



LANCHESTER E.P. (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



Friday 1st October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week has been one of positivity, enthusiasm and enjoyment. Children in Years 2 – 6 had a wonderful day up the Northumberland Coast on Wednesday with the weather being particularly kind to us all. I think the younger children also enjoyed having the school to themselves for the day too! A huge thank you to all the parents who drove up to meet us there too. It really was a very special day although I think it will take a while for the sand dunes to recover!

However, the only issue causing us major issues at the moment is that we do have a few staffing issues across school. We will always try to tell you if your child's teacher is going to be absent for any length of time and will try to cover the classes with existing members of staff whenever possible. This is better for the children as they are familiar faces and they also know our routines and procedures. We seem to just get one member of staff back at the moment, when another staff member tests positive. This is not going away very quickly or easily and we have to ride the storm the best we can. However, please bear with us as staffing is a real challenge at the moment!

Thank you to those parents who gave up their time to attend the Accelerated Reader workshops. The presentation has also been uploaded to the school website and eSchools so that you can peruse this at your leisure.

Harvest Festival – Tuesday 5th October

We will be celebrating Harvest next week across school. On Tuesday afternoon, children in Years 1 – 6 will be walking along to All Saints Church for a special Harvest Festival Celebration led by Reverend Lesley Sutherland. Unfortunately – this is for children only. Children in the Early Years will also be enjoying their own Harvest celebrations in school next week too.

Many of the children have not actually been to the church with school before so it should be a really special occasion for them all. As a Church of England Controlled Primary School, the church plays a very important part in the life of our school, although it has not been quite the same during the last 18 months.

We are asking all children to bring a donation of food to school on Tuesday so that we can make donations to the Food Bank. Any tinned foods or fresh fruit and vegetables would be greatly appreciated. Children in Years 1 – 6 will be taking all the food along to the church for their service in the afternoon.

Pyjama Day – Thursday 7th October

We have our very special pyjama day on Thursday 7th October. We are asking all children (and adults!) to come to school in their pyjamas and we will be enjoying a very special brunch for lunch too! Any families who would like to make a donation for this event, please remember we are supporting an ex-parent, Hayley Wilkinson in her Pyjama Appeal. Hayley is collecting pyjamas for children who are in hospital, often who have been taken in with no warning and so have nothing with them. Hayley has previously collected a huge number of pyjamas for both UHND and the RVI and this is a really great cause and something that any parents who have had little ones in hospital will be able to relate to. Please remember to send in brand new pyjamas for the appeal, as they cannot accept any that have been previously worn.

We are sure that it will be a very enjoyable day which will hopefully make a big difference to a very worthy cause too!

Erasmus+ Visit to Poland

The Erasmus+ Visit for Teacher Training takes place next week. Myself, along with Mr Innes, Mrs Moran and Mr Keeton are visiting our partner school in Bialystock, where we will be working alongside teachers from Poland, Denmark, Sweden and Spain to learn more about how children learn outdoors. Mrs Riddell will be teaching Mr Innes' class while Mr Knighton and Mrs Tate will be teaching Mr Keeton's class for the week.

Visit to Rajkot, India

Thank you to all those parents and carers who attended the meeting on Wednesday evening. I am sure you will agree that Veena Soji is a wonderfully enthusiastic and caring lady! If you are interested in your child being considered for this visit, please complete the online form by next Friday. The link is here: [India Trip Form](#)

Cleaner Vacancy

We have a vacancy for a 20 hour per week cleaner which is on our school website and it is also advertised in the village. If you know of anyone who may be interested in the post, please encourage them to look at the advert. If anyone has any questions about the position, feel free to get in touch with either Miss Rippon – our Operations Manager, or myself.

Open Morning for Reception 2022 Starters – Saturday 13th November

We know that many Nursery parents are starting to think about which primary school to apply to for their child for September 2022. To help them make this crucial decision, we will be holding an Open Morning on Saturday 13th November between 10am and 12 noon. Please come along, meet some of the key staff, have a look at the environment in Reception and Key Stage One and ask as many questions as you would like!

However, if you would like to come and have a look round during the school day, we are also more than happy to show you round. Just email the school office and we will get back to you with some suggested dates. Choosing the right school for your child is probably one of the biggest decisions you will make for your child, therefore it has to be the right one!

School Office Information

Contact Details

Please make sure your contact details are up to date with the school office, if you have moved house or have a new mobile phone. It is really important that we are able to contact someone and there is nothing worse than not being able to get in touch with someone if their child is unwell.

ParentPay

Please make sure you keep your ParentPay account up to date and that you regularly check your balances, and keep your account in credit. If you have queries about your account, please contact the School Office.

Pupil Absences

Please make sure that you contact the school office if your child is not going to be in school with the reason for absence. This needs to be done before 9.15am, so that our registers are up to date.

Pupil Premium

If your child is eligible for 'free school meals' and you register them for this, the school will receive extra funding called 'Pupil Premium'. We use this extra money to improve the educational provision and resources at the school. We also use this funding to subsidise music tuition, provide milk and to greatly subsidise residential visits for eligible children.

Pupil Premium is provided for pupils who:

- Are registered for free school meals
- Have been registered for free school meals at any point in the past 6 years
- Are, or have been, in care
- Have parents in the armed forces

Eligibility Criteria

Your child might be eligible if you access:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on
- Universal Credit, provided you have an annual net earned income not exceeding £7,400 (£616.67 per month)

Pupils in Reception, Year 1 & 2

Whilst pupils in Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 already get free school meals, it is still important to apply for pupil premium if you fit the criteria above.

How to Register

If you think you are eligible, please contact the school office, who will give you a form to fill in and will then run a check with the local authority. If your child is already entitled to free school meals and pupil premium, you do not need to register again. However, if you were not eligible and your circumstances have changed, please do contact the school office to run another check.

Early Years News

We are excited to be relaunching our outdoor playgroup, Lanchester Little'uns after half term. Sessions will run on Tuesday afternoons from 1:30 to 2:30pm. Little'uns is for children from two upwards who do not yet attend our Nursery. Children attending must be accompanied by an adult. If you are interested in a free place, please email us at: school.office@lanchesterep.net with your child's name and date of birth. We will be offering 15 places and in the first instance, priority will be given to children who will be starting with us after Christmas. Children who do not get a place initially will be added to our waiting list and you will be contacted as soon as a space becomes available.

Thank you to Reception parents who have shared their child's experiences of their first school reading book via Evidence Me. It has been wonderful to hear about the stories your children have been telling. We hope that you will find it easy to continue using Evidence Me as an alternative to a written reading diary. If you need any support in using Evidence Me, please ask your child's teacher.

We are looking forward to your child's autumn treasure hunt coming back into school so that we can display them. We hope your child has fun searching for treasures to share. Any sponsor money collected for their efforts will be gratefully received and will go towards the purchase of a new castle structure to enhance our EYFS outdoor play area for both Nursery and Reception.

Positive Thinking

***Life is a gift, and it offers us the privilege, opportunity and responsibility
to give something back by giving more.***

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