



LANCHESTER E.P. (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



Weekly Bulletin 3 – Friday 29th November 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another incredibly busy but successful week in school. Some of our Digital Leaders presented at the LearnEd Conference at Newcastle Racecourse on Wednesday – once again, they were wonderful ambassadors for our school. Caitlin and Anna from Year 6 were particularly impressive when they spoke to the full conference hall of delegates about our use of twitter in school – this takes tremendous courage at such a young age! Then our children enjoyed a wonderful treat when we welcomed a travelling theatre group into school.

A topic which we are keen to promote in school is the well-being of both children and adults as well as a greater awareness of mental health issues. As a result, both Mr Bailey and myself were interviewed for Radio Newcastle on this topic which was broadcast yesterday morning. We like to think that our caring ethos extends to the whole school community...

I am sure that many of you will be aware of the recent outbreak of norovirus across North-East schools. We have been in discussions with Public Health since last week and have had additional precautions and cleaning in place all week. We, like other schools, do have some children absent with a range of symptoms. We would appreciate it, if your child is poorly, being specific about the reason they are absent so that we can monitor this carefully. In addition, we have increased our hygiene across school, sending the children to wash their hands more regularly during the day – this is essential in a bid to prevent any germs from spreading. However, we do need your help in ensuring this does not spread in following our school rules and keeping your child off school for 48 hours after any bout of sickness/diarrhoea.

Week Beginning Monday 2nd December – Enterprise Week

Next week, the whole school will be taking part in our annual Enterprise Week. Each class is given a budget and they have to use that budget to make gifts to be sold at the Christmas Fair and to make a profit. This is always very competitive between the classes (particularly the teachers!) and is thoroughly enjoyed by all the children. Come along on Friday afternoon from 2pm to buy a gift that your child has made!

Monday 2nd December - BBC Radio Newcastle in school

On Monday afternoon, Lisa Shaw from Radio Newcastle will be in school to interview ten children from KS1 for her programme, 'Lisa's Littleuns'. Lisa will spend time talking to the children, showing them a picture of a place, person or object and she will then ask them to describe what they can see. Their clues are then edited and played out on air and listeners will then be asked to get in touch and guess what the Little'un is talking about. These interviews will all be recorded on Monday afternoon and we should be informed when they are to be broadcast. I am sure they will all make for very good listening!

Monday 2nd December - Open Evening for New Nursery Starters

We have our Open Evening on Monday after school at 4pm for all parents and children who are starting our Nursery after Christmas. Please make your way to the Nursery doors where the staff will be waiting to show you around the Early Years Unit.

Monday 2nd December - Ski Meeting at 6pm

We are looking forward to meeting all the children and parents who will be going on the ski trip next year. At this meeting, you will find out more about the organisation of the week, kit list as well as see some of the photographs and videos from previous years. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Tuesday 3rd December – Erasmus+ Meeting in School

On Tuesday we will be welcoming teachers from our partner schools in Germany and Hungary to school. They will spend time in classrooms, meeting the children and seeing their work and talking to them, before we meet to plan the next stage of the project. They will then be taken to Newcastle by train to visit the Christmas Markets and enjoying a traditional Christmas dinner.

Wednesday 4th December – Friends of the School Gift Shop

The Friends of the School will be on site on Wednesday to allow children to choose the gifts they have purchased. Nursery, Year 3, Year 4 and Year 6 will all be visiting the shop and next week, it will be the turn of Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children.

Wednesday 4th December – Year 5 Forest Schools

Year 5 children will be participating in a Forest Schools session on Wednesday so will need wellingtons and waterproof coats for the day. Please bring appropriate clothing for a cold, wet outdoor lesson!

Thursday 5th December – Choir Concert at 7pm

Our choir are in demand this year and will be singing in a concert at All Saints Church at 7pm next Thursday evening. They have been rehearsing very hard and will be singing alongside and with the Church Music Group. There are no tickets on sale for this – a donation would be welcomed however for two charities – North East Children's Cancer Research and Down's Syndrome North East. The concert should last around an hour – we hope you can all join us for an evening of Christmas music!

