



Spring 2 Newsletter (4)

The year seems to be flying and it is hard to believe that it is March already! This is the term when the children eagerly anticipate the school field being dry enough for them to start playing on it. Let's just hope we do have some lovely spring weather soon which will help this happen as quickly as possible!

We have a lot of residential this half term – six in total – which is quite a challenge to organise. Our Year 6 children had a super two days at Ford Castle during the first week back. They were probably the best group at getting off to sleep – I am sure that will surprise some of you! Last week we had four boys in Ajka, Hungary, representing our school admirably. This was the final visit of this particular project and whilst we are applying for another project with the same schools and additional ones, this is not guaranteed. We will find out in August if we have been successful or not. Almost all of our Year 3 children enjoying an overnight visit to the Roman Wall while nearly all of Year 4 children are going to Seahouses and Alnwick Castles & Gardens.

Sadly, we have had our first casualty of the coronavirus – the Erasmus+ trip to Denmark has had to be postponed – much to the disappointment of all involved. With five schools involved from different European countries, it is quite a challenge to organise in ordinary circumstances. However, the Spanish school from Madrid is now closed for two weeks (along with all the other schools in Madrid and Vitoria) and the Polish school have been told by their national agency that they are not allowed to travel. We have also just heard that the Danish schools are also due to close next week. On top of that, our return flight was also cancelled by Easyjet - not ideal circumstances at all. I am sure you can imagine how desperately disappointed the Year 5 girls will be. It is hoped that this visit will be re-arranged for next academic year.

We have also just listened to the decisions of the Cobra meeting and the advice given for schools not to take groups abroad. As a result of this recommendation, we have now also cancelled the ski trip - less than 48 hours before we were due to leave. I am sure you can imagine what a massive disappointment this will be for the children (and parents) who were due to travel on Saturday. As a school, we could not take the decision to cancel earlier as parents would have lost all their money. However, now that this is a recommendation from the Foreign Office, it means the insurance policy will kick in. It does not help the children though and how upset they will be feeling. These are strange times for us all....

This half term is a very important one in terms of academic progress for all our children but especially those in Year 2 and Year 6 who are preparing for their end of year statutory assessments. Year 6 have additional booster sessions while Year 2 should not even know they are taking them.

A few parents have been unsure of how to contact your child's class teacher. We all have email addresses - Please feel free to email them if you need to pass on any messages. However, obviously they teach during the day so there will be a delay in their reply to you. All email addresses follow the same pattern as mine - their initial, followed by a dot, surname and finishing with @lanchesterep.net.

For example: j.davis@lanchesterep.net a.knighton@lanchesterep.net. All teacher's email addresses are listed on the back page of this newsletter.

Jane Davis

Staffing



I am sure your children will have now had the opportunity to meet Mr Southern who is now working in the kitchen. Miss Watchman also seems to have settled into life well as an apprentice in the Early Years.



The interviews for the position of Assistant Head Teacher will take place on Monday 30th March 2020. There was a lot of interest in this position and we are interviewing some very strong candidates. Our Pupil Parliament (School Council) will be involved in the process too – Mr Knighton is meeting with them this week to start planning their involvement!



Lost Property



Please, please, PLEASE, label your child's belongings, especially jumpers, cardigans and coats. As the weather gets warmer, we have more jumpers and cardigans left lying around and we cannot reunite these with their owners if they are not named! Our uniform supplier will initial your sweatshirts and cardigans free of charge and biro on washing labels is also a really effective and cheap way to make sure your children do not lose their uniform. Thank you!



Coronavirus Information



We are monitoring the situation on a daily basis and we encourage parents to access the most recent information about the Coronavirus, protecting yourselves and others on the dedicated Public Health England website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/topicalevents/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

This is a dynamic situation and PHE's advice is changing regularly, so please stay informed. In particular, please reinforce at home all of the 'good hygiene' messages from PHE, something we are constantly reminding children of in school.



