



Christmas Newsletter (2)



This term has to be one of the best times to work in a school. The anticipation of Christmas is just lovely to witness in the children and I am sure you will soon start to hear some of the nativity songs being sung at home too. More information regarding all our nativities is contained in the main body of the newsletter. Our school is such a happy place at the moment with great behaviour and attitudes from our children – it really is a pleasure to witness!

We are two weeks into our longest and busiest half term already. Thankfully, we don't seem to have succumbed to any major germs or bugs but this can be the time of year that the children become susceptible to such things. To try to prevent any major outbreaks, we continue to encourage the children to wash their hands regularly and please remember that our school policy is that children remain absent from school for 48 hours after they were last sick – just to help prevent any bugs spreading quickly round school.

Please look at the diary dates very carefully so that you know when all the different events are taking place, as the rest of the half term is going to be very busy. Please note that these diary dates always supersede the ones sent in the previous newsletters as occasionally times or dates can change and additional events are always added. Thank you.

As usual, if there is anything at all that you want to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Jane Davis



Friends of the School



We are really lucky to have a very enthusiastic and supportive group of parents who are keen to organise social events for both parents and children as well as trying to raise money for the school and support our children. They meet once a month and are really a very friendly and happy group of people! They have organised two important events for this half term.

The first is the Quiz Night. Enjoy a great night out in school and test your knowledge with our entertaining quiz master. Tickets are £2.50 per person with small prizes for the winning and losing teams. There will be a brief game of bingo with slightly alternative bingo calling and a raffle. Bring your own food and drinks. All money raised goes back into school and benefits all our children. The Friends of the School have already bought wet weather games for every classroom, a fire pit for EYFS and paid for the Year 6 Leavers disco. You can buy quiz tickets from the school office but please put exact money in an envelope with the adults' name and child's class on front. Thank you.

The second event is the very successful Christmas Shopping Event for the children – you will receive a letter from them which has been sent home with your child today. This shopping event was very well-received by parents and children last year and really helped to instil the joy of giving into our children. The pleasure on their faces as they chose their special gifts for their loved ones was just wonderful to witness!

Please note, that due to a number of reasons, the Christmas Film Night has been cancelled for this year. Apologies for any disappointment this causes.

Staff News



Miss Bainbridge will start to be seen in school from this week for occasional days as she builds up her return to full-time work in January. I am sure this will be a bit of a shock to her system after her maternity leave but we will be pleased to have her back!

Meanwhile, Miss Hawke and Angus continue to do well. Angus is still in hospital receiving some excellent care and it is hoped he will be out by his due date in December. I know Miss Hawke really appreciates all the good wishes and concern that has been shown to them all during this difficult time for the family.

You will no doubt have met Mrs Leigh Wallace who helped us out at very short notice and has been working in the office almost since Miss Hawke left. She will be continuing to work for us but on a part-time basis and will be joined by Miss Hannah Norgate who will be starting with us the week after next. Please be patient until she too finds her feet and gets to know our school and systems!

Christmas Fundraiser



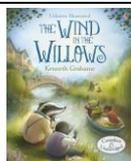
All our children have been busy designing their own Christmas cards this week. You will soon receive a proof along with an order form. The cost will be £5 per pack of 5 cards but of course these will be totally unique and original designs! Christmas cards are always our most popular product as they are so special – they also help to raise invaluable funds for the school so I do hope you like them! Just make sure you return your order in good time!



Morning Snacks for KS2 Children



We realise that the morning session is fairly long for our KS2 children and whilst we provide Cool Milk and the Tuck Shop, there are children who prefer to bring in a snack from home. Obviously this is perfectly acceptable, but please remember that it must be a healthy snack such as a piece of fruit and this must be kept in their bags as the children cannot access their packed lunch until dinnertime. Thank you for your help in this matter. Please remember that all KS1 children receive a free piece of fruit.



Wind in the Willows



I do apologise for the late communication regarding this theatre trip for Years 2 – 6. We had decided this year to ask a theatre company to come into school rather than take the children out due to cost. However, we had an offer from the theatre that we just could not refuse with vastly reduced ticket costs. This has meant that the children can all go to see a wonderful performance for a fraction of the normal cost. Unfortunately, it is always the cost of the coaches that are slightly prohibitive. I am sure all children will thoroughly enjoy this great experience though – the production is supposed to be excellent as usual! All payment information is available on ParentPay.



