



LANCHESTER E.P. (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



Friday 8th July 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been quite a week, both in school and in London – not sure I can ever remember having three education ministers in one school week! We have had a lot of staff absences this week resulting in some classes being taught by a number of different teachers. I can only apologise but obviously there is nothing at all we can do about this. Covid continues to be an issue in the North-East and although the isolation periods are shorter, it does still cause chaos when it hits!

It has been lovely to see so many Reception parents at the Stay and Play sessions this week – I do hope you have enjoyed seeing your children in action! We do hope to expand on these sessions next year and invite parents and carers of the older children in school too.

I am sure many of you will have seen the very exciting announcement on twitter last weekend about our successful application to the Turing Scheme to take over 30 children to India and Dubai next academic year. Only 70 out of 156 schools were successful to be awarded the funding and we are one of those 70 schools – it is such a great achievement – especially when considering that the majority of those successful schools are secondary schools. There is some very important information for current Year 4 and Year 5 parents and towards the end of the letter – please read this very carefully!

It is a long time since I have witnessed such a real buzz in school – we have so many children who are just so excited about the musical next week – it really is wonderful to hear and listen to them. Whilst I also realise that we have some children who are less enthusiastic, I am sure you will all agree that performing in a real theatre is such a wonderful opportunity and great experience for them all and one which they may never have chance to do again. They are starting to see it all come together now with the scenery, costumes, soloists, narrations and images – it is really going to be a very special production. This is amazing teamwork from the whole KS2 team of children and they sound truly wonderful when they sing – it really does give you goosebumps!

Monday 11th July 2022 – Year 3 & 4 Kwik Cricket Tournament

We have a group of Year 3 & 4 children going to Consett Cricket Club to take part in a Kwik Cricket competition on Monday. Parents/ carers of these children have been informed of the arrangements on a separate email.

Monday 11th July 2022 – Visit for Reception New Starters from Other Nurseries

We are really looking forward to welcoming our new starters from other Nurseries into school on Monday morning again from 9.30am – 11am. Please bring your child to the Reception wooden gates where staff will be on hand to meet and greet you. I hope they are looking forward to their visit after their very successful one last week!

Monday 11th July 2022 – Nursery Graduation Tea Party

Our first tea party takes place on Monday morning between 10 and 11am and this is for the parents and carers of children who are going to both All Saints School and other schools in September. Please make your way to the Nursery gates where staff will let you in. The weather forecast looks lovely for next week and I am sure these will be very special sessions for you to spend a final time in Nursery with your child (and staff!).

Tuesday 12th July 2022 – Nursery Graduation Tea Party

Our second tea party takes place between 10 and 11am on Tuesday morning and this is for the parents and carers of children who are going into Miss Martin's class in September. Please make your way to the Nursery gates where staff will let you in – I am sure you too will enjoy the lovely weather!

Wednesday 13th July 2022 – Years 3–6 at Consett Empire Theatre All Day

All Key Stage 2 are to come to school as usual on Wednesday morning and we will be leaving to go to Consett Empire Theatre for the day to rehearse for the musical. All children need a packed lunch and plenty of liquids for the day. We will leave at 9.15am and return in time for normal collection at the end of the school day.

Wednesday 13th July 2022 – Nursery Graduation Tea Party

Our third tea party takes place between 10 and 11am on Wednesday morning and this is for the parents and carers of children who will be staying in Nursery in September. Please make your way to the Nursery gates where staff will let you in – they will have it off to a fine art by Wednesday too!

Wednesday 13th July 2022 – Evening Performance of One Sun, One World

All children in Years 3 – 6 need to return to Consett Empire Theatre for 5.30pm. This is to allow plenty of time for them to change into costumes, get face paints sorted and get into position for the performance. Please bring children through the front of the theatre where staff will direct them where to go. The show will begin at 6pm.

Thursday 14th July 2022 – Nursery Graduation Tea Party

Our final tea party takes place between 10 and 11am on Thursday morning and this is for the parents and carers of children who will be joining Miss Butler's class in September. Please make your way to the Nursery gates where staff will let you in – let's hope there is coffee and cake left for you all!

Thursday 14th July 2022 – Evening Performance of One Sun, One World

The children are to arrive at Consett Empire for 5.30pm again for the final performance of their musical.

Friday 15th July 2022 – Year 2 at Seaham Beach

I am sure the children are looking forward to their day at the beach and it looks like they are going to be really fortunate with the weather too! They all need to wear suitable outdoor clothing for the beach and a sun hat and sunscreen (weather dependent). They will need sturdy footwear as we will be walking during the day (e.g. trainers). They will also need to bring a packed lunch.

Friday 15th July 2022 – Art Exhibition and Coffee Afternoon from 2.15pm

Over the last few weeks, children from Nursery to Year 6 have created some fabulous artwork based on our school production of 'One Sun, One World'. The artwork is now going to be framed and will be on display in the school hall on Friday 15th July where you can join us for a coffee afternoon from 2.15pm and enjoy looking at all of the children's creations. If you want to, you will also be able to buy your child's framed artwork. Please note, there will only be ONE of each child's design to purchase. The cost of this is £8 and any purchased artwork will be sent home with the children during the last week of term. If you would like to purchase your child's artwork, please bring the correct cash to either the coffee afternoon or the Summer fair. Unfortunately, they will not be an option to pay for these via alternative methods.

If you aren't able to join us on Friday afternoon, the gallery will also be on display in the school hall at the Summer Fair on Saturday 16th July between 11am and 1pm. A selection of artwork from across school has been chosen as the programme front cover for our school production at Consett Empire. All children should be so proud of the masterpieces created. There is so much artistic talent across our school!

