



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 too.

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.

It has certainly been a very busy summer holiday with our refurbishment programme continuing in school. The two Year 1 classrooms have been decorated and are now re-organised for Year 1 children. The extension is nearing its completion and we are just impatiently waiting for our new climbing frame to be installed outside. It is lovely to see the children taking such pride in their environment – they do appreciate it and make sure that others do too!

Our results from the summer tests are featured later and, as usual, we are above national average in all key stages and all subjects. In addition to academic achievement, we believe in providing as many enrichment activities as possible. We have residential visits to PGL in 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 and an overnight visit to Gibside for Years 3&4. Each year group will also have educational visits most terms with Year 2 being the first, heading off to Shildon Locomotion Museum just before half term.

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. We regularly hear parents saying they did not know about certain events we have on. However, 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 given to the children every Friday. All our weekly letters and newsletters can also be found on our website: <http://www.lanchesterep.durham.sch.uk> so even if your child is absent, you can still find out what is happening! If you have the eSchools app, all letters will also be available on this as well.

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 would like to express my heartfelt thanks to you for all of your lovely messages of love and support after the death of Mrs Lesley Harris. We all really do appreciate your understanding at this difficult time. Thank you. Mrs Harris will be remembered with great fondness by us all.



Miss Nicola Dodds has been working with us since Easter on a temporary basis during Mrs Harris' absence and she will continue with us for the foreseeable future. Miss Dodds is based in the Foundation Stage and is enjoying getting to know all the children there.




bonus.


Miss Charlotte Martin is teaching in Year 1 after working with the same class during the summer term of the last academic year. She is very familiar with the children already, which is a huge




Miss Sara Butler has not had the easiest start to her role as Head of our Foundation Stage! With no access to the outdoor environment, the Nursery still being painted during the first week of term and many issues surrounding the new extension, she has remained remarkably positive and calm (so far!). I am sure you will all get to know her very well over the course of the term.




Class DoJo – Behaviour Reward Scheme




It is lovely to hear so many ‘pings’ coming from all classrooms this half term. These noises come from ClassDoJo, which is used throughout the whole school to reward the children for the great things they are doing in school. The children collect points for displaying positive behaviour and attitudes. One of the great things about ClassDoJo is that everyone’s parents can also be connected, so that the positive behaviour can also be celebrated at home. Whilst ClassDoJo also provides a messaging service, we are not using that part of it and ask parents to email the class teachers instead. The children love this system and just seem to thrive on praise.




Open Evening and Morning 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 an evening/morning as well. So, on Monday 9th October at 6 pm and on Friday 13th October at 10 am we are giving parents the opportunity to visit our Reception classrooms and meet the staff. Please book a place on either of these visits with the Main School Office. 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.




Buddies




Our new Year 5 buddies are well into their training and are almost ready to take over from the existing buddies on the playground. Our buddies provide a great support during break times, especially to our younger children. They play games and are generally there to support peers at a child level. They are very keen and cannot wait to get started!




Rota-Kids



A dedicated and enthusiastic group of children from Years 2 - 6 worked closely with the Rotary Club to organise a number of fundraisers, which were very successful. The money raised has touched the lives of children and adults in our local area and abroad! What an achievement Rotakids - you should be very proud of yourselves because we certainly are! We look forward to a new year with a new team. Look out for our first event next term!



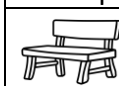
Reading Shed



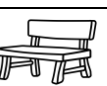
An exciting addition to the school grounds appeared in the holidays - a reading shed! The children will be able to relax and enjoy a good book at break times and lunchtimes!

Wanted!!!

Are there any parents or relatives with a little bit of spare time who would be willing to paint trees and book characters on the inside walls of the shed? The vision is to bring the outside inside! We have artificial grass for the flooring and wheelbarrows to store the books. The children can't wait to use it! Please see Mrs Startup if interested. Thank you so much.




Outdoor Quiet/Reflection Area



Along with the reading shed, we are also having the top end of the Junior yard re-developed. The grassed area, which often ended up as a mud bath, has been removed and bark laid in its place. We have purchased some stepping stones and garden furniture which will be located in this area so that children can enjoy some quiet time with some sensory activities. The stepping stones have some of our Christian values carved on them and we hope that the children can spend some reflection time in here during a playtime. Hopefully, it will be finished in time for the parents’ evenings so you can all see it!