Friday 6th December – Christmas Fair at 2pm

Our Christmas Fair takes place in the Junior Hall next Friday afternoon. This is one of the highlights of the school year which is always very well-attended. This year, we have a variety of stalls including a visit from Santa Claus, face painting, tombola stalls, enterprise gifts, jewellery, gift bags, craft activities, refreshments, bottle stall and a number of stalls for the children to enjoy. However, we are always desperate for help during the afternoon and would really appreciate your support with this. If you are able to help, please let the office know and either call in to give your name or email them to let them know:

school.office@lanchesterep.net

Please remember that additional activities and stalls take place in the two Year 5 classrooms just off the top of the hall. Refreshments and craft activities can be found in these classrooms and Santa Claus will be in his grotto in the top corridor near the kitchen. There will also be some enterprise gifts on sale in Mr Stephenson's classroom by the steps leading to the hall.

Children can also be collected early from the classes for the afternoon and most parents/carers do take their children to the fair during the afternoon. Please come to the Main Office and just before 2 p.m. you will be able to go to your child's classroom to collect them in order to take them to the fair. Once you pick your child up, they are your responsibility and they do not return to class. Any questions, please just ask your child's teacher. We look forward to seeing you all there next Friday. Unfortunately, staff are unable to take any remaining children to the fair as the hall just becomes too busy for this to happen.

Photographs

Please return any photograph orders to the school office no later than Monday 2nd December. The company will be collecting them all on Tuesday at 9am to ensure delivery in time for Christmas.

Matched Funding

The Friends of the School met last night and they are keen to hear from any parents who may work in a company or organisation who provide matched funding for fund-raising events. If you work for companies such as Barclays or Morrisons (as well as others who provide matched funding), please let us know! Thank you.

Nativity Tickets

Tickets for our KS1 Nativity, go on sale on Monday 2nd December. Seats are limited due to space in our hall, so please purchase your tickets on time to avoid any disappointment. Your child will be bringing home an envelope today for you to fill in your request for tickets. If you send this back with your child, or hand into the office, your tickets will then be sent home with your child.

Any remaining tickets for our Early Years Nativity will go on sale on Wednesday 4th December. Thank you.

Early Years News

Everybody should have taken home a peg for our Foundation Stage Christmas Tree together with a letter explaining what to do with it. If you haven't had yours (or would like another!) please see a member of staff. We have already had some beautifully decorated pegs back - thank you!

We are really impressed with the speed at which the Reception children are developing their reading skills. By the end of next week, we will have introduced all the letter sounds from the alphabet and will be starting to introduce digraphs (combinations of two letters which make one sound, such as sh, ou and ai). We can tell that you are working hard with the children at home to practise what they have learnt. We aim to read with your child regularly in school and will change your child's book weekly.

In the meantime, we will also have a box of books available in the Workshop for you to supplement your child's reading book. Initially, many of these books will be wordless. These give your child invaluable opportunities to develop reading skills other than phonics, such as comprehension and an awareness of plot, setting, character and structure. For a greater explanation of this, see our recent Facebook post (search for Lanchester EP Early Years).

To further develop your child's reading skills, the library has a lovely selection of high quality picture books. By the end of next week, all of our Reception children will have been on a visit to Lanchester Library, so they would be very excited to take you along too!

We would like to welcome our three teaching students from Durham University. Miss Ho, Mrs Ferguson and Mr Adamson will be with us now each week until June and are very much enjoying getting to know your children in Nursery and Reception.

Thanks for your contributions of junk modelling boxes, tubes, bottles and tubs. We have been amazed by the imagination shown in your children's creations. Please keep the junk coming!

Raffle Tickets

Your child should have brought home some raffle tickets with them today. There is no obligation to buy these, but many parents are unable to attend the fair or prefer to buy tickets in advance. There are a great array of gifts you can win, including vouchers for local restaurants and businesses and some amazing hampers. All money raised goes directly back and is spent on your children!

Advance Notices

Wednesday 11th December – Choir singing at Lanchester Garden Centre at 3pm

Friday 20th December – Mr Graham's Holiday Club in school

As usual, if there is anything at all that you would like to talk about, or that is concerning you, please do not hesitate to contact me at school. We are here to help you and your child.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Davis

Mrs Jane Davis
Head Teacher