Operation Christmas Child



We are starting to receive some of these back in school. It is lovely to see your photographs and comments on twitter about the enjoyment you have had filling them with your children too – thank you so much for this. This was always an annual event in our household too when my girls were younger – it is so lovely to instil the joy of giving into our children at such a young age. Please just do not forget the deadline of Thursday 28th November. Thank you very much.



#STEMinaction Twitter Homework



Once again, we had a fabulous response to this homework on twitter – thank you all so much! You all obviously had some great fun over the holidays doing this and it was great to be able to challenge you to do something different. Mr Bailey and Mr Stephenson have poured over your tweets and found it so hard to decide upon the winner. However, in the end, as it was so hard, they decided to have a winner from each key stage. In Achievement Assembly today, Jack (Y6) has won the first prize, Niamh (Y2) the second prize and Ethan (Y1) the third prize. A huge well done and thank you to everyone for being such great sports!



Digital Leaders



Twelve of our Digital Leaders will be representing the school at the DfE LearnEd Event at Newcastle Racecourse on Wednesday 27th November. Pupils will be taking part in two 'Classroom Live' lessons where they will demonstrate to teachers from around the North-East some of the amazing ways in which we use technology to enhance the teaching and learning process at Lanchester EP. Mr Mordue and Mrs Davis will also be part of the panel discussion session. It is a real honour for our school to have been invited for the second year running and further recognition of our status as a leading digital school, both locally and nationally.



Individual Photographs



Phototronics will be in school on Wednesday 20th November to take all individual photographs. If any parents would like to have photographs taken with siblings, these will be done at 8.15am – unfortunately the company cannot take them at any other time of the day due to the number of children they need to get through on Wednesday. So please just come along to the Main Office with any older or younger siblings at 8.15am. All children will have an individual photograph taken during the day along with any photographs of siblings who are both/all in school. If you have any questions about this, please do not hesitate to ask.



Foundation Stage News



Our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Nativity performances will be held in the Main School Hall on Wednesday 11th December at 10am and 2pm. The children in Leopards (Mr McLoughlin), Goldfish (Mrs Nash), Hedgehogs (Mrs Davis) and the Mon-Wed Robins (Mrs Moran) will take part in the morning performance. The children in Dolphins (Mr Osmond), Eagles (Miss Butler) and Wed-Fri and 30 hour Robins (Mrs Moran) will take part in the afternoon performance.

Children are welcome to dress up in Christmas themed clothes. These could be party clothes or they can come as characters from the Nativity. If your child is uncomfortable being dressed up, they can just come in normal non-uniform clothes. The Nativity performances in EYFS are planned as a relaxed, fun, singalong event, so please be prepared to join in! Please note, if you feel that your Nursery child needs to come home with you after their performance, please feel free to take them. The first time performing in a crowded hall can be a little overwhelming for some!

Our EYFS Christmas Party Day is planned for Wednesday 18th December. Again, the children in Leopards (Mr McLoughlin), Goldfish (Mrs Nash), Hedgehogs (Mrs Davis) and the Mon-Wed Robins (Mrs Moran) will take part in the morning party. Children in Dolphins (Mr Osmond), Eagles (Miss Butler) and Wed-Fri and 30 hour Robins (Mrs Moran) will take part in the afternoon party. Obviously there will be lots of party games, and there will be lots of fun activities going on during the course of the day and everybody will participate.

The week before the party, we will send home a small bag for your child to fill with treats for their party tea. This ensures that everybody has something that they will enjoy eating at the party and that any dietary needs are catered for. Please note, however, that due to allergies, we are a nut-free school. We will provide your children with drinks during their party day.

Last year, our EYFS Christmas Tree was fabulously adorned by the children who brought home a peg to decorate. We hope to repeat this so look out for a peg coming home with your child in the last week of November. If you would like to participate, the peg can be decorated in any way you choose. Last year we had all sorts of lovely ideas, each as individual as your children and we cannot wait to see what this year will bring!

We have a performance of The Littlest Elf on Thursday 19th December at 10 am. Mon-Wed children are welcome to attend with an accompanying grown-up. This will be a lovely way to finish off the term!



Erasmus+ Visits



Next week is our first visit to one of our partner schools in our new project, 'Learning Outdoors, Learning for Life'. Mr McLoughlin, Mr Junemann and Mrs Davis are taking Alfie, Sam, Thomas and Aeden from Year 5 to spend the week in Bialystock in Poland. During our time there, we will spend some time in our partner school enjoying some outdoor education, visit the national forest as well as having time to explore the capital city of Warsaw. We will return with more ideas about how to develop our outdoor learning here.

