



LANCHESTER E.P. (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



Weekly Bulletin 6 – Friday 20th October 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am sure your children are more than ready for a break. This has been quite a busy half term for them all, especially our younger children. I hope they all enjoy a lovely week off and return on Monday 30th October ready for an even busier half term ahead!

Holiday Club in School – Monday 23rd & Tuesday 24th October

It is not too late to book your children in for our Holiday Club on Monday 23rd October and Tuesday 24th October. Holiday Club runs from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. or you can just book for a morning or afternoon. Forms are available from the Main Office or our website.

Mr Knighton - Deputy Head Teacher starting – Monday 30th October

I am delighted to inform you that Mr Knighton will be joining us sooner than anticipated and will be starting with us immediately after half term. This is excellent news for our school as it means we have increased capacity to drive forward our school improvement plans. Mr Knighton will have a week to familiarise himself with the school and routines and will start teaching alongside Mrs Coyle and Mr Stephenson in Year 3 from Monday 6th November. I know he is really looking forward to meeting all the children and parents.

Stay and Play Day in Foundation Stage – Wednesday 1st November 2017

We would love you to come along to our **EYFS Autumn Stay and Play Day** on **Wednesday 1st November**. Sessions will run from **9am - 10am** and **2.15pm - 3.15pm**. Come along to explore the Nursery and Reception classrooms with your child and take part in some Autumn crafts, songs and stories. Younger siblings are welcome but due to space restrictions, pushchairs must be left in the outdoor shelter at your own risk. Thank you.

Friends of the School Meeting – Wednesday 1st November at 6.30pm

After our really positive initial meeting last month, we are hoping that some more interested parents might be able to come along. We will be discussing our forthcoming events and sharing some of our ideas and suggestions. Hope to see you there!

Rehearsal for Concert – Thursday 2nd November 3.30 – 4.30pm

All children performing in the concert on Saturday afternoon are needed for a full rehearsal after school on Thursday. We will be rehearsing during the day when possible, but it is essential that we get together to run through the whole programme after school.

Concert at Blackhill Methodist Church – 3 pm Saturday 4th November 2017

Please can all children meet in the church hall no later than 2.45 p.m. Thank you.

Additional Part-Time Teacher

We will be advertising for a part-time teacher to join us from January 2018. This will be to work in Year 4 so that the class of 35 children can be split into two separate classes for Maths and English. Again, this is a very positive move forward for our school as that particular cohort has always been in one large class. Up until now, we have not had the space or budget to be able to accommodate this. However, the governors are committed to ensuring the smallest teacher to pupil ratio as possible and thankfully, our budget now allows for this to happen.

Pencil Cases & Rucksacks

An increasing number of children are bringing bulky pencil cases into school and this is causing a number of issues in the classroom. Therefore I am really sorry, but after half term, we are asking children not to bring pencil cases into school and just to use the equipment provided by school. Interestingly, unbeknown to me, one of our classes has actually been debating this very point this week and also agreed by 60:40 to ban them! So even the children are recognising the distractions and issues they are causing! Thank you for your help with this matter. Also we would like to remind parents that children should not be bringing rucksacks into school, as we have not got space to store them and they were banned last year because of this.

Poppies on Sale

Our School Council will be selling poppies across the school the first two weeks after half term. Any children wishing to make a donation for a poppy should bring the money into school and the children will sell them every afternoon.

Christmas Shoe Boxes

As mentioned in the previous letter, we have decided to join the Rotary Club's Shoebox scheme. This is very similar to the shoebox scheme we usually run, although this time the boxes are provided. Boxes can be filled with gifts for all ages, not just children, so you decide who you would like to receive your gift and fill a box with suitable items for that person. We ask for a donation of £2 per box toward the cost of transport. For many, it will be the first present that they have ever received and it lets them know that somebody, somewhere cares. More information about this will be sent home after half term. In the past, we have collected shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. This year, we are doing something similar but different. You may want to start collecting your items for the boxes over the half term holiday!

Foundation Stage News

The EYFS outdoor area is finally open for use and Nursery and Reception children have loved exploring the new facilities this week. We will be outside every day now in all weathers, so please make sure you provide your child with clothes suitable for the time of year. Please, please ensure that coats and wellies are clearly labelled with your child's name to avoid lost items and upset children.

With the outdoor in mind, we would welcome any donations of old pots and pans and metal or wooden utensils for our mud kitchen. Please think of us when you clear out your cupboards!

Over the holiday, we would love you to take part in our #AutumnSelfie challenge. October is a fantastic month to get outside and explore the autumn environment. We challenge you and your child to take an #AutumnSelfie and either post it on Twitter @lanchesterep or email it to us at school for us to print and share with the children when we come back after the holiday. The only rule is that you must have some Autumnal fun taking your #AutumnSelfie!

Nursery stories for the week after the Holiday are 'Some Bugs', 'Spider Sandwiches', 'What's in the Witch's Kitchen', 'Go Away Big Green Monster' and 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears'. We will be reviewing all our previous songs of the week, so look out for a new song next week.

After School Clubs

	Lunchtime	After School	Year Groups	Adult
Monday	---	Rugby	Year 4	Consett Rugby Club
		Netball	Years 3 & 4	Mrs Grieve & Mrs Smith
		Booster	Year 6	Mrs Davis, Mr Taylor, Mr Mordue, Mr Knighton
Wednesday	---	Singing Group	Years 3 -6	Mrs Knighton
		Booster	Year 6	Mrs Davis, Mr Taylor, Mr Mordue, Mr Knighton
		Cricket	Years 4 & 5	Durham County Cricket Club
	Board Games		Year 6	Mrs Tate
Thursday	---	Art Club	Year 5 & 6	Miss Jackson
		Football	Year 2	SAFC
		Netball	Years 5 & 6	Mrs Grieve & Mrs Smith
		Christmas Arts & Crafts	Years 3 & 4	Mrs Grayson
Friday	Singing Club		Years 1 & 2	Mrs Knighton

Choir – Saturday mornings at All Saints Church 10 – 11a.m.

A new community children's choir has started at All Saints Church every Saturday morning between 10 and 11 am. It is open to any interested children. Feel free to go along and see what it is all about!

Maths Information Session for Parents – Tuesday 7th November 6 pm and 6.30 pm.

I know that some parents do struggle helping their children with homework due to the mental methods that we use in school. So, we are holding two sessions for parents where we will go over the methods we use in school and explain how we teach all 4 methods of calculation. At 6 pm, the focus will be for our KS1 parents followed by an additional session at 6.30 pm for our KS2 parents. Of course, you can always stay for both sessions if you are keen!

Booster Classes for Year 6

Mr Taylor, Mr Mordue, Mr Knighton and myself will be starting Maths Booster Classes straight after half term for our Year 6 children. These will begin on Wednesday 1st November and then take place every Monday and Wednesday evening. The children really look forward to these fun sessions which just help prepare them a little more for the end of year statutory tests they will be taking. All Year 6 children will have the opportunity to attend these classes but letters will go out on the first day back to those children who we would like to attend this half term.

As usual, if there is anything at all that you would like to talk about, or that is concerning you, please do not hesitate to contact me at school. We are here to help you and your child.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Jane Davis
Head Teacher