



LANCHESTER E.P. (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



Weekly Bulletin 1 – Friday 12th January 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy new year to you all! I hope you have all had a very enjoyable Christmas and New Year – it feels like the holidays have flown by but I am sure the children enjoyed the time they had after Christmas! The end of last term was so busy with all our nativities, the Christingle Service, trips out, Christmas parties, carols round the tree – it really was a lovely way to end the term. We were really grateful too that Santa Claus could spare his time to be with us at our parties and fair too.

We are back up to full speed now – it really is great to see how quickly the children have settled back into their routines! As usual, we have an action packed half term and I have included some of the key dates at the end of this letter.

SIAMS Inspection Report

I am sure you will remember that at the beginning of December, we also had our SIAMS inspection (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) which we had been expecting for a little while. I am delighted to share the report with you which is attached to this letter. We felt the whole process and outcome was very fair. Canon Revd Steven Harvey thought the children were delightful and he certainly had an exceptionally busy day finding out so much about our school in such a short space of time. I would also like to thank all our parents and members of the community who gave up their time to talk to the inspector – we really did greatly appreciate it!

Revd Rupert Kalus

I am very sorry to inform you that Revd Rupert Kalus will be leaving our village and parish next month to take up a new position to become Vicar of St. Mary's and All Souls, Kilburn, and St. James, West Hampstead in the Diocese of London. Whilst we are delighted for him, obviously we will miss him tremendously as he has brought so much to our school during the five and a half years he has been here. I would like to personally thank him for his time and dedication to our school, leading Worship weekly, leading FROG Club, as a valued member of our governing body and not to mention his pastoral support to all in our school. He will certainly be a very hard act to follow! I am sure you will all join with me in wishing him all the very best in his new role.

Monday 15th January 2018 at 10 a.m.

On Monday morning, Irene Wilkinson will be leading our assembly, talking to the children about Save the Children. Our Christmas Jumper day was in aid of this very worthwhile charity when we raised a superb £182.00. She will be explaining to the children more about the work of the charity and the good causes it supports.

Tuesday 16th January 2018 – Kwik Cricket Tournament

Some of our Year 5 & 6 children will be taking part in a Kwik Cricket Tournament at the Louisa Centre on Tuesday night from 4 – 5.30 p.m. Children who are participating in this have all been given a letter. I am sure they will thoroughly enjoy the experience.

Tuesday 16th January 2018 – Community Flu Jab

For any of you still wishing to have a flu jab, we have been informed that there is a community session at One Point Hub (next to the Louisa Centre), Stanley on Tuesday 16th January between 3 pm and 5 pm.

Tuesday 16th January 2018 – Parents Meeting re BETT Show at 5.30 pm

We are very fortunate to be able to take four lucky children to the BETT show in London again during the last weekend in January. Joseph Potter, Aaron O'Keefe, Emily Thirlwell and Ellen Jewson will be demonstrating various programmes and apps during their time at the BETT show. A meeting will be held at 5.30 pm to share the itinerary and explain in more detail what they will be doing during their time in London.

Wednesday 17th January 2018 – Students from China in school

On Wednesday afternoon we will be welcoming two students from China who are currently studying at Durham University. They will be talking to the children about their own culture and country and the similarities and differences to this country. I am sure all of the children will thoroughly enjoy the experience. Some classes will not meet the students next week but will have the opportunity when they return to our school the following week.

Thursday 18th January 2018 – Teddy Bear Picnic for A. A. Milne's Birthday

We are celebrating the birthday of A. A. Milne, born on January 18th 1882. A. A. Milne is the creator of the much loved bear Winnie the Pooh and his stories are still enjoyed by adults and children alike. To celebrate this, we

would like all children to bring in a soft toy to enjoy a Teddy Bear Picnic at lunchtime in the hall. If any pupils who are on packed lunch would like to stay for a buffet style picnic lunch on this day, please return your form (which will be sent out on a separate sheet) to the School Office by Monday 15th January.

Reception Intake for September 2018

If your child is in Nursery and is due to move into Reception in September (if they were born between 1st September 2013 and 31st August 2014) you must apply for a place through the Local Authority at <http://www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions>. **The deadline for applications is this Monday - 15th January 2018.**

Please note, places are allocated through the Local Authority and we cannot guarantee that if your child attends our Nursery that you will get a place in Reception. We do advise that you apply before the deadline, as failure to do so means you may not get any of your preferences.

Junior Choir Performing at the Gala Theatre, Durham – Tuesday 6th February 2018 at 6 p.m.

Our school is exceptionally fortunate to have been chosen to be one of only five schools in County Durham to take part in a mini-opera with Mahogany Operas. These 'snappy operas' have been written specifically for primary-aged children and are what their title suggests – short and snappy! Our school choir will be performing 'The Itch Witch' which is all about nits! The children will have three rehearsals in school before performing at the Gala Theatre on Tuesday 6th February at 6 p.m. Tickets are now available for the performance and are £4 (£2 concessions) and are available from Gala Theatre box office www.galadurham.co.uk 03000 266 600. It is likely to be a very popular event so if parents are wanting to go, I strongly suggest purchasing tickets soon.

Foundation Stage News (Nursery and Reception)

In Nursery, we have had a great first week, both for our returners and our new starters. Over the next week or so, we will be making some changes to our groups to accommodate our new children and to support some developing friendships. We will have an additional family group, the Meerkats, who will be led by Mrs Sharron Davis. We will let you know which group your child will be in as soon as we have settled back into a good routine. Over the next week, we will also be changing the story groups so you may find you will be collecting your child from a different place in Nursery at the end of the day. Please bear with us throughout these changes. Our aim is to be as consistent as possible and to create routines which support the children's well-being as best we can, so any changes we make are carefully considered.

Over the next term, we are planning to visit Lanchester Library with the Nursery children in their family groups. The first group to visit will be the Flamingo Group on Thursday 25th of January, leaving Nursery at 9.30 am and returning by 10.30 am. If you are able to accompany us on this visit, please let a member of the Nursery Staff know.

Please remember to let us know about your child's WOW moments. WOW slips are freely available in both Nursery and Reception classrooms. The children get such a boost from sharing their special moments with their teachers and friends.

We are always looking for ways to raise the profile of reading and story in the Early Years. If you might be interested in coming in to Nursery or Reception on a one-off basis as a 'Surprise Storyteller' we would love to hear from you. If you want to know more, please pop into Nursery and have a chat with Miss Butler.

Nursery stories next week will be 'Goldilocks and the Three Potties', 'Duck in the Truck', 'Chicken Licken', 'Paper Dolls' and 'One Winter's Day', and our songs for next week are 'Marching Monday' and 'When I look around' by our absolute favourites, Tiny Tweeties. In Reception, the children will be doing lots of work around 'The Mitten'.

A final reminder: our cloakroom areas are still very congested. Please do not send your child to school with a backpack, as there is not room for them to hang on the coat pegs and still allow their classmates to hang up their coats. A simple drawstring bag is just perfect for their spare clothes/wellies. Remember to write your child's name clearly on bags, wellies, coats, cardigans etc. so that all lost property can be promptly returned. Thank you!

After School Clubs

We really are very fortunate to be able to offer so many different after school clubs in school – thanks to the commitment of the staff. The after school and lunchtime clubs for this half term are all listed below.

	Lunchtime	After School	Year Groups	Adult
Monday	---	Netball	Years 3 & 4	Mrs Grieve & Mrs Smith
		Booster	Year 6	Mr Taylor, Mrs Davis, Mr Mordue, Mr Knighton
Tuesday	KS2 Choir	---	Years 3 - 6	Mrs Knighton
Wednesday		Art Club	Year 1	Miss Honan
		Story Telling	Year 1 & 2	Miss Sara Butler
		Digital Leaders	Years 3 - 6	Mr Bailey
		Booster	Year 6	Mr Taylor, Mrs Davis, Mr Mordue, Mr Knighton
		Dodgeball	Year 5	Mr Graham
	KS2 Choir	---	Years 3 - 6	Mrs Knighton
Thursday	---	Science Club	Year 6	Durham High School
		Football	Year 6	SAFC
		iPad Photography	Years 5 & 6	Mr McLoughlin
		Netball	Years 5 & 6	Mrs Grieve, Mrs Smith
Friday	Homework Club	---	Years 3 - 6	Mr Stephenson
	Eco Rangers	---	Years 2 - 6	Mrs Startup
	Singing Club	---	Years 1 & 2	Mrs Knighton

Juice Fund

Once again, we are asking for a small contribution this half term of £2.50 (50p per week) towards our fund for juice and biscuits that the children enjoy every Friday afternoon. They do look forward to this social time with their class but it also does help our school funds. We make significant contributions during the year to a number of additional activities and events for the children including additional resources for the classrooms. Please complete the form below along with your £2.50 donation. Thank you. Payment can now also be made on ParentPay.

As usual, if there is anything at all that you would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact me at school. Alternatively, you can email me at: j.davis@lanchesterep.net and I will do my best to reply as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Jane Davis
Head Teacher

School Juice Fund

I enclose £2.50 for the Juice Fund for this half term.

Name of child: _____

Signature: _____