



LANCHESTER E.P. (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



Friday 11th February 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have all enjoyed another wonderfully special week in school, recognising Children's Mental Health Week and Safer Internet Day. Year 2 also had a fabulous trip to the Life Centre and the school certainly enjoyed a landmark moment too. On Thursday 10th February, our school celebrated its first day in 2022 with no staff absences due to Covid-19. What an achievement! It only took us 27 working days in the year to manage it! I just hope I am not tempting fate by mentioning it. I also wonder whether, in years to come, we will all look back on this period in our lives and just shake our heads in wonder....

We also received another wonderful email on Monday this week for 16 very lucky Year 5 & 6 children. Since our trip to India had to be cancelled at the start of the year due to Covid-19, we have been in talks with the British Council, Turing and an International School in Dubai. On Monday, we were informed that our application could be transferred to a different country and that permission had also been granted for our visit by the KHDA in Dubai. This means that the children will now be visiting Dubai for a week from Sunday 6th March. This leaves us with very little time to organise the visit but we will succeed! We are going to experience a completely different culture and to learn more about the Islamic religion which will, I am sure, be fascinating.

It does seem quite bizarre, after what we have all gone through during the last two years, that in March we will be taking children on visits to Dubai, Denmark, Seahouses, Birdoswald and also welcoming teachers and students to our school from Latvia, Portugal, Greece, Turkey, Spain, Poland, Sweden and Denmark! It is certainly going to be a very exciting half term in the life of our school.

Monday 14th February – 3.15- 4.15pm – Club for Dubai Children

We will be holding an after-school club for the children who will be travelling to Dubai. Mr Keeton and Mrs Moran will be educating the children a little more about what to expect on their travels and teaching them about the culture and religion. Revd Sutherland will also be joining them on Monday to share her experiences of life in Dubai.

Tuesday 15th February – Gala Theatre Visit for KS2

Children from Years 3 – 6 will be enjoying the afternoon at the Gala Theatre on Tuesday 15th February watching New College's Performing Arts students perform 'Hope, Joy and Happiness of the West End and Broadway'. This is a great opportunity for our pupils to experience a live musical performance. A letter has already been sent to Parents & Carers of Year 3-6 children and the trip is now available on ParentPay. Their shows are always exceptional and I am sure the children will all thoroughly enjoy their afternoon there. They will return to school for 3.15pm.

Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th February – Parent's Evenings

The class teachers are all looking forward to talking to you about your child's progress next week. All teachers will email you the Zoom link on Tuesday and Wednesday morning. Please do not worry if you are kept in the waiting room for some time – you will not be admitted until it is your allocated time. If you do not have an appointment yet, please phone the school office and they will be able to check whether there are any more appointments next week.

Thursday 17th February at 5pm – Meeting for Parents and Carers for Dubai Trip

Please note the change in day for this meeting. This will now take place on Thursday and NOT Wednesday due to the parents' evenings taking place. We will meet over Zoom – the link will be emailed separately – and will be able to share more information with you about where the children will be staying and their itinerary. This would also be useful for the children to attend.

Friday 18th February 2022 – Year 6 at The Hancock Museum

Year 6 are visiting the Hancock Museum in Newcastle on Friday 18th February. They are to wear full school uniform for this visit and will need a packed lunch. The trip will consolidate the work they are learning about in Science and they will have a workshop on Evolution and also explore the exhibition about evolution. A letter has already been sent to Parents & Carers of Year 6 children and the trip is still available on ParentPay. They will return to school in time for the end of the school day.

School Meal Price Increase

We have been informed by the Local Authority that the cost of school meals is increasing to £2.20 on 1st April.

School Grounds – Walls and Trees

Please can we politely remind you not to let your children climb in the trees or swing in the branches in the school grounds. We also have an increasing number of children who are climbing on the walls at the front of the school. Again, please keep your children away from the school walls as we are concerned that an accident will happen soon.

Year 5 PGL Residential

Our Year 5 children have the opportunity to visit Ford Castle in Northumberland which has recently been bought by PGL and it is currently undergoing a £1 million renovation. They will stay (in a real castle!) for 3 nights from Sunday 26th to Wednesday 29th June for 4 days of outdoor adventure activities. PGL remains the most popular trip of them all I think and I am sure the children will have a great experience during their time there. The initial non-refundable deposit of £50 (£20 for Pupil Premium Children) is due by Friday 18th February. Please see the letter on our website for further details which has been emailed to all Year 5 parents.