Tree Planting



In December we cut down the overgrown conifer 'hedge' between us and The Black Bull. All the resulting waste material was re-used in school to create a path to the all-weather pitch and to greatly improve our woodland paths. Log sections became path edges and the chipped branches and foliage became a fragrant and springy underfoot surface.

Our intention was always to replant the conifer area with native trees, but a timely offer of expert advice and possible funding came from Hazel Bloor, Jason Diaz and Chris Davis of the 'Trees for Lanchester' initiative. A site visit was quickly organised and within two days Chris had drawn up detailed plans for the planting of a mixed hedgerow on the boundary fence and selected fruit trees in the space between the all-weather pitch and the hedgerow.

We plan to seize this offer with both hands and hopefully begin planting during the week beginning 23rd March. Mrs Peters, who runs our Forest Schools activities, would like to involve our Year 2 children in the planting process. It should prove rewarding for the children to be able to observe the trees growing (like themselves) during the next four years of their school life.



Wildlife Creatures



Our wild creatures seem to have approved of this year's relatively warm winter. Hedgehogs (we think we have at least three) were active almost until Christmas. Frogs were busy before the beginning of March and we now have frogspawn in two of our three ponds. This week a newt has been seen!

Our camera trap has recorded many lovely images of interesting bird species, including redwing, bullfinch, wren, grey wagtail and a great spotted woodpecker. The moles and squirrels can be a bit of a nuisance but we tolerate them - all God's creatures!



Topsy-Turvy Day – organised by Rotakids



This half-term we are raising money that will be used to buy wheelchairs for the disabled in Africa. We were shocked to learn that they either crawl or are pushed around in wheelbarrows. To do this, we are having a Topsy-Turvy Non-Uniform Day on Friday 3rd April. In exchange for £1, we want you to have fun either wearing your clothes inside out, back to front, odd socks or mix the Seasons e.g. Summer and Winter. These are just ideas and we cannot wait to see what you decide to wear. TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



Sports News



We are entering the busy part of the year sporting-wise. Year 5/6 girls' and Year 5/6 boys' football teams have had fixtures after the winter break. As well as this, our Year 4 boys' football team represented the school for the first time - they are through to the next round of the County Cup after two wins and a draw in the first round.

Mrs Smith's fantastic netball sessions are continuing for KS2. Years 1, 2 and 3 thoroughly enjoyed their cricket sessions with Phil and are looking forward to the return of the Chance to Shine project in May. Chance to Shine will also be offering cricket sessions for Years 4,5 and 6.

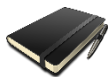
The girls' football team played recently in the Derwentside 5-a-side football competition held at Greenland. After two narrow defeats against Shotley Bridge and Delves Lane they finished with an excellent 2-0 win against East Stanley. On Tuesday, the team are playing in the County Cup competition against teams from Durham and Consett. Football training has also begun for Y3-6 and is held every Friday from 3.30pm-4.30pm. All new players are welcome.



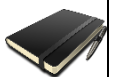
Artsmark



We were awarded the Silver Artsmark in 2017. Over the next few months we will be re-applying for the Artsmark. We will be looking at the varied arts activities already taking place in school and planning more opportunities for the children to enjoy. An exciting few months ahead!



Office News



We have implemented our move to becoming paperless when sending out communication from school. All trip, club and newsletters are emailed now to your registered with eSchools email address. Please check that account regularly, along with your junk folder, for any updates from school regarding your child and please read the weekly letters as they do provide all the information you need. Also don't forget to check twitter for any updates and reminders! All letters sent via email are also uploaded to our school website. We can be easily contacted by school.office@lanchesterep.net.

Trip letters no longer have the reply slip to return - all trips that are applicable to your child can be found in your ParentPay account when they become available. Here you can give permission and pay any amount for the class trips; no need to return any paper.