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. I do hope you are finding our new providers more reliable – we are certainly very pleased with both their quality and reliability. If you have any questions about uniform orders, please contact Moette Ltd. directly. The phone number is 0191 373 5995. Please remember, that due to limited space in the cloakrooms, we ask that children bring a book bag rather than a backpack to school. Thank you.



Parking



Yes – it is that same topic which continues to cause issues around school and yes – I am going to have a moan again! Parking is an issue around many schools in England. However, our school has a particular problem in that nearly half our families live outside the village and therefore have no choice but to drive to school. However, what all parents do have a choice over is where to park. I regularly receive complaints about inconsiderate parking by our parents. Some parents try to park as near to the school as possible and don't seem to mind whether that is on double yellow lines, the zig-zags, the path or the grass. By doing this, it appears that these parents do not care about the safety of our children. But to me, this is of paramount importance. I have seen for myself the most careless and irresponsible parking from some parents. Will it take a child to be knocked over before this stops? I hope not.

Please consider not only whether it is legal and safe to park where you do, but also have some consideration for local residents. Last year it was residents in Victoria Terrace who were frustrated with us, now it is residents in Lee Hill Court as parents are parking across driveways, on the paths and on their grass too. We pride ourselves on having good relationships with the local community but I do sense that their patience is wearing thin.

What is the solution to this problem? Well – please remember that we have an agreement with Lanchester Social Club for any parents to park in their car park. Also, sometimes the far side of the village is so much quieter.

I am also looking into the possibility of a Walking Bus from the Kings Head Car Park. These enquiries are just in the early stages and I will be surveying parents shortly as to whether this is something they would like to make use of. A walking bus is when adults walk the children to and from school from a location away from the immediate vicinity of the school. If this was based at the Kings Head, parents could park there to drop their children off and collect them on an evening. Please give this your consideration before the surveys come out soon.

Meanwhile, please think twice before parking irresponsibly or dangerously. We will not let any child go until their adult is there for them... and thank you to all those parents who do park carefully and respectfully.



Rights Respecting Schools



This half-term the Rights Respecting Schools Steering Group will be meeting to introduce an Information Station session each week, linked to the rights of children. We will be modelling how to research and present information linked to Rights Respecting Schools to show our care and interest in other children around the world. We are presently in the process of applying for our UNICEF UK Recognition of Commitment, which will then lead on to Level One status during this academic year. The Steering Group will be working hard with all pupils, parents, staff and governors and the community to achieve this. We are sure that you will be excited to join us on our journey!



Life in Reception



We have had a fabulous start in Reception. We are loving our new rooms and have quickly learned the new routine. You should see our brand new PE kits all hanging on our new coat pegs! It has been so fun seeing our old friends from Nursery and even more fun to make new friends.

We have already made a great start to phonics – we are Word Box Heroes and Weekly Reader Champions! We love all the new Maths activities and games and we are learning to establish a firm foundation in number skills. All the super songs and special stories have been spectacular and we look forward to all the new things we are going to learn and do in RE and Science. If the first three weeks are a measure of the year to come we have some terrific times ahead of us!



Christian Values



We are currently reviewing our core values in school with all stakeholders. We are consulting with the children through our Worship Leaders as well as the governors and staff to reflect on our current values and whether we still consider them to be the most important and appropriate for our school. We will also be asking for your views. Please give this your careful consideration. Currently, our values are based around compassion, trust, hope, justice and love. Obviously there are many more values to be considered and further communication will follow next week around this.



Erasmus+ Projects



As you may know, our school has a long history of working with partner schools all across Europe. This has given our children the opportunity to visit many different countries over the years. We are pleased to announce that we have been successful in being selected to receive funding for two new and exciting projects that will run between now and July 2019.

The first project is with some existing partner schools in Germany, Italy and Hungary. This project is focused on reading and how it can help to promote inclusion. The second project is with some new partner schools. These schools are in Poland, Finland, Spain, Italy, Cyprus, Greece and Turkey. This project is about giving children the opportunity to write for different purposes and it will allow staff to learn new methods of teaching writing from our partner schools.

For both projects, there will be opportunities for children to visit some of the partner schools and we are very excited about what we will all learn over the next two years!



