland and Mrs Sarah Blakeman
Parent Governors:	Mr Jason Exley, Mr Chris Grady, Dr Michael Bell and Mrs Denise Atkinson
Foundation Governors:	Mrs Margaret Matthews and Revd Abbey Hughes
Staff Governor:	Miss Naomi Hawke
LA Governor:	Mr Ossie Johnson

Dog Fouling

We have had some reports of an increasing amount of dog dirt on the way to and from school and the surrounding area. We realise that this may not be due to parents and families from school but it is a reminder to just be aware of it so your children do not tread in it. It is hard to believe that there are still dog owners who seem to think it is acceptable not to clear up after their dogs....

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 15th January 2024. If you know any families with pre-school children feel free to tell them about our Open Morning on Saturday 21st October between 10am and 12 noon.

October Half Term Holiday Club: Monday 30th October – Thursday 2nd November

LJG Sports Coaching will once again be holding a holiday club in school during half term. The dates are Monday 30th October to Thursday 2nd 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 or 07736384803. You can also find more information about the clubs they run via their Facebook page. Please

note that this MUST be booked through the company as the school cannot book places for parents. Thank you.

Christmas Fundraising

This year, we are doing our Christmas Fundraiser through www.schoolprintworld.co.uk. Children have very been busy in school over the last week creating their artwork which will then be uploaded onto a special parent portal. Once you have been sent the log in details for this you will be able to see your child's masterpiece, and be able to order items such as Christmas cards, mugs, gift labels and even scented candles. Log ins will be sent out in the next week or so with information about how to access your child's artwork and pay for items.

Lost Property

Any items of lost property that are unnamed, including coats are at the main Office. Items not claimed by next Friday 27th October will be recycled in our clothing bank.

New Topics

Your child may have told you that their first topic will finish this week with their new one starting next week. We have made this change this academic year in an attempt to even out the number of weeks for each topic. All half terms are different lengths, varying from 5 weeks to 8 weeks which makes it tricky to plan evenly for each topic. So, they will start their new topic next week and the Parental Information Leaflets will be sent out next week too so you know what they will be learning from next week and over the next half term.

Attendance

Reception	90.4%
Year 1	96.3%
Year 2	95.7%
Year 3	96.7%
Year 4	95.3%
Year 5	97%
Year 6	95.5%

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

As the weather gets colder and the days become shorter, we know that children are less likely to play outside, which for many means playing on a games console. In fact, according to OFCOM research, 89% of children aged 3 – 17 play video games, and 22% of these children will talk to people they don't know online whilst playing games. Therefore, this week we will be sharing with you the National Colleges Online Safety information sheet 'Setting Boundaries Around Gaming' in order to help keep our children safe online.

Diary Dates for Next Week

Saturday 21st October 10 – 12 - Open Morning for Prospective Nursery and Reception Families

Come along on Saturday 21st 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!

Monday 23rd October – Key Stage 2 House Cross Country Event

All children from Years 3 – Year 6 will be participating in a house cross country event on Monday afternoon. We held this event for the first time last year and it was a huge success and enjoyed by many. All KS2 children should wear their PE kits on Monday with a change of footwear for their run. Obviously, this is going to be weather dependent. If the field is flooded, then we will have to postpone this until after half term.

Monday 23rd October and Tuesday 24th October – Parents' Evening

Please note that there will be no entry to school until 3.30pm to allow children to go safely to After School Club and for staff to have a very short break prior to parents' evening starting. All teaching staff will meet with parents in the Junior Hall but please make the time to visit your child's classroom to see their work.

Tuesday 23rd October – Durham University Outdoor Conference

We are thrilled to be hosting the Outdoor Conference for Durham University BA in Education students on Tuesday. They will be working in our woodland between 10am and 2pm, carrying out a carousel of forest school activities. I am sure they will be amazed by the facilities we have on site that our children just take for granted.

Tuesday 23rd October – Year 5&6 Tag Rugby Competition at Consett Rugby Club

We are participating in a competition for Derwentside Schools on Tuesday at Consett Rugby Club. All parents and carers of children who are taking part have been emailed. The children are to come to school in their PE kits with a packed lunch ready for action!

Friday 27th October – School Closes for Half Term Holiday

Our school will close for the October half-term holiday. We re-open on Monday 6th November.