During the first week in December, our partner schools in our other Erasmus+ project (Traditional Tales Across Europe) are coming to our school for our transnational meeting. Staff from Hungary and Germany will be meeting with our staff to discuss how to further develop our ideas and plans.

We will shortly be sending out letters to Year 5 about our visit to Denmark with four girls and Hungary with four boys in March 2020.



International Mens Day



BBC Radio Newcastle are celebrating International Mens Day on Tuesday 19th November and will be broadcasting a number of interviews with men throughout the day. Two of our male members of staff will also feature during the day so please listen out for them!

Mr McLoughlin has been interviewed about his experience of Shared Parental Leave which he took last year when his son was still a baby – I am sure that seems a lifetime ago for him! Mr Bailey is also being interviewed about his personal and professional journey and his battle with mental health issues in the past. Both are very open and honest about their experiences and I am proud that we have two staff members who were both asked to be interviewed quite independently of each other!

As a result of these connections, BBC Radio Newcastle will be coming out to school again to record Lisa's Little Uns in the near future with some of our younger children and Mr Bailey will be going back into the studio to record their own version of Desert Island Discs called 'My Tunes'. I will let you know when that will be on air!



Christmas Dinner



Christmas Dinner will be enjoyed by the children on Friday 13th December. For this one special occasion, we do open this up to children who do not normally stay for school dinner. However, when potentially catering for over 400 people, we obviously do need to order food in advance. Therefore, if your child does not usually stay for a school dinner but would like to stay for their Christmas Dinner, it is essential that you let the Office know and pay £2.05 (this charge only applies to pupils from Year 3-6).

A separate form will go out next week and must be returned to school no later than **Monday 2nd December**. We have disappointed children every year whose parents come to the Office too late to order their dinner. Some parents do not seem to realise that it is essential to have a cut-off point to be fair to everyone in school and think that one extra won't matter. However, if we do this for one family, we would have to do it for all and obviously this is just not possible. Therefore if your child does not normally stay for school dinner and you would like them to have Christmas Dinner, please adhere to the deadline of letting us know no later than Monday 2nd December. Thank you!

Please note, that this will also be our Christmas Jumper Day

Request for Year 1 History Topic

For History this half-term Year 1 would love to have a couple of parents who went to our school as children come in and talk with the children about how the school and the village have changed over time. We realise that many of our parents also attended the school as a child and our Year 1 staff would love to hear from any of you who would be willing to give up your time to come and talk to the children about this topic. If you are able to do this, please email either Mrs Burke or Miss Martin. Thank you. Their email addresses are: j.burke@lanchesterep.net and c.martin@lanchesterep.net



New Dinner Menus



New menus have been sent home with your child today; I am sure many children are looking forward to a change of meal now the weather is becoming colder.

As you can appreciate, it is a mammoth task ensuring that each child has the correct choices inputted for their meals. Therefore, can you please ensure that the menu is returned no later than Tuesday 19th November. After this date, your child will be offered the deferred vegetarian menu. Thank you. We plan to start the new menu towards the end of this half term.

If your child would like to swap from packed lunch to school dinners or vice versa, please also let the office know immediately. We do ask for one week's notice for either move to ensure all the relevant systems are updated and any food ordering is correct.

Remember that meals are universally free for Reception to Year 2. Nursery and Years 3-6 pay £10.25 per week. If your child has a recognised allergy where we have an alternative menu please inform our Business Manager, Mrs Janette Marklew.



Payments to School Office



I would like to remind you once again that we ask for at least one week's dinner money to be paid in advance on ParentPay to stop any arrears building up. This is the same for our wrap around care clubs. We really do pride ourselves on being able to offer such flexible wrap around care facilities but we must ask that these are paid for in advance in order for them to continue so successfully. Once again, please check your ParentPay accounts to keep on top of your child's payments. Thank you for your support with this.



Residential Visits



Ford Castle

We have an uptake of 27 children going to Ford Castle in February from our Y6 class which is great - it is always such a lovely trip for them and one that staff look forward to as well! Please remember to stick to the payment schedule for the trip. The next deposit is due by 2nd December 2019. Thank you.