Year 6 Residential to Northern Ireland

Our Year 6 children have the opportunity to travel to Northern Ireland where they will be able to visit the Giant's Causeway, beaches of Portrush, enjoy an activity day including a visit to the Aquapark, before exploring Belfast on a private City Sightseeing Tour and going to the Titanic Museum, the W5 Interactive Discovery Centre and Belfast Zoo. They will stay in The Manor House Residential Centre at The Jungle, Moneymore. They will stay for 4 nights from Monday 20th June to Friday 24th June. The initial non-refundable deposit of £50 (£20 for Pupil Premium Children) is due by Friday 18th February. Please see the letter on our website for further details which has been emailed to all Year 6 parents.

Erasmus Visit to Lanchester - Monday 14th March – Friday 18th March

We are very much looking forward to welcoming our European partners from Latvia, Greece, Portugal and Turkey to our school on Monday 14th March. This project is all about the use of music to prevent bullying. As part of this project we will be welcoming Tiny Tweeties to school for some staff training and we are also welcoming back the inspirational Paul Whittaker who is a deaf musician. Our children will thoroughly enjoy this very special week and telling our visitors all about our school.

On Thursday 17th March, between 6pm and 9pm, we are holding a ceilidh in the school hall to introduce our European friends to some traditional music and dancing. We also hope to open this up to our families to come along and enjoy too – wouldn't that be truly wonderful?

World Book Day

We are planning various special activities for World Book Day which is on Thursday 3rd March 2022. We thought we should give you some advance warning that children will have a choice about what they would like to wear for school that day. They will either be able to come in fancy dress as a book character, or they can come in pyjamas. We will be spending some of the day enjoying a bedtime story with different staff members reading their favourite stories to the children. Alternatively, they can come in non-uniform. We thought it would help to inform you of this with plenty of notice!

Fair Trade Week

This takes place during the first week back after half term and we have a number of different activities and events planned for the week. The Fair Trade Steering Group are looking forward to organising it all.

Office News

We now have 93% of our pupils with an active ParentPay account which is fantastic. Please remember to look at your account regularly, to check your balance and clear any overdue items (including anything from last term). Thank you.

It is also important that all parents provide a specific reason when your child is off school because of an illness. Please inform us whether your child has, for example, earache, stomach bug, cold, chicken pox etc rather than stating they are 'unwell' or 'poorly' as this helps us keep track of any bugs which may be going around school. Thank you.

Extra-Curricular Activities after Half Term

After the half-term break, we will be starting our full programme of after school clubs again which is great news! The list of clubs will go out during the first week back and they will all start the week beginning Monday 7th March.

Early Years News

We are always looking to extend the children's imaginative play opportunities across EYFS. Currently, we are trying to build up our stock of dressing-up clothes and accessories. We find that commercial dressing-up costumes are limiting - Spider-Man can only be Spider-Man! - but by providing hats, scarves, bags and accessories such as glasses, phones and low-heeled shoes, we can support our children to take on any number of different roles. If you have anything that you could donate to support us in this, we would be very grateful.

Can we please remind our Nursery parents that children should not be bringing toys in from home unless this has been agreed with a member of staff. We have lots of exciting activities for them to engage with in Nursery to keep them busy!

We are also running rather low on our spare clothes for Nursery. Can we please have any spares returned to us and we will also happily welcome any donations of old uniform. Thank you.

Erasmus+ Visit to Denmark for Year 6

The children for this visit will be chosen next week as flights will need to be booked over half term.

Holiday Club – February Half Term (Monday 21st – Thursday 24th 2022)

LJG Coaching's holiday club will be running in school from Monday to Thursday of half term. For more information or to book your child in, please email LJGSportscoaching@gmail.com or fill in this online form: [LJG Coaching Holiday Club](#). Please note, a £5.00 deposit is required when booking to ensure your child's place.

Positive Thinking

***Stop worrying about the past.
Stop thinking about the future.
Just live in the moment and be happy.***

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