School Tuck Shop for Years 1-6



Our new School Council took part in some training with Lisa from 'Fruit to Suit' on Tuesday afternoon to run this year's healthy tuck shop. The councillors now have their own roles for the tuck shop, such as finance managers and stock controllers. The tuck shop will sell a range of healthy drinks and snacks such as apple juice, spicy noodles and flavoured raisins. All snacks/drinks are sold for 50p. Children can bring £1 maximum to buy two snacks if they wish. The days we will be selling are:

Monday - Y1/2

Wednesday - Y3/4

Friday - Y5/6

This will start next week and will take place in the hall each morning break time on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. All profits go back into the school fund.



Worship Leaders



Each class have chosen a girl and boy to represent them as Worship Leaders. They will be working alongside Mrs Davis, Mr Osmond and Rev. Kalus. Throughout the school year, our Worship Leaders will have the important job of feeding back the opinions of their class about worship within school and thinking of ideas for how we can improve it. The Worship Leaders will have other decisions to make such as choosing Christian artwork for the school corridors and reviewing our school's Christian values. Our Worship Leaders are:

Year 1 – Jonah Grady, Sophia Raw, Leon Baines, Annabel Moore

Year 2 – Daniel Garside, Matilda Woolcock, Joseph Davis, Lucymae Stuart

Year 3 – Toby Moore, Scarlett Dixon, Jimmy Quinn, Eden Graham

Year 4 – Daniel Zettle, Caitlin Atkinson

Year 5 – Ethan Lloyd, Nola Boyd, Alfie Thompson, Mae Deaville

Year 6 – Christian Bowes, Emma Fullerton



School Council



A brand new School Council has been elected for this year. The children have been voting for one boy and one girl from their class to represent them. Well done to everyone who has been elected! We now have 22 School Councillors (from Y1-6) which is a record number! We already had a very important job as we welcomed Laura Pidcock MP to our school on Wednesday 20th September. Our School Councillors took part in a Q&A session with Laura where they found out about being an MP. They will also be involved in the forthcoming Deputy Head Teacher Interviews.

Year 1 – Lily Hope, Jonah Grady, Jessica Tweddle, Matthew Coyle

Year 2 – Jay Hepplewhite, Rose Pinnick, Aaron Blackwood, Keira Morris

Year 3 – Holly Sant, Tom Jewson, Alexis Rogers, Alfie Bromley

Year 4 – Thomas Sunter, Eloise Rogers

Year 5 – George Stephenson, Steffi Coyle, Charlie Tooke, Phoebe Baker

Year 6 – Henry Elder, Emily Colledge, Emelia Davison, John McGilvray



Arts Leaders



During the Summer Term, the Arts Leaders worked hard to design a front cover for an Art Passport. This is going to be introduced to the rest of the school during this term. It will allow children to record their experiences in the Arts, both in and out of School. This might involve a theatre visit, Art workshop or trip to a gallery as well as musical activities and excursions. There are also going to be some large Art projects taking place in school over the next few months. You will start to notice some of these appearing in the new extension. The Arts leaders will have an important part to play in this so definitely lots of exciting times ahead!



Sports News



Our PE and school sport provision has continued this year with a range of clubs and coaching sessions. We have continued our strong relationship with SAFC who are now with us twice a week. This half term they are working with Year 1 and Year 4. They are also holding an after school football school club with Year 3 for this half term.

We have linked up again with Consett Rugby Club who are working with Year 5 and 6 for this half term. They are also holding an after school club with Year 4 which is very popular.

Our netball club in KS2 with Mrs Grieve and Mrs Smith is proving once again to be very popular. Over 40 children attended the first session which is very encouraging. However, due to these high numbers, it is essential to split the club over two nights. So, from next week, Year 3 & 4 netball will be held on a Monday and Year 5 & 6 on a Thursday. This will be much better for all involved.

In KS2 we also have upcoming football fixtures for our boys and girls teams to look forward to in their league campaigns.



ParentPay



Thank you to everyone who has signed up to our new online payment system, ParentPay. I hope you are finding it useful, easy and convenient to use.

For those of you who don't know, the system allows you to pay for school meals and wrap around care online. For further information or if you would like to sign up, please contact Miss Rippon in the school office for your child's unique username and password to set up your account. We have been so pleased with the positive feedback we have had from parents and have already noticed a difference to the amount of cash coming into school.