PGL

68 excited children will start their countdown to this ever popular destination! Once again can we ask that you keep to the payment schedule. With such a large party, it is imperative that we pay our invoices on time and we can only do that if all the scheduled deposits are received. I am afraid you do jeopardise your child's place on the trip if payments are missed/late. You can pay as often as you wish on ParentPay, as long as at least the expected amount is paid by each deadline date. Thank you for your help with this.

Ski Trip

All adults who are going on the ski trip need to complete and enhanced DBS - this is an essential criteria when accompanying children on a school trip. Mrs Marklew will email all parents in the New Year with details on how to start this process and with a date to bring in your documentation.

We will be holding a meeting on Monday 2nd December for all parents and children who will be going on the ski trip. Please make every effort to attend so that further information and kit lists can be shared with you all.



School Choir



Our school choir are rehearsing very hard again this term and sound amazing! Whilst they did not reach the final of the competition they recently entered, we all think they're incredible!

They have two events this half term. The first is on Thursday 5th December at Lanchester All Saints Church when they will be taking part in a concert with The Music Group. This starts at 7pm in the church and should be a fabulous evening! It is free entry with a retiring collection in aid of North East Children's Cancer Research and Downs Syndrome North East. We hope you are able to support our wonderfully talented children at this great event.

They will also be singing at Lanchester Garden Centre on Wednesday 11th December at 3pm in aid of Henry Dancer Days. Again, this is a great occasion and we hope that parents and carers will be able to help transport the children to the Garden Centre so that they can also listen to them! More information about both events will follow in due course.



Fairtrade



As many of you will be aware, we have been a Fairtrade School since September 2013 and we strive to continue to spread the word to help get the Fairtrade message across to all of our children and parents.

This academic year, the Year 5 children will be taking on the job of running the Fairtrade steering group in school. Please watch this space as the children plan some exciting new events which will be popping up in the next few months!



Girls Football Team



The girls concluded their league season with a very good victory over Blackhill St. Mary's and a narrow victory over Medomsley. This meant, in the final league table, that we finished in a very creditable 6th place with 16 points, narrowly missing out on Champions League qualification. Congratulations go to Shotley Bridge who won the league - they only lost one game all season which was when we played them and beat them 3-0! It has been lovely to see so many girls get the chance to represent the team this season. We will arrange some friendlies later on in the year to give some of our younger children an opportunity to play for the team.



Science Quality Mark



Primary Science Quality Marks have been awarded to 300 Infant, Junior, Primary, Middle and Special Schools to celebrate a commitment to excellence in Science teaching and learning. So far, since its national launch in 2010, over 3,500 schools across the UK have achieved a prestigious Primary Science Quality Mark.

The Primary School Quality Mark programme ensures effective leadership of science, enables schools to work together to share good practice and is supported by professional development led by local experts. Schools that achieve PSQM demonstrate commitment and expertise in science teaching and leadership.

There are 3 awards that are recognised: PSQM, PSQM Gilt and PSQM Outreach. I am delighted to announce that our school has been awarded the PSQM Gilt award in recognition of the work and commitment to Science. Thanks must go to both Mr Stephenson and Mr Stoker for all their hard work in gaining such worthy recognition of the work we do in school.



Lanchester Calendars



Lanchester 2020 calendars will be on sale at home-time – weather permitting – in the school yard. Twelve pictures, by local artists of Lanchester and its surroundings illustrate the year. The calendars are priced at £5 and all proceeds will be given to Willowburn Hospice.

Chance to Shine Finalists and Awards Evening



We are delighted to have been nominated as 'Primary School of the Year' for the 'Chance to Shine' cricket programme that children from Y1, Y2 and Y3 took part in during the summer term. The children had cricket sessions which were delivered by Phil Mellons (Durham Cricket Coach).



After these excellent sessions in school, many of our children attended the 'All Stars Cricket' after school coaching at local cricket clubs such as Lanchester CC. We had the highest take up of children attending these sessions out of the whole of County Durham, with over 50 children attending 'All Stars Cricket' at Lanchester CC! Due to this, we have been nominated by Phil from Durham Cricket as 'Primary School of the Year'.

Mr Mordue and Mr Graham will be taking two Y3 children, Matthew and Fraser, to an awards ceremony at Lords Cricket Ground in London next Wednesday 20th November. This will be a fantastic experience for the children - attending a prestigious ceremony at 'the home of cricket'. Well done to all children from our school who took part in the 'Chance to Shine/All Stars Cricket' sessions and thank you to parents/carers for your continued support.