For residentials, you sign up via ParentPay by giving permission and paying the initial deposit. Your child's place is secure as long as each payment date is met. Although you have given permission for the residential, we do also need an EV4 filling in for any trip that takes place outside of the school day. This vital piece of paperwork is what the group leader takes with them on the visit; it shows that we have your permission to take your child away for the duration and also holds important consent information in the unlikely event of an emergency. Your child cannot travel on any residential without this form, regardless if you have filled in similar permissions on ParentPay so please ensure that if you are sent one home to return it to school promptly.

Weekly reminders about any outstanding amounts owed to the school are sent via ParentPay to your registered email address - please check your account regularly to make sure that you are in credit for dinner money and wrap around care. If you feel like you have received a reminder in error, please contact the school office immediately. Thank you.



Mother's Day Family Afternoon Teas



Don't forget that we are holding a Mother's Day Family Afternoon teas in school on Friday 20th March. ***Places need to be booked by completing the booking form and sending it back to school in a named envelope. The deadline for returning the form is Friday 13th March. The sitting times are 2.15pm, 3pm and 3.45pm.*** Tickets cost £3 per adult. It should be a very special afternoon and we look forward to seeing you there. This was a huge success last year and sold out fairly quickly so please do not forget to book your places as early as possible.



Year 3 Overnight Residential



47 of our Year 3 children are all really looking forward to their overnight residential at Birdoswald Roman Fort which will enhance their learning about the Romans this half term. It makes such a huge difference to the children's learning to be able to actually go to the Roman Wall, stay overnight there, meet a Roman Soldier, have a story in one of the milecastles and have a tour of the Roman Fort too!

Mr Stephenson's class will leave at 9.30am on Tuesday 24th March until Wednesday 25th March and will be accompanied by Mr Stephenson, Miss Brierley and Miss Honan.

Mrs Grayson's will leave on Wednesday 25th March and return on Thursday 26th and will be accompanied by Mrs Grayson, Mr Knighton and Mrs Newby. I will also be staying overnight with both groups.

Next week the children will be submitting their menu choices and hopefully start to feel really excited about the two days. A reminder to all parents that the final payment for children attending Birdoswald Roman Fort should have been made on 2nd March.



Year 4 Overnight Residential



46 of our Year 4 children are also really looking forward to their overnight residential in Northumberland. During the day, they will have a tour and workshops in both Alnwick Castle and Alnwick Gardens before sleeping over in the hostel in Seahouses. The workshops are all based around their current topic of Medicine and also Harry Potter which they are studying in English.

Mrs Sant's class will leave at 9.30am on Monday 30th March until Tuesday 31st March and will be accompanied by Mrs Sant, Mrs Coyle and Mrs McGilvray.

Mr Stoker's class will leave at 9.30am on Tuesday 31st March until Wednesday 1st April and will be accompanied by Mr Stoker, Mrs Newby and Mr Gill. I will also be staying overnight with both groups.

The children will be submitting their menu choices soon and hopefully start to feel really excited about the two days. A reminder to all parents that the final payment for children attending Alnwick and Seahouses should have been made on 2nd March. Thank you.

These are all wonderful opportunities for our children which are all made possible by our very dedicated and enthusiastic staff for which I am exceptionally grateful.

Fairtrade

As most of you will be aware, we are a Fair Active school which means that we actively support Fairtrade. This year, our Year 5 Fairtrade group have been working hard to find ways to get the very important Fairtrade message across. The group will be leading an assembly for the children in school next week and would like to inform you of some more exciting things coming up.

Friday 29th March

During the Mother's Day Afternoon Tea the Fairtrade group will be running a stall selling treats and sweets at pocket money prices.

Friday 1st May - Hot Chocolate Afternoon

Your child can bring in 50p and join the Fairtrade group in the hall for a hot chocolate with all of the trimmings!

Thank you for your continued support and remember to buy Fairtrade whenever you see the Fairtrade mark.