In due course we hope to offer more items to pay for on-line, such as school trips and juice money. You can, of course, still pay by alternative methods where necessary.



P.E. Kits



It is very important that ALL children keep their P.E. kits in school for the whole week. Please also remember that our uniform policy states that children should wear a P.E. top in their house colour. These are available to order from our suppliers. It is important that all our children have this uniform for their P.E. lessons as it is just as important as their normal daily uniform. Thank you for your support in this matter.



Writing Targets



Next week, all children in Years 2 – 6 will be given their new writing targets now that they have completed their first piece of assessed writing. These targets are sent home with your child so that you know which area of writing we are working on with them in school. This means that we are able to work well together to ensure the very best for your child. Please make sure your child gives them to you!

Life in Nursery



Our Nursery children continue to bounce into school and just love the new room and equipment! They are thoroughly enjoying all their stories during the week. Next week, the stories of the week will be: Walking Through the Jungle, Pete the Cat (I Love My White Shoes), The Three Little Pigs, The Very Hungry Caterpillar and Peace at Last. Our song for the week is 5 Little Speckled Frogs. Many thanks too for the contributions to our Wow Wall in Nursery. It's fantastic to share the children's achievements. Look out for the Wow Walls in Reception next week!

Ski Trip



Our ski trip is quickly approaching and unfortunately so are the payment dates! A minimum of £270 should have been paid by now with another £100 due by 29th September and £100 by the end of October. A meeting will be organised for later this term when more information about the week will be made available. It is going to be another amazing experience for both the children and adults going and one which I know they will just love!

Reading and Book Fair Week



We have our first Creativity Week coming up the week beginning Monday 2nd October when we hope to foster a love of reading with all our children. We have a number of different activities during the week including a Book Fair in school, Play in a Day for Year 1 and Year 4, a coffee afternoon in aid of MacMillan as well as a number of class-based activities too. I am sure the children will make the most of the many and different reading opportunities during the week!

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 speech on why they thought that they would be suitable for the position. Mrs Tate and Mr Taylor were very impressed at the quality of the presentations and it was clear that a lot of thought had been put into them - they were pleased they didn't have to choose themselves! The final vote was very close but the captains that were elected to these highly prestigious positions were:

	CAPTAINS	VICE-CAPTAINS
ROMANS	Tom Wealleans and Phoebe Goldsmith	Jake Collins and Jemima Lyonette
SAXONS	Benjamin Leckenby and Ellie Somerville	Liam Blake and Abby Oxley
DANES	Hattie Hockaday and Logan Lomas	Oliver Handy and Zoe Brown
NORMANS	Lewis Nicholson and Lucy Rodriguez	Harry O'Sullivan-Brown and Ava Bullerwell

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. House points are awarded to the children for good work, effort, kindness, manners and a variety of other things. Class DoJo points are also converted to the house points when they are collected at the end of the week. Friendly competition exists among all the children (and staff) who are keen for their houses to be the best they can!

Holiday Club



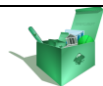
Our Holiday Club will be held on Monday 23rd October and Tuesday 24th October, the first two days of the October half term holiday. Forms will be sent home with all the children and advance booking is advisable. These holiday clubs are proving increasingly popular. Our teaching assistants are here to entertain your children with a variety of sport, arts and crafts activities. The holiday club runs from 8 am to 5 pm and prices are on the forms.

On-line Safety Lessons



Our Computing work this half term is all centred around on-line safety and ensuring our children know how to keep safe when they are online. This is a life skill and one which we need to tackle at all ages. All children, from Reception to Year 6, will be enjoying some lessons and activities on this theme. On **Tuesday 3rd October** come along to school at 2.15 p.m. and enjoy a coffee while Mr Bailey delivers a parental Online Safety session. Following this, the book fair will also be open. I am sure you will find this to be a very important and informative session.

All About Me Boxes



The Foundation Stage staff would like to say a huge thank you to all Nursery parents for the beautiful All About Me boxes you have put together for your children over the summer holidays. It is obvious that so much time and effort has been put into them and they have been a wonderful way to learn about the children's interests and the people who are important to them. All the information gleaned from the boxes will be used to plan areas and activities too. Thank you all so much!