SEND News

Have you heard of SENDIASS? Durham SEND Information Advice and Support Service is a statutory service supporting parents/carers of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and children and young people with SEND.

Durham SENDIASS provides confidential information advice and support through a range of services. This includes home visits, attending meetings in educational settings and liaison with all services working with children and young people. Training and guidance to parents/carers, young people and professionals on SEND issues are also provided.

Durham SENDIASS operates at 'arm's length' from the Local Authority and the services provided are confidential and impartial.

Durham SENDIASS:

- is a free, impartial local service
- provides confidential information advice and support
- works directly with parents and carers of children and young people with SEND
- works directly with young people with SEND
- works in partnership with parents/carers, young people, educational settings the local authority and other agencies
- supports parents and young people to inform and influence local policy and practice
- enables parents/carers and young people to make informed choices and decisions with confidence
- has a role in making sure that parents' and young people's views are heard and understood and that these views inform local policy and practice
- is able to put parents and young people in touch with other local and national organisations

Durham SENDIASS provides information on:

- how special educational needs are identified and assessed by educational settings and the local authority
- who parents and young people can talk to in a school or Durham County Council or Local Authority about their concerns
- the SEND Code of Practice 0 – 25, the statutory assessment process and Education Health and Care Plan (EHC Plan)
- parents/carers and young person's rights and responsibilities
- meetings and reviews about a child's or young person's needs
- how progress is monitored and reviewed

- what parents can do if they are not happy with a decision made about their child's SEND.
- what young people can do if they are not happy with a decision made about their child's SEND.

If you would like to contact Durham SENDIASS or if you would like to find out more, you can visit their website: <https://durhamsendiass.info>

Early Years News

We are sending home a Sponsored Autumn Treasure Hunt sheet with your child today from Nursery and Reception. This year, we are hoping to raise some funds to improve our outdoor sand and water areas. If you would like your child to join in, please help them to find some things to match the words on the treasure hunt sheet. For example, they might find a prickly conker case, a bumpy shell or a red leaf. They might like to stick the items they find on to the sheet, take some photos of their finds or draw pictures of their treasures. We will make a fabulous display of the completed treasure hunts which will support the children's use of descriptive language as well as showing off their hard work. If your child could collect some sponsorship money for their efforts, it would be very much appreciated.

We are often asked about how to support children's interest in reading when they are in Nursery. Although we do not formally start teaching children how to read words in Nursery, we very much encourage the development of the skills the children will need to be able to access our phonics programme, Sounds Write, when they begin Reception. There are lots of great ideas to support your child's learning [here](#) at Words for Life. We will also be relaunching our Nursery Library after half term - more details to follow. For more information on Sounds Write, please see our school website or sign up for this [free course for parents and carers](#).

Apologies to Nursery parents for the wet and muddy clothes this week. We have been enjoying the wet weather and have splashed in lots of puddles! It would be really helpful if you could pop a carrier bag into your child's change bag just in case they have wet clothes to bring home. This avoids their clean changes of clothes also getting muddy.

On Wednesday 25th October, the children in Reception will be taking part in a walk around Lanchester Village. We would like to ask if any parents/grandparents/carers would like to volunteer to come along with us. We aim to start our first walk at 1.30pm and the second at 2pm. Volunteers are welcome to come along on both walks. If you are able to join us, could you please contact Mrs Lydon or Mrs Burke via email: h.lydon@lanchesterep.net and j.burke@lanchesterep.net Many thanks.

Reception children have started to bring home decodable phonics books with a reading record book. It is essential that an adult from home reads with each child throughout the week to support your child and their progress as phonics really is the key to their academic success. When you do read with your child, please comment in their reading record. Thank you.

Key Stage One News

We have had a fun filled week in KS1 finishing off our first topic of the year. Year 1 really enjoyed their trip to the Hancock Museum where we explored the galleries and looked at all the fossils and dinosaur bones. We also took part in a workshop and got to handle lots of fossils and match the fossils to pictures of what the creatures would have looked like when they were alive. The museum guides were amazed at how much the children knew about dinosaurs and fossils. It was a wonderful trip and really brought together all the learning we have done during our Dinosaur Planet topic.



Year 2 have also had a fantastic week. On Tuesday they really enjoyed a visit from poet Paul Cookson. In their workshop they wrote and performed some pirate poems. Today they will finish their Pirate topic with an awesome Pirate Pizza Party.