Saturday 16th July 2022 – Summer Fair 11am – 1pm

Our Summer Fair takes place on Saturday 16th July from 11am to 1pm. We asked for help on the stalls in last week's newsletter and so far, not a single parent has volunteered to help. This is always a wonderful event in the life of the school, but we do rely on help from parents in order for this to take place. We may have to re-consider whether the fair can go ahead if we don't receive some help and support from parents as it is impossible for staff to run this totally on their own.

We have a wonderful line up of stalls for you: fairground rides, bouncy castle, face painting, tombolas, pick a bottle, lucky dip, penalty shoot, spin the wheel, name the teddy, raffle, refreshments, hot dogs and the ice cream van. We will also have a number of small companies with stalls including: Ukranian Bakery, Amber Honey and

Scholastic Books. The Fire Brigade and Police will also be present, providing they don't have any emergencies they need to attend!

We also hope to be able to have the Water Slide out and of course, we will have 'Soak the Teacher' as well. We already have some willing – oops sorry – I mean pressganged volunteers including myself, Mr Knighton, Mr Stephenson, Mr Adamson, Mr Taylor, Miss Butler and Mr McLoughlin. (This list may increase during the week!)

Water Day – Wednesday 13th, Thursday 14th July and Friday 15th July

We are very aware how much our children enjoy a Water Day! The weather forecast looks very settled, sunny and warm next week. We are hoping that we may be able to have a Water Day for Nursery on Wednesday 12th July, Early Years, Year 1 and Year 2 on Thursday 14th July and Key Stage 2 on Friday 15th July. However, we will confirm nearer the day before if this will happen as it is weather dependent!

One Sun, One World Organisation

Please note the earlier information about the children returning to the theatre for 5.30pm on both evenings.

We do also intend to use face paints on the children. A consent form was sent out to all parents/ carers yesterday. If you DO NOT want face paint applied to your child, it is essential that you contact the school office before Monday lunchtime. In most cases it will simply be a small shape, pattern or a few whiskers painted on their face.

If any family would like more tickets or have yet to purchase their tickets, it would be really helpful if you could send your money to the office no later than Monday 11th July. We have to buy the tickets from the Empire first so we need to be careful that we don't buy more than we need. A small number of tickets will be able to be purchased on the nights of the show as well.

What has generally happened in the past is that parents have come to see it on the first evening, enjoyed it so much, that they have then wanted tickets for the second performance so we do expect this to happen again!

There are still a handful of children without a costume in school. We have a full dress rehearsal on Monday so it really is essential that they have one in school:

- Year 3 - Black t-shirt and black trousers/leggings
- Year 4, 5 and 6 - Black trousers/leggings

We anticipate that the show will finish at 7.45pm. Children will be dismissed from the stage itself, one year group at a time.

End of Year School Reports

We aim to send the end of year school reports out on Friday 15th July. However, due to the difficulty with staff absence recently, this might not happen until Monday 18th July. All statutory assessment results will also be included with these reports.

Turing Scheme Funding-India and Dubai Visits

You will have seen on Twitter this week that we have been successful in securing funding for visits to Rajkot in India and to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates next year through the Turing Scheme. This is a fantastic achievement for our school, as fewer than 80 schools in the UK were successful after submitting applications back in April. We are now beginning to plan these visits, which will be open to current Y4 and Y5 children.

The theme of our project will be to investigate children's rights around the world. This is an important step on our journey towards receiving accreditation as a Rights Respecting School. These visits will allow our children to work alongside peers in India and Dubai, investigating and learning together about children's rights around the world, using the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child to guide them. They will work together to have a global impact, making sure that children everywhere know about their rights. Of course, they will also have plenty of opportunities to experience the culture of these fascinating countries.

We plan to take children to India towards the end of October and to Dubai in late February. We had hoped to select the children and book these visits before the end of this school year; however, we have been informed that the full amount of funding we requested cannot be granted, so we must wait until we have confirmation of the funding amount before booking the trips. We have been assured that this information will be received before the beginning of the Autumn term, so we are now making preparations for our visit to India with the aim of booking this during the summer holidays.

If your child is currently in Year 4 or Year 5 and would like to have the opportunity to visit **India**, please [click here](#) to complete a form to sign up. This form will remain open until Wednesday 13th July at 12 noon. We will draw names out of a hat as soon as we are able to and we will let everyone who has completed the form know once this has been done. If your child's name is selected, we will ask for a £50 contribution towards the trip in order to secure the place.

If your child is not picked to go to India, they will still be eligible to be picked for the visit to Dubai later in the year – a sign-up form for this trip will be sent out in September. Children who visited Dubai earlier this year are very welcome to put their names into the hat for next year's visits. However, in order to make sure that as many children as possible have the opportunity to take part in the Turing Scheme, children who visited Dubai last year will only be able to attend if there is not enough interest from others to fill all the spaces.

We hope that you agree that this is a very exciting opportunity for our children and we realise that you may have some questions. If you do, please email them to Mr McLoughlin and he will get back to you as soon as possible. His email address is s.mcloughlin@lanchesterep.net

Early Years News

Thank you all so much for your sponsor money for the Big Toddle – the children had a wonderful day and great fun was had by all!

For those of you joining us in Nursery in September, we will be holding an information evening in school on **Monday 18th July between 3.30 & 4.30pm**. You are welcome to bring your child along to this meeting. We hope to send out details of transition visits and starting dates before this meeting. To help us with this, please ensure that you have completed the form about home visits, whether you would like a visit or not <https://forms.office.com/r/Gd6c99YRTe> Please note, this form will close on Monday 11th July at midday.

Positive Thinking

***We are not a team because we work together.
We are a great team because we respect, trust and care for each other.***

As usual, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or the school office. We are here to help you all!

Yours sincerely,

Jane Davis

Mrs Jane Davis
Head Teacher