Digital Leaders



We will once more be introducing our successful Digital Leaders programme this academic year. Last year our Digital Leaders presented at the BETT Show in London, to North East teachers at Lanchester Live and at the Durham ICT Conference at Durham County Cricket Ground. In addition to this they also performed an Online Safety assembly to pupils and parents and took part in numerous Computing workshops during the academic year.

We are wanting to extend the range of opportunities for our Digital Leaders during this academic year and so this year we will be running 'Digital Leaders' as a weekly club. The sessions will start after October half-term (exact date to be confirmed) and will take place on a Wednesday evening from 3:30pm - 4:30pm. The sessions will be led by Mr Bailey and other members of our Lanchester staff. We will be choosing up to twenty Digital Leaders and we are inviting applications from pupils in Years 3 – 6.

Your child will shortly be receiving their application form and if they wish to apply, this should be completed and returned to school. We will choose the best twenty applicants to represent our school throughout this academic year. Applications are invited from those who were Digital Leaders last year, but this does not guarantee them a place for 2017-2018. Applications will be chosen purely on merit.

We have already lined up a return trip to London for BETT 2018 in January, a trip to the Midlands and numerous other activities throughout the North East. With so many fabulous opportunities on offer, we are sure that it is going to be another very difficult decision choosing our Digital Leaders again this year!

Reading Books



Reading is an essential, key ingredient to your child's academic success. Whilst we place great importance on this at school, it is statistically proven that the progress of those children who read regularly at home with parents is accelerated. All children have reading books which are sent home regularly. Please encourage your child to read as often as possible but please make sure that ALL reading books are returned to school.

All the children should also have a Reading Record. Please make the time to both listen to your children read and make a comment in their book. I know the staff have commented just how much they really appreciate all of the comments made and time taken by yourselves to listen to your children read. It really does make a difference. Thank you!

Holidays during Term-Time



We are receiving an increasing number of requests to take family holidays in term time. Government legislation states that these can only be authorised in 'exceptional circumstances'. Being unable to take time off during school holidays is not classed as exceptional circumstances. In addition to this, any family who take their child out of school for 7 days will be fined - £60 per parent per child. This is all detailed in the leaflet which accompanies this newsletter but I just thought it was worth pointing this out once more so that everyone is fully aware of the rules.

eSchools app



Our eSchools app is a great way of keeping up to date with what is going on in school. It is our preferred method of communication with parents: 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 without the chance of the letter being lost at the bottom of a school bag.

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 EP, 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 re-issue 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 – Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th October between 3.45 and 6 pm. We have listened to parent requests and extended the time for appointments on both evenings. Please note, that we are not starting parents' evenings during the school day this year. This is simply because we no longer have enough staff to cover our increasing number of classes and home time has become a challenge ensuring all children are dismissed safely. The booking system will be on eSchools again and we will let you know nearer the time when the booking system opens. Nursery parents have additional appointments, which will be confirmed closer to the time. 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.



Attendance



Last year was a very good year in terms of attendance, with the whole school achieving 96.7% attendance, which is slightly improved on the previous year's attendance of 96.5%. We also had a record number of 100% attendees for the whole school year, 33 children which is a huge achievement. This really is something to be proud of, as research published by the Department of Education recognises the huge impact missing school can have on children's life chances – by promoting attendance at this young age we can really make a difference to children's achievements and wellbeing in later life.

Attendance will continue to be a priority in school and we will send individual attendance certificates to parents on a regular basis. However, if your child drops below 95% at any time in the school year, you may receive a letter bringing this to your attention. It is worth knowing that 95% attendance is only 10 days absence over the whole year. New legislation was brought out recently which means that a child with 90% attendance or below is classed as a persistent absentee which is something I am sure we all want to avoid. This is the equivalent to 20 days absence over the whole year.



Ford Castle and PGL Residential



It was lovely to see so many of you at the meeting this week. If any parents were unable to make the meeting but would like more information, letters are available from the Main School Office or the website. All initial deposits are due by the end of this half term – Friday 21st October. If you have any further questions about either visit, please just ask or email me. Both will be very memorable visits for the children, I am sure!