Next week the children will begin their new topics. In Year 1 it is Splendid Skies looking at seasonal changes and the history of flight. In Year 2 it is Frozen Kingdom, exploring the coldest parts of our Earth, the animals who live there and the explorers who have visited.

Key Stage Two News – Reading VIPERS

In Key Stage 2, we use 'Reading VIPERS' to cover the key comprehension skills that we teach as part of the National Curriculum. We use the term 'Reading VIPERS' to encourage children to actively think about the comprehension skills they are using when they read.

VIPERS stands for:

Vocabulary

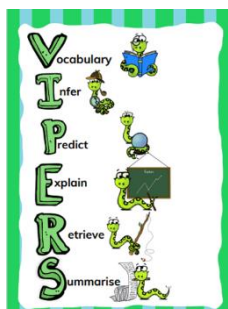
Inference

Prediction

Explanation

Retrieval

Sequence or Summarise



The children will be exposed to all of these terms regularly throughout their English work and other areas of the curriculum. Children take part in a 20 - 30 minute reading skills session every morning. Within these sessions our staff model reading strategies during shared whole class reading activities. We use high quality, age-appropriate texts which are carefully selected by the staff. These are read to or with the children and provide an opportunity to teach children specific reading skills to widen their vocabulary and develop their levels of comprehension,

All children work on VIPERS during class reading whether this is reading as a class, in a small group or one to one with an adult. We encourage children to orally talk through their answers before formally recording their answers. Children do this in a variety of ways such as discussing the answer first with their peers and/or an adult and then writing their best answer.

VIPERS Question Stems

It would be excellent if, as parents, you could also refer to these VIPERS regularly when you are listening to your child read at home. VIPERS questions can be applied to any text that a child is reading as well as with pictures, picture books and films! When any adult is listening to a child read, all they have to do is think of questions about the book, picture or film that cover some of the VIPERS.

<p>READING VIPERS</p> <p>Vocabulary </p> <p>Find and explain meaning of words in context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do the words and suggest about the character, setting and mood? • Which word tells you that.....? • Which keyword tells you about the character/setting/mood? • Find one word in the text which means..... • Find and highlight the word that is closest in meaning to..... • Find a word or phrase which shows/suggests that..... 	<p>READING VIPERS</p> <p>Infer </p> <p>Make and justify inferences using evidence from the text.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find and copy a group of words which show that... • How do these words make the reader feel? • How do the descriptions of show... • How can you tell that..... • What impression of do you get from these paragraphs? • What voice might these characters use? • What was thinking when..... • Who is telling the story? 	<p>READING VIPERS</p> <p>Predict </p> <p>Predict what might happen from the details given and implied</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From the cover what do you think this text is going to be about? • What is happening now? What happened before this? • What will happen after? • What does this paragraph suggest will happen next? What makes you think this? • Do you think the choice of setting will influence how the plot develops? • Do you think... will happen? Explain your answer using evidence from the text.
<p>READING VIPERS</p> <p>Explain </p> <p> > Explain how content is related and contributes to the meaning > Explain how meaning is enhanced through choice of language. > Explain the themes and patterns that develop across the text. > Explain how information contributes to the overall experience. </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is the text arranged in this way? • What structures has the author used? • What is the purpose of this text feature? • Is the use of effective? • The mood of the character changes throughout the text. Find and copy the phrases which show this. • What is the author's point of view? • What affect does have on the audience? • How does the author engage the reader here? • Which words and phrases did effectively? • Which section was the most interesting/exciting part? • How are these sections linked? 	<p>READING VIPERS</p> <p>Retrieve </p> <p>Retrieve and record information and identify key details.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How would you describe this story/text? What genre is it? How do you know? • How did...? • How often...? • Who had...? Who is...? Who did...? • What happened to...? • What does..... do? • How is? • What can you learn from from this section? • Give one example of..... • The story is told from whose perspective? 	<p>READING VIPERS</p> <p>Summarise </p> <p>Summarise the main ideas from more than one paragraph</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Below are some summaries of different paragraphs from the text, number them to show the order in which they appear in the text. • What is the main message of the text? • Using information from the whole text, identify which statements are true. • Which of the following would be the most suitable summary of the whole text? • Which statement is the best summary for the whole of page... • Look at the first two paragraphs. Which sentence below best describes the...

If you have any questions with your child's readings, please contact your child's class teacher.