After School Club Booking



If you would like your child to attend our wrap around care After School Club you MUST book them in. This can be done either through the online booking system on www.ParentPay.com, by ringing the school office or emailing school.office@lanchesterep.net. Bookings can be made up until the afternoon of the club. This is essential, as teachers use the booking system to check who is supposed to be attending after school club.

If you are paying for wrap around care via childcare vouchers and are unable to use the online booking system, you can still book your child in by emailing the school office. If you have not booked your child into after school club, you will be contacted if your child has not been collected from school on time. This is a safeguarding issue so please help us to keep your child safe.

Booking Issues

If you are unable to book sessions for wrap around care via ParentPay, please check if you have an outstanding balance. If you do, you cannot book further sessions until the balance is paid.

To do this please log into your account>bookings>unpaid bookings>pay any outstanding amount.

Once any outstanding amounts are paid, you will be able to book further sessions.

Cancelling Wrap-Around Care

If your child has been booked onto a wrap-around care session and does not attend or has been marked in by mistake, you MUST contact the school office who can reverse the charge. However, this can only be done for sessions within the half term that the charge comes from. No refunds will be made for clubs not attended in previous half terms.

After School Clubs: Monday 16th December – Thursday 19th December

Please do not forget that the only after school club running in the last week of term will be the usual wrap around care. Please remember that no other clubs will be running in the last week of term. Thank you.

Switching on the Christmas Lights



As usual, two of our Year 6 children have been asked to help switch on the Christmas Lights on Saturday 23rd November at 6 p.m. on the Village Green. This year, the two children that the staff have nominated for this honour are Daniel and Eloise. I know that they were both thrilled to have been asked and I am sure they will do a very good job. It is always very tricky to nominate only two children out of so many super children but we felt that these two children were very worthy of this nomination.





Non Uniform Day for Fair



We will be holding a non-uniform day on Friday 29th November. This is an annual non-uniform day that we hold at the same time every year. We ask children to bring in a gift for the Christmas Fair in exchange for being allowed to wear non uniform. We would really appreciate any of the following: chocolate/confectionary, toiletries, bottles of alcohol (an adult should drop them in at the office please!), children's stationery/gift or any item suitable for a raffle prize. Please make sure anything you bring in is still in-date as we often have to throw things away that are past their use by date!

We really appreciate your help and support with this as it makes a huge difference to the success of our Christmas Fair! All profits made from the Fair will be going towards the next stage of our playground development.



Enterprise Week



During the week beginning Monday 2nd December, all children will be taking part in our annual Enterprise Week. Each class decide on their project and, working as a small business, attempt to make and sell a product with the aim of making a small (or large!) profit. These products will all be sold at the Christmas Fair at the end of the week. In the past, the children have thoroughly enjoyed this challenge and their aim is to be the class making the most profit! (Actually I think it is more competitive amongst the adults in school!)



Christmas Fair – Friday 6th December at 2 p.m.



Our Christmas Fair takes place between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. on Friday 6th December. As usual, there will be a huge variety of stalls including a raffle, tombola stalls, Christmas gifts, craft activities and stalls for children, refreshments and a number of gift stalls. In addition to these, the children's enterprise goods which they make during the week will also be on sale. For this event, children can be collected early from the classrooms so that they can accompany you to the fair. This is usually a lovely, social afternoon and one which we all look forward to. Hope to see you there! More details will follow nearer the time about collecting the children early.

Year 6 Pantomime Trip

Our Year 6 children are looking forward to one of the highlights of their year! On the penultimate Tuesday of the term, Tuesday 10th December, they will be taking the train from Durham to Newcastle, where they will visit Fenwick's window, before having dinner at Uno's Trattoria on the quayside. They will then walk to the Theatre Royal where they will enjoy this year's pantomime, 'Beauty and the Beast'. A coach will then bring them back to school for approximately 5.45 p.m. Year 6 will receive a separate letter with further information about this visit.



Key Stage One and Two Nativities and Christingle Service



Our Key Stage 1 Nativity – 'I'm Gonna Shine' will take place in school on Monday 16th December at 10am and 2pm. The Christingle and Key Stage Two Nativity will be performed in All Saints Church during the morning and afternoon of Thursday 19th December at 10am & 2pm.

Our Year 3 children organise and lead the Christingle, whilst the Year 6 children take the main roles in the nativity with all of our KS2 children singing. No tickets are necessary for this. Instead, there will be a retiring collection in aid of homeless people. If you have any questions, please just ask a member of staff.