Juice Money



I would just like to say a big thank you to all those parents who have returned their Juice Money for this half-term. This fund, which has been in place for some time, originated to generate a small amount of additional school funds. We have continued this over the years as the fund does serve a dual purpose. Firstly, every single week the children will enjoy some chill time with their peers, having juice and a biscuit. Secondly, the fund does give us a little profit throughout the year which we plough straight back into purchasing resources for your children. Whether it is baking with the children, planning adventurous art activities, organising additional visits or just buying some extras for exciting lessons, any small profit we have, makes a big difference to what we can offer your children. We really appreciate your support.

Vacancy for Parent Governor Role

Dr Simon Dewar has stepped down from his role as parent governor and I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all the commitment and dedication he has shown our school during his term of office. This does mean however that we have a vacancy on our board of governors for a parent. Our governing body is a very proactive group of individuals who help to drive school improvement. Please refer to our website for more information about the valuable role parent governors play in the life of the school.

Any parents interested in this role should email Mrs Davis: j.davis@lanchesterep.net by Friday 29th September with an expression of interest. If there is more than one parent who has expressed an interest, a parental ballot will be held.

Harvest Festival



We are approaching our Harvest Festival which is being held on Thursday 5th October. A service will be held in All Saints Church at 10 a.m. for children in Years 2 – 6 while Reception and Year 1 children will have their own harvest service in school. Nursery will celebrate Harvest on Wednesday 4th October. Parents, families and friends are invited to the Harvest Service in All Saints Church when Year 4 will be leading the service alongside Revd Kalus. For all harvest services, we are asking the children to bring in donations of tinned foods that will be donated to the People's Food Kitchen in Newcastle or local foodbanks. Any donations of money will also be given to these very worthwhile causes.

School Bank



Our school savings bank for children (run by Prince Bishops Community Bank) will be opening again at the beginning of October. For any new children, more information will be given out shortly by the Office, detailing how to join and start saving. We will inform you in the weekly letter where the bank will be held. However, it will re-open during the first week in October.

Twitter



Our number of Twitter followers continues to grow rapidly (907 as I write) and our pupils receive some amazing learning experiences via this platform. In the past few years we have interacted with authors such as Berlie Doherty (Street Child) and Francesca Simon (Horrid Henry), have spoken to Olympic gold medal winning athlete Denise Lewis and even had our writing viewed on-board the International Space Station by astronaut Tim Peake! The response from parents to our school Twitter account has also been very positive and we urge you to follow us: **@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 online, but request that you use generic terms such as my child, my son, my daughter etc. when commenting about specific children.



Parent Teacher Association (PTA)



It is a few years since the Friends of Lanchester E.P. School folded due to a lack of interest among parents. However, I do wonder whether the time is right to try and get another group started. We have so many parents who are interested in and so supportive of the school, that I would love to think that we have enough to start an active group who will not only fundraise for the school, but also organise social events and occasions for us all to enjoy together. Why not come along for coffee and cake on Tuesday 3rd October at 6 p.m. and we can take it from there? It would be good to see lots of you there!

School Holidays - Academic Year 2017 - 2018

Holiday	Closing Date	Date re-open for teaching purposes
Autumn Half Term	Friday 20 th October 2017	Monday 30 th October 2017
Christmas Holiday	Thursday 21 st December 2017	Monday 8 th January 2018
February Half Term	Friday 9 th February 2018	Monday 19 th February 2018
Easter Holiday	Thursday 29 th March 2018	Monday 16 th April 2018
May Day	Friday 4 th May 2018	Tuesday 8 th May 2018
Summer Half Term	Thursday 24 th May 2018	Monday 4 th June 2018
Summer Holiday	Friday 20 th July 2018	Tuesday 4 th September 2018

2017 Statutory Assessment Results

Early Years 2017

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. This data was also moderated by the Local Authority.

Percentage of children achieving a GLD

	School	National	Cohort
2017	74%		43
2016	73%	69%	44
2015	70%	66%	60

Year 1 Phonics Screening Test 2017

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
2017	83%		41
2016	81%	81%	59
2015	72%	77%	32

Percentage of children achieving the Expected Standard in the Year 2 Phonics Re-sit

	School	National	Cohort
2017	70%		10
2016	82%	67%	11
2015	38%	66%	8

Key Stage 1 Results 2017

Number in Cohort - 59

	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
School	76%	31%	76%	24%	73%	20%
National (2016)	74%	24%	73%	18%	65%	13%
2016 Results (Cohort 34)	74%	29%	76%	24%	71%	15%