Positive Thinking

***Don't start your day with the broken pieces of yesterday.
Every day is a fresh start. Every day is a new beginning.
Every morning we wake up is the first day of the rest of our life.***

As always, if there is anything at all you would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I hope your children enjoy their half-term – they are all more than ready for it! Hopefully you will be able to enjoy some time with your children during their break too. Enjoy making memories with them. They won't be children for long....

Best Wishes,

Jane Davis

Mrs Jane Davis
(Head Teacher)

Top Tips for SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING

If your child loves video games, then you'll probably be aware that how long they spend gaming – and what they're actually playing – can occasionally become a source of concern or conflict. The UK's trade body for interactive entertainment, Ukie, has recently launched a campaign to promote safer and more responsible gaming among young people – with parents and carers helping by setting sensible and fair boundaries. Our guide has tips on key areas where you could agree some healthy ground rules for your child's gaming activity.

PROMOTE SAFER GAME CHOICES

Deciding which online games are OK – and which should be avoided – is tricky. Some titles allow children to cooperate or compete with strangers, which creates potential risks. Watching your child play online for a while could provide more insight into a particular game, while the parental controls on most consoles allow you to limit who can chat to your child or send them friend requests. Remind your child of the hazards around strangers online when you discuss this boundary with them.

ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS

Help your child understand the need to take regular breaks, playing in shorter bursts rather than marathon sessions. Bear in mind that some games (such as role-playing games) require time investment from the player, while others (online team games, for example) can't be stopped or paused at a moment's notice. A quick break every hour or so is good practice, and you could suggest some things to do in these breaks, such as having a drink of water or getting some fresh air.

AGREE SPENDING LIMITS

There's no doubt that gaming can be expensive, and younger players often don't realise how much paying for digital items and subscriptions can add up to. Many young gamers love to buy new skins or upgrades for their character, so you could settle on a fixed amount that your child is allowed to spend on in-game items each week or month. This sort of boundary will not only help your child to manage their expectations but will also make you more aware of the price of these items.

DISCUSS AGE RATINGS

Children often ignore the age ratings on games – or are unaware they even exist. If you're happy with your child playing a particular game even though it's rated above their age, then establish that as a boundary: emphasise that you've made an exception, and talk about what age ratings mean and why they're important. You could add context to this boundary by browsing games' boxes together while shopping, discussing why some games might have earned certain age ratings.

18
CENSORED

FACTOR IN FRIENDS

If your child is a keen video gamer, the chances are that they'll have other gamers among their social circle, too. When friends visit, do they instantly dash to their console or computer? You could put boundaries in place before their guests arrive by agreeing on a length of gaming time. Bear in mind, though, that they may try to extend this once they're together. Try coming up with activities or challenges for them during screen breaks – if they join in, they earn a little extra time on their game.

ENJOY GAMING TOGETHER

Setting time aside to play video games together can be an enjoyable bonding exercise. Undeniably, some young gamers may be less enthusiastic about a parent or carer joining in, but it can be a productive way of encouraging them to share their hobby with you. Setting goals or tasks might be useful: if they love Minecraft, choose something to build together; if Fortnite's their favourite, ask to try out some of the fun game modes, like Prop Hunt, which don't require high skill levels.

TALK ABOUT EMOTIONS

Help your child to monitor their emotions as they play. Discuss what is (and isn't) an acceptable level of competitiveness to show while gaming. Are they allowed to trash talk other players, for example? Can they notice when they get angry if they lose? Do they think these emotions are healthy? Some games can provoke anger, but others can bring joy, humour and the thrill of overcoming a challenge. Try to steer your child towards games that tend to produce these more positive feelings.

BE PREPARED FOR TROLLS

A frequent problem when gaming online is other players who are deliberately troublesome. Make sure your child knows how to report and block someone who makes their experience a negative one. Between you, decide if or how they should deal with these online trolls. Talk about where your child's boundaries are in terms of what they think is acceptable: what behaviour by other users is merely frustrating, and what crosses the line to become upsetting or abusive.

Meet Our Expert

Daniel Lipscombe is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. He has also written 16 guidebooks for children, covering games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft. With work published by the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and VG247, he has reviewed more than 50 games and products over the past year.



Source: <https://hipolapp/about/privacy.html>



@natonlinesafety



/NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety



@national_online_safety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 13.09.2023

NOS National
Online
Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday