



LANCHESTER E.P. (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL

Weekly Bulletin 4 – Friday 1st December 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope your children have enjoyed Alice in Wonderland this week. They certainly all looked wonderful in their Mad Hatter's hats and seemed to thoroughly enjoy the whole experience!

I find it hard to believe that it is the beginning of December already – the term is just flying past and yet it seems only five minutes since we were welcoming all of our new starters into school in September! I am sure that you will start to enjoy some Christmas songs soon (if you haven't already) and will no doubt, know them as well as your children before long.

Thank you for your great support last Friday for our non-uniform day. Our generous gifts for the fair all help to ensure it will be a great success!

Friends of the School Quiz and Bingo Night

Wow! What a great success this was! Thank you all so much who helped to organise it, turned up on the night and gave so much of your time so willingly in order to make it such a great success! I know this is just the start of many events and ideas they have for us all! The next event is a Polar Express Pyjama Party on Thursday 14th December so please keep this evening free! It is one certainly not to be missed! Please see the Friends newsletter for this. The Friends of the School also have a second hand uniform stall – please note – this is ALL stock which has been very kindly donated by parents and NOT lost property.

SIAMs Inspection (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools)

We have received notification that this will take place on Wednesday 6th December and the inspector will be Revd Canon Steven Harvey. He will spend the day in school talking to staff, pupils, parents, observing collective worship, looking at documentation and inspecting us against the framework. As a Voluntary Controlled Church of England Primary School, this is a statutory inspection which takes place every five years.

We will be inspected in the following areas:

1. How well the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meet the needs of all learners?
2. What is the impact of Collective Worship on the whole school community?
3. How effective are the Leadership and Management of the school as a Church School?

Reverse Advent Calendar

We have decided to celebrate Advent this year with a 'Reverse Advent Calendar'. All children love an advent calendar to count them down to Christmas Day but what we are doing in school this year, is filling an advent calendar up with items of food every day so that we can then take them to a food bank in order to help those less fortunate than ourselves who are struggling at Christmas. We hope that when you are shopping, you will pick some goodies to go in it with your children which in turn, will help to teach them the importance of helping others at this time of the year and also see the bigger picture at Christmas. Please send any items into school with your child so that they can place the items in the large advent calendar in the school hall. Thank you!

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 to buy a gift that your child has made!

Parents Meeting for Ski Trip – Tuesday 5th December at 6 p.m.

We are holding a meeting on Tuesday evening for all those going on the ski trip in March next year. At the meeting, we will discuss the itinerary in greater detail as well as show you some photographs and videos from last year's trip. It will also be a good opportunity for the parents and children who are going to meet each other. Look forward to seeing you all there.

Director of Alice in Wonderland in School – Wednesday 6th December

We are very fortunate to be able to welcome the director of Alice in Wonderland into school on Wednesday afternoon when some of our children will be able to interview him. This is a great opportunity for us all – special thanks must go to Mr McLoughlin for making this happen!

FROG Club – Thursday 7th December 2017

Our FROG Club (Fully Reliant on God) Club will take place on Thursday 7th December from 3.30 until 4.30 p.m. All children from Reception to Year 6 are welcome to come along to this club which will be led by Revd Kalus and Revd Ali Miller along with Mrs Burke.

Junior Choir singing at Ushaw College - Thursday 7th December

Our Junior Choir have been successful in getting through to the final of a singing competition which takes place next Thursday 7th December at Ushaw College. Children from the choir have been working hard on a Christmas song for the County Durham Schools Choir Competition. They have been talented enough to get through to the next round of this competition with another nine schools. During the day they will visit the chapel when they will be given the chance to take part in a singing workshop in the morning with all of the other finalists before singing a Christmas song for the judges in the afternoon. I am sure this is an experience they will never forget!

Christmas Fair – Friday 8th December 2017 – 2pm – 4 pm

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. Attached to the letter is a rota. Please help us if you can!

Children can also be collected early from the classes for 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.

Raffle Tickets

We have lots of wonderful prizes in our raffle again this year including: vouchers for local companies, toiletry gift sets, hamper, chocolates and a variety of bottles. All children have been given 5 tickets, which cost £1 each, to take home with them today. Please sell these to anyone who is unable to make it to the Christmas Fair and send them back into school any time next week. There are some great prizes on offer and this is a wonderful way to help us raise valuable funds.

Nativity Tickets

Don't forget to buy your tickets for the Foundation Stage production before Wednesday 6th December when they will go on general sale. Until Wednesday, we can guarantee every family a minimum of 4 tickets. Parents of children in Years 1 & 2 can purchase their tickets from Thursday 7th December.

Foundation Stage News

In Foundation Stage, our stories for December will all come from our Advent surprise parcels, so only those who have wrapped the new books in preparation will know which book is coming each day in Nursery and Reception. How exciting!

We are looking forward to the arrival of our Christmas tree. This year, we would like to invite the children in Nursery and Reception to decorate a peg to go on our Christmas tree. We will send pegs home on Monday if you would like to participate. The peg can be decorated in any way your child wishes and can then be brought back into school to put up on our Foundation Stage tree in Nursery.

A short reminder about our Christmas performance on Wednesday 13th December - all children are invited to come dressed in their favourite Christmas party clothes. Thank you.

Holiday Club – Friday 22nd December 2017

This term, we break up on Thursday 21st December but will be hosting a holiday club on the Friday. We expect this to be well attended so please book early for this. Bookings for this club can be made now.

As usual, if you have any questions or queries at all, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Jane Davis
Head Teacher