Key Stage 2 Results 2017

Number in Cohort – 46

	Reading		Maths		GAPS		Writing	
	Achieved National Standard	Achieved High Scaled Score	Achieved National Standard	Achieved High Scaled Score	Achieved National Standard	Achieved High Scaled Score	Achieved National Standard	Working at Greater Depth
School	78%	35%	85%	22%	89%	41%	85%	20%
National	71%	25%	75%	23%	77%	31%	76%	18%
2016 Results (36)	76%	41%	73%	22%	73%	22%	76%	22%

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	78%	20%
National	61%	9%
2016 Results	70%	8%

Important Dates for 2017 - 2018

Year 1 & Year 2 Phonics Screening Test - Week Beginning Monday 11th June 2018

KS1 Statutory Assessment Tests - May 2018

KS2 Statutory Assessment Tests - Week Beginning Monday 14th May 2018



Appointment of Deputy Head Teacher



The interviews for the Deputy Head position will take place on Thursday 12th October. Obviously this is a key position within the school and we do hope that we are successful in making an appointment this time. The School Council will be involved in the interview process during the day as will many of the other children across school. I look forward to informing you of who the successful person is!



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 on the following page. 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. Now that so many of you have completed ours, we are also keen for you to complete the on-line questionnaire which is on the Ofsted website. Please go to: <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/> to complete the on-line questionnaire.

We have summarised many of the recurring comments on the next page. However, all comments will be discussed with the governing body at our next full meeting.

What are we doing well?

- Approachable, supportive and enthusiastic staff
- Kind and caring ethos
- Fantastic opportunities
- Excellent leadership
- Communication
- Combining Christian ethos with a very good education
- Creating a caring atmosphere in which the children learn and feel safe
- Wide range of learning activities which focus on the whole child
- Encouraging children to be happy, care for each other, look after one another and build friendships
- Great teaching and ease of contacting teachers
- The school is managed in such a way that children always come first, despite the pressures in education
- Caring ethos and the commitment to the wider community
- Great opportunities for the children
- Happy and enthusiastic children who just love coming to school

What could we do better?

- Remind children to hand homework in
- Provide homework 'crib sheets' for parents
- Consistent use of class dojo
- Have a facebook page as well as twitter
- Communication
- More dinner choices
- After school clubs on different days
- More sporting after school activities for younger children
- Parents' evenings to run later
- More/less homework

Other Comments

- Fantastic school, excellent teaching staff led by an inspiring Head Teacher
- Student leaders are an excellent opportunity
- Children very pleased with the huge number of specialist teachers that support them
- The commitment of the staff team is exemplary – the recent activities such as fun and fitness week, Yanomamo etc have been excellent and have shown such dedication from the whole staff team.
- I must comment on how the teachers at Lanchester go above and beyond their basic role
- A huge thank you to you and all the staff for making such precious memories for our kids and moulding them into independent individuals who believe they can achieve anything they put their minds to.
- Only positive comments for this lovely school and staff.
- Thank you for providing such a lovely school for our children!



Parent & Carer Questionnaire - Summer 2017



60 Returns

		Strongly Agree/ Agree	Disagree/ Strongly Disagree	No Answer
1	My child likes coming to Lanchester Endowed Parochial Primary School.	98%	2%	
2	My child feels safe at this school.	95%	2%	3%
3	Teaching is good at this school.	98%	2%	
4	My child is making good progress.	98%	2%	
5	I am kept informed about my child's progress.	96%	4%	
6	Staff expect my child to work hard and do his or her best.	100%		
7	The school provides appropriate homework.	90%		10%
8	The school gives me information about events and activities.	100%		
9	The school seek the views of parents and takes account of their suggestions and concerns.	93%		7%
10	I feel comfortable about approaching the school with questions, suggestions or a problem.	96%	2%	2%
11	I find it easy to contact my child's teacher.	96%	2%	2%
12	The school's website and Twitter feed provides clear information regarding what has happened in school and also about future events.	95%		5%
13	The school is well led and managed.	98%	2%	
14	My child is not bullied at this school.	94%	4%	2%
15	Most children are well behaved.	93%		7%
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.	98%		2%
18	Staff encourage my child to become mature and independent.	98%		2%
19	I would recommend this school to other parents.	98%	2%	
20	NURSERY AND RECEPTION PARENTS ONLY: (21 Responses) The arrangements for my child to settle into their new class were good.	86%	9%	5%

DIARY DATES

Tuesday 26 th September 2017	6 p.m.	Year 6 Open Evening at Consett Academy
Wednesday 27 th September 2017	All Day	Year 6 at Consett Academy
Wednesday 27 th September 2017	6 p.m.	Year 6 Open Evening at Consett Academy
Thursday 28 th September 2017	3.30 – 4.30 pm	FROG (Fully Reliant on God) Club – Years 1-6
Friday 29 th September 2017	4 p.m.	Laura Pidcock (MP) meeting NW Durham Head Teachers
Week Beg. Monday 2 nd October	All Week	Creativity Week – Reading Week
Week Beg. Monday 2 nd October	All Week	Book Fair in School
Monday 2 nd October 2017	5.30 p.m.	Year 6 Open Evening at St Bede's Catholic School
Tuesday 3 rd October 2017	All Day	Play in a Day for Year 1
Tuesday 3 rd October 2017	2.15 p.m.	Coffee and On-Line Safety Presentation for Parents
Tuesday 3 rd October 2017	3 – 4 p.m.	Book Fair Open for Sales
Tuesday 3 rd October 2017	6 p.m.	Meeting for Parents interested in forming a PTA
Wednesday 4 th October 2017	All Day	Play in a Day for Year 4
Wednesday 4 th October 2017	10 am & 2 pm	Harvest Festival for Foundation Stage
Wednesday 4 th October 2017	3 – 4 p.m.	Book Fair Open for Sales
Thursday 5 th October 2017	10 a.m.	Harvest Festival for Yrs 1-6 led by Yr 4 in Church
Thursday 5 th October 2017	2.30 – 4 pm	Coffee Afternoon and Book Fair Open
Friday 6 th October 2017	2.30 – 4 pm	Coffee Afternoon and Book Fair Open
Monday 9 th October 2017	6 p.m.	Open Evening for Prospective Reception Parents
Tuesday 10 th October 2017	Afternoon	Coding Event at Northumbria University
Thursday 12 th October 2017	All Day	Interviews for Deputy Head Position
Friday 13 th October 2017	10 a.m.	Open Morning for Prospective Reception Parents
Tuesday 17 th October 2017	Morning	Open Morning for Year 6 at St Bede's
Tuesday 17 th October 2017	3.45pm – 6 pm	Parent's Evening in Junior Hall
Wednesday 18 th October 2017	3.45pm – 6 pm	Parent's Evening in Junior Hall
Friday 20 th October 2017	All Day	Year 2 Visit to Shildonn
Friday 20 th October 2017	All Day	Year 5 Visit to the Planetarium at Newcastle
Friday 20 th October 2017	5.30 p.m.	School Closes for Half Term Break
HALF TERM HOLIDAY		
Monday 23 rd October 2017	8.00 – 5.00	Holiday Club
Tuesday 24 th October 2017	8.00 – 5.00	Holiday Club
Monday 30 th October 2017	7.30 a.m.	School re-opens for Christmas Half Term
Saturday 4 th November 2017	3 p.m.	Children singing at Blackhill Methodist Church
Monday 6 th November 2017	3 p.m.	Governing Body Meeting
Mon & Tues 13 th & 14 th November 2017	All Day	Erasmus+ Visit in School – all partner schools from 11 European countries visiting school
Week Beg Monday 4 th December 2017	All Week	Enterprise Creativity Week
Friday 8 th December 2017	2 pm – 4 pm	Christmas Fair
Tuesday 12 th December 2017	3.30 pm	Carols Round the Christmas Tree
Wednesday 13 th December 2017	10 am & 2 pm	Foundation Stage Nativities
Monday 18 th December 2017	2 pm & 6 pm	KS1 Nativities
Tuesday 19 th December 2017	All Day	Year 6 at Newcastle – Uno's & Pantomime
Tuesday 19 th December 2017	Afternoon	Year 3 & 4 Party and Year 1 & 2 Party
Wednesday 20 th December 2017	All Day	Foundation Stage Parties
Thursday 21 st December 2017	10 & 1.30	Christingle and KS2 Nativity
Thursday 21 st December 2017	5.30 p.m.	School Closes for Christmas
Friday 22 nd December 2017	8am – 5 pm	Holiday Club in School