Fun and Fitness Week



We are planning an action-packed week again for the whole school for Fun and Fitness Week which takes place from Monday 18th May until Thursday 21st May. We are holding a Skip2Bfit day, Wheels day, House Competitions, Outdoor Playtime Games and Year 5/6 cycle ride that week but are still trying to work out how to fit everything in!



LJG Coaching Holiday Club



LJG Coaching (Mr Graham!) is holding another holiday club in the Easter holiday. The club will be held in school on Tuesday 7th, Wednesday 8th and Friday 9th April 2020 (first week of the holidays) and Tuesday 14th April and Wednesday 15th April (second week of the holidays). Forms for this are on the website – early booking is strongly advised.

Please note – there will be no holiday club during Whit Week in May – Mr Graham will actually have a proper holiday! During the summer break, the holiday club will run during the first two weeks.



Easter Events



As usual, we have a number of events to celebrate Easter. We have our Easter Service on Thursday 2nd April at 2pm in All Saints Church. Year 2 and Year 5 will be leading the service with the children from Year 1 to Year 6 attending. All parents and friends are more than welcome to join us for this very special and popular service.

On Wednesday 1st April, Foundation Stage (Nursery and Reception) will be holding an Easter-themed Stay and Play session when the children will be making Easter bonnets and enjoying an Easter egg hunt in the school grounds!



On the final day of term, Friday 3rd April, the children will be enjoying their usual egg decorating competition during the morning. For this, we ask the children to bring a couple of hard boiled eggs into school and any specific items to decorate it. It always amazes me how many highly imaginative ways there are to decorate an egg! Please note – this activity is to be completed at school and not at home! Also - this is for children in Years 1 – 6.

As usual, we would love our parents, grandparents and carers to join in too and we will be holding our usual competition for you (and the staff – which they hate!). If you would like to make an entry, it is important that it is brought into school before 12 noon on the Friday. I am sure this will continue to be a highly competitive event and one which is enjoyed more by adults than children!

We will be holding a Coffee Afternoon on the final afternoon, Friday 3rd April from 2.30 pm which will give you the opportunity to see all the decorated eggs and even glean some good ideas for next year!



Whole School Walk



All arrangements have been finalised for our whole school walk to take place on Tuesday 23rd June 2020. Once again, all children from Year 1 to Year 6 we will be enjoying a slow walk along the beach from Seahouses to Bamburgh, before enjoying our packed lunch on the beach and some time to build sand castles, sand sculptures and to play in the dunes. Reception children will enjoy a shorter walk and a longer play on the beach!

As usual, we have booked an additional bus for this trip to enable as many parents/carers as possible to come but obviously there is a limit to the number of adults we can accommodate. Therefore, if you would like to come on this trip, please give your name to the School Office as soon as possible as it is always an exceptionally popular trip. Once bus places have been allocated, we will no longer be able to take any more names. All parents attending will be asked for around £12 to book their place; a letter will go out nearer the date. Please do not pay this money until the letter goes out in the summer term.



PGL Residential



We have a super total of 70 children from Years 5 & 6 going on the residential to PGL, Perthshire in Scotland. The activities will all be chosen by the children but the Giant Swing, canoeing, archery, zip wire and raft building are usually among the most popular! The final payments are due by Friday 1st May, please check that your child's account is up to date.



Punctuality



This is another reminder that all doors and gates close at 8.55am every morning. We have a flexible drop off across the whole school allowing parents to leave their child from 8.40am onwards in all year groups. All children should be in their classrooms ready to start work at 8.55 am. We appreciate you helping us to make sure this can happen.

Please remember, if your child is late for any reason, you MUST accompany them into the school. This is to ensure your child enters school safely. If your child arrives into school late and unaccompanied, the school office will phone you to ask for a reason why your child is late and to remind you that they must be accompanied into the school. Thank you.



Parking and Driving around School



This is a reminder that parents and carers should not use the school car parks at any time for dropping off and picking up children and especially not for wraparound care. It is dangerous to come into the car park and up the drive, especially when there are children around who are often on their own.

We have also had a very serious incident this week, reported to us by a number of parents, of one driver completing a U-turn on the main road outside of school, mounting the pavement and almost hitting a child. Obviously, this is totally wreckless driving and could result in a very serious injury. Please always take great care when driving near so many children at the start and end of the school day.



Foundation Stage News



Reception parents will be receiving a letter about our trip to Beamish on Friday 24th April. The cost of this trip will be £6 per child. We are very lucky that Beamish are kindly subsidising the cost of this trip as a thank you for work we have previously done to support their staff training. We are very excited about this trip as we will be taking part in a 'Once upon a Time' workshop in addition to having time to explore Beamish. More details are on the letter. Please ask a member of the Teaching Staff if you have any further queries.

Please remember to check your child's tray daily as they may have letters and invitations put directly into them. Reception parents should find a new set of word building cards in their tray - please take these and add them to your child's Word Building Pack.

If you have been following us on Twitter or Facebook, you will see that we have been doing a lot of work with Tales Toolkit in the past few weeks to develop children's storytelling and writing skills. Look out for some further information about this coming home to you, plus an opportunity for your child to retell some of the stories we have created together in school.

School Holidays - Academic Year 2019-2020

| Holiday | Closing Date | Date re-open for teaching purposes |
|------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Easter Holiday | Friday 3 rd April 2020 | Monday 20 th April 2020 |
| May Day | Thursday 7 th May 2020 | Monday 11 th May 2020 |
| Summer Half Term | Thursday 21 st May 2020 | Monday 1 st June 2020 |
| Summer Holiday | Friday 17 th July 2020 | Wednesday 2 nd September 2020 |

Important Dates for 2019 - 2020

KS1 Statutory Assessment Tests - May 2020

KS2 Statutory Assessment Tests - Week Beginning Monday 11th May 2020

Year 1 & Year 2 Phonics Screening Test - Week Beginning Monday 8th June 2020

Year 4 Multiplication Test - Week Beginning Monday 8th June 2020

DIARY DATES

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|---|------------|---|
| Tuesday 17 th March 2020 | 3.30pm | Girls' 7-a-side Football at Delves Lane Primary School |
| Wednesday 18 th March 2020 | 10.30am | Rev'd Earle leading Worship |
| Thursday 19 th March 2020 | 10am | Easter Puppet Show for Early Years & KS1 |
| Thursday 19 th March 2020 | 10.30am | FairTrade Assembly |
| Friday 20 th March 2020 | Afternoon | Mother's Day Family Afternoon Tea in School |
| Tuesday 24 th March 2020 | All Day | Mr Stephenson's Class at Birdoswald Residential |
| Tuesday 24 th March 2020 | All Day | Year 5 at Consett Academy |
| Wednesday 25 th March 2020 | All Day | Mrs Grayson's Class at Birdoswald Residential |
| Wednesday 25 th March 2020 | 3.30pm | Mr Stephenson's Class returns from Birdoswald |
| Thursday 26 th March 2020 | 3.30pm | Mrs Grayson's Class returns from Birdoswald |
| Thursday 26 th March 2020 | All Day | Year 5 at Durham Botanic Gardens |
| Thursday 26 th March 2020 | 1.45pm | Pupil Parliament at SNAG Meeting with School Cook (School Nutritional Action Group) |
| Friday 27 th March 2020 | All Day | Captain Chemistry working with Year 4: Solutions & Potions |
| Monday 30 th March 2020 | All Day | Interviews for Assistant Head Teacher |
| Monday 30 th March 2020 | All Day | Mrs Sant's Class at Alnwick & Seahouses Residential |
| Tuesday 31 st March 2020 | All Day | Mr Stoker's Class at Alnwick & Seahouses Residential |
| Tuesday 31 st March 2020 | 3.30pm | Mrs Sant's Class returns from Alnwick |
| Tuesday 31 st March 2020 | All Day | Captain Chemistry working with Year 5: Friction and Forces |
| Wednesday 1 st April 2020 | 3.30pm | Mr Stoker's Class returns from Alnwick |
| Wednesday 1 st April 2020 | All Day | Early Years Stay and Play Sessions |
| Wednesday 1 st April 2020 | 3.30pm | Nursery Open Evening for New Starters |
| Thursday 2 nd April 2020 | 2pm | Easter Service in All Saints Church |
| Friday 3 rd April 2020 | Morning | Easter Egg Decorating in School |
| Friday 3 rd April 2020 | Afternoon | Easter Coffee Afternoon |
| Easter Holiday | | |
| Tuesday 7th, Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th April | | Mr Graham's Holiday Club in School |
| Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th April | | Graham's Holiday Club in School |
| Monday 20 th April 2020 | 7.30am | School Re-opens for Summer Term |
| Friday 24 th April 2020 | All Day | Reception Trip to Beamish Museum |
| Thursday 30 th April 2020 | 6 – 7.30pm | Family Bingo Night |
| Friday 1 st May 2020 | Afternoon | Fairtrade May Day Hot Chocolate Afternoon |
| Friday 8 th May 2020 | All Day | May Day Bank Holiday |
| Monday 11 th May 2020 | 7.30am | School Re-Opens after Bank Holiday |
| Week Beginning Monday 11 th May 2020 | All Week | Year 6 Statutory Test Week |
| Friday 15 th May 2020 | Lunchtime | Year 6 at Deano's Trattoria Restaurant |
| Week Beginning Monday 18 th May 2020 | All Week | Fun and Fitness Week |
| Monday 18 th May 2020 | All Day | Skip2BFit |
| Monday 18 th May 2020 | All Day | Outdoor Playtime Games |
| Tuesday 19 th May 2020 | All Day | Outdoor Playtime Games |
| Wednesday 20 th May 2020 | All Day | Year 5 & 6 Cycle Ride |
| Wednesday 20 th May 2020 | All Day | Wheels Day for EYFS and Years 1 - 4 |
| Thursday 21 st May 2020 | All Day | House Competition |
| Thursday 21 st May 2020 | 5.30pm | School Closed For Half Term Holiday |
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| Monday 1 st June 2020 | 7.30am | School Re-opens for Summer Term |
| Wednesday 10 th June 2020 | Morning | Year 6 Leavers' Service in Durham Cathedral |

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|---|------------|---|
| Friday 12 th June 2020 | All Day | Digital Leaders at Nothern Celebration Conference |
| Wednesday 17 th June 2020 | All Day | Early Years Stay and Play Sessions |
| Tuesday 23 rd June 2020 | All Day | School Walk in Northumberland |
| Thursday 25 th June 2020 | Overnight | Birchwood School Sleeping in School Hall |
| Friday 26 th June 2020 | Overnight | Family Camp in School Field |
| Week Beginning Monday 6 th July 2020 | All Week | Year 5 & 6 Residential to PGL, Perth |
| Saturday 11 th July 2020 | 11am – 1pm | Summer Fair |
| Tuesday 14 th July 2020 | 9.15am | Sports Assembly |
| Tuesday 14 th July 2020 | Overnight | Year 6 Sleepover in School Hall |
| Thursday 16 th July 2020 | 1.30pm | Leavers' Service in All Saints Church |
| Friday 17 th July 2020 | 10am | Leavers' Assembly in School Hall |

Staff Email Addresses

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Year 1: j.burke@lanchesterep.net c.martin@lanchesterep.net

Year 2: h.startup@lanchesterep.net s.jackson@lanchesterep.net

Year 3: m.stephenson@lanchesterep.net k.grayson@lanchesterep.net

Year 4: a.stoker@lanchesterep.net c.sant@lanchesterep.net

Year 5: a.knighton@lanchesterep.net s.coyle@lanchesterep.net

Year 6: p.taylor@lanchesterep.net t.tate@lanchesterep.net k.wilson@lanchesterep.net

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