Carols and Hot Chocolate Round the Christmas Tree



On Tuesday 17th December we will be gathering around the Christmas tree in the Junior Hall straight after school to enjoy a carol-singing session and hot chocolate. Again, this has become one of the traditions of the school with many parents joining us all for a good old sing-song. All children must be accompanied by an adult for this festive and very popular occasion.



Nativities and Tickets



Nativity tickets go on sale on the following days all at a cost of £2 per ticket. Please note that initially, tickets will be limited to 4 tickets per performance. Additional tickets will go on sale on the dates stated below.

Foundation Stage Nativity which takes place on Wednesday 11th December at 10am & 2pm.

Tickets go on sale on Monday 25th November.

Additional Tickets go on sale on Wednesday 4th December.

Year 1 & 2 Nativity which takes place on Monday 16th December at 10am & 2pm.

Tickets go on sale on Monday 2nd December.

Additional Tickets go on sale on Wednesday 11th December.

Years 3 – 6 Nativity & Christingle which takes place on Thursday 19th December at 10am and 2pm.

Tickets are not required but a retiring collection for the Homeless will be taken.

All tickets will be available from the school office. If you are unable to make it into the school office, please put your money in an envelope with your child's name on and the number of tickets you would like for each performance. This can either be sent in with your child, or you can put it in the post box in the entrance area if the school office is closed.



Christmas Parties



The Christmas parties are listed on the diary dates at the end of the newsletter. We suggest that on their party day, children can either come to school for the day in their party clothes, or they can bring their clothes to change into at lunchtime when staff will be available to help. All parties finish at the end of the school day.

This year again, each party is having slightly different arrangements for their party food. Foundation Stage children will all be given their own party bag in advance to take home and fill with food that they would like to eat and these are then to be brought into school on the day of their party. This way, at this early age, we know that all children will be eating something that they like! **Please note – nuts are NOT allowed in school due to us having a number of children with a nut allergy. Thank you.**

The rest of the school will be provided with a party tea prepared by staff in school.



LJG Coaching Holiday Club



Do not forget to book your child on to Mr Graham's Holiday Club on Friday 20th December if you would like your child to attend as we anticipate this to be a popular date. Forms can be found on the School Website or at the School Office.



!Dogs and Cars!



Our school population is ever-increasing and with it, so are some issues! We need your help please. Firstly, parking – please do not use the staff car park for any drop offs or pick ups – it is just not big enough. This applies to parents collecting children from After School Club as well. It is essential that you park on the road outside in order to keep all our children safe.

Dogs are not allowed on school grounds –thank you for this. However, it has come to our attention that there are some dogs being tied up right outside the school gates where 400+ children, along with their adults are walking. There are many of our children who have a real fear of dogs – please bear this in mind when deciding on an appropriate location for your dog.

We really are not trying to be awkward with either of these issues – just practical! Thank you for your support.

Deadline for Applications for School for September 2020

All Nursery Parents – please do not forget the deadline of Wednesday 15th January 2020 for applying for a school place for all Reception class new school starters. Missing this deadline hinders your chances of gaining your first choice school.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

The Durham Local Offer website contains a wealth of information to help parents and carers, especially parents and carers of children with additional needs. You can find information about different groups, charities and organisations that run all across County Durham. This may be especially useful for parents who are looking for activities to support their families during the school holidays. The website will be relaunching with a brand new look very soon and can be found by going to: countydurhamfamilies.info. You can also ask Mr McLoughlin for more information.

Feeding Families

Feeding Families is a North-East registered charity which helps local families in food poverty at Christmas. We all have an expectation of how Christmas should be but are all too aware that for many families, it is a time of added stress on already over-stretched budgets. Families that struggle from day to day suddenly have to try to stretch further to provide a Christmas dinner and presents for children and many simply cannot.

Our school is working with Feeding Families and are organising a food collection in school following the food list below. We are asking parents to consider purchasing an extra item of food in their weekly shopping that can then be used to make up hampers in the North East.

The food items needed for the hampers are:

- Sponge or Christmas Pudding
- Custard/White Sauce
- Gravy Granules
- Cake (Christmas, Chocolate Log, Chocolate Rolls etc)
- Chocolates or Sweets
- Mince Pies
- Savoury Snacks (e.g. crisps)
- Coffee and Tea
- Squash, UHT fruit juice or fizzy non-alcoholic drinks
- Chocolate Biscuits
- Breakfast Cereal (Medium)
- Jam, Marmalade, or Chocolate Spread
- Part Baked Bread
- Cooking Sauce
- Pasta
- Tinned Tuna/Meat
- Baked Beans/Tinned Spaghetti
- Soup
- Tinned Veg (e.g. sweetcorn, carrots)
- Handwash
- Shampoo
- Shower Gel

Please send in any of the above items with your children.

In addition to this, the staff will also be making up their own hampers to deliver to families in need in the village. If you know of any family who would appreciate one of these hampers, please let me know. It can be done confidentially by emailing me at: j.davis@lanchesterep.net

We would also like to play our small part to help our local community.

School Holidays – Academic Year 2019 – 2020

Holiday	Closing Date	Date re-open for teaching purposes
Christmas Holiday	Thursday 19 th December 2019	Monday 6 th January 2020
February Half Term	Friday 14 th February 2020	Monday 24 th February 2020
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

Key Stage 1 (Yr 2) Statutory Assessment Tests - May 2020

KS2 (Yr 6) Statutory Assessment Tests - Week Beginning Monday 11th May 2020

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

DIARY DATES

Sunday 17 th November	Afternoon	Messy Church at All Saints Church
Week Beg. Mon. 18 th November	All Week	Erasmus+ Visit to Poland – Year 5 Boys and Staff
Monday 18 th November	All Day	Year 2 Forest Schools Sessions
Wednesday 20 th November	All Day	Photographer in School for Individual Photographs Photographs with Siblings not in this school at 8.15am
Wednesday 20 th November	All Day	Year 3 Forest Schools Sessions
Thursday 21 st November	Afternoon	Year 2 – 6 at The Wind in the Willows, Tyne Theatre NB – late return at approx. 5.30pm
Friday 22 nd November	7pm	Quiz Night – School Hall
Monday 25 th November	All Day	Year 3 at The Centre for Life
Monday 25 th November	All Day	Year 4 Forest Schools Sessions
Tuesday 26 th November	3.30 – 5pm	Parents Evening for Children with Additional Support Plans
Wednesday 27 th November	All Day	Digital Leaders at LearnEd Conference – Newcastle Racecourse
Wednesday 27 th November	Afternoon	Theatre Company in School – KS1 & KS2
Thursday 28 th November	6pm	Friends of the School AGM
Friday 29 th November	All Day	Non-Uniform Day in aid of the Christmas Fair
Week Beg. Monday 2 nd December	All Week	Enterprise Week
Week Beg. Monday 2 nd December	All Week	Erasmus+ Visit from European Partner Schools
Monday 2 nd December	3.30 – 4.30pm	Nursery New Starters Open Evening
Monday 2 nd December	6pm	Ski Residential Meeting
Thursday 5 th December	7pm	Choir singing in concert at All Saints Church, Lanchester
Friday 6 th December	2 – 4pm	Christmas Fair in Junior Hall
Friday 6 th December	2-4pm	Christmas Fair
Tuesday 10 th December	All Day	Year 6 at Theatre Royal Pantomime and Newcastle
Wednesday 11 th December	10am & 2pm	Foundation Stage Nativities
Wednesday 11 th December	3pm	School Choir singing at Lanchester Garden Centre
Thursday 12 th December	All Day	Year 4 at Jorvik Centre, York
Thursday 12 th December	Morning	New College Performing Arts Theatre Company performing The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe
Friday 13 th December	All Day	Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 13 th December	Morning	Early Years Pantomime – The Littlest Elf
Friday 13 th December	Lunchtime	Christmas Dinner
Sunday 15 th December	Afternoon	Messy Church
Monday 16 th December	10am & 2pm	Key Stage One Nativity
Tuesday 17 th December	Afternoon	KS1 (Year 1&2) and Lower KS2 (Year 3&4) Christmas Parties
Tuesday 17 th December	3.30pm	Carols Round the Tree
Wednesday 18 th December	Afternoon	Early Years and Upper KS2 (Year 5&6) Christmas Parties
Thursday 19 th December	10am & 2pm	KS2 Nativity and Christingle in All Saints Church
Thursday 19 th December	Morning	Theatre visit for Early Years
Friday 20 th December	All Day	Holiday Club in School
Friday 20 th December	School Closed for Christmas Holiday	
Monday 6 th January 2020	7.30 am	School Re-opens for Spring Term