



# LANCHESTER E.P. (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you have all had a lovely break and your children are pleased to be back for the final half term of the year. Last term finished with a very busy week and I am sure your children would have been rather tired by the time we broke up for half term.

I would like to thank all the parents who helped us on the Nursery trips and the Cycle Rides during Fun and Fitness Week – it makes such a huge difference to the success of these events so thank you all very much for giving up your time to help.

The sports days were also wonderfully special events. The children seemed to thoroughly enjoy them and whilst it was different this year as we split them into two different events, it seemed to work well. It is lovely to see all children participating and having fun but it is also great to see our talented athletes excel in the competitive races too, even though losing can be tough and falling down is even harder....

Thank you to our parents who were brave enough to enter the parents' race. I hadn't mentioned anything about a parents' race this year as we had not intended holding them. But after the third parent asked me about it on the day of the KS1 Sports Day, I felt we had to! The staff got the bigger shock though when we decided to add a staff race at the last minute. But we do think it is good for the children to see us lose (and some lucky ones win!), fall down, have fun and show ourselves up too! Good fun was had by us all I think.

## **Big Jubilee Picnic in School**

It was lovely to see so many families and members of the local community in school on Sunday for the Jubilee Picnic. The event was exceptionally well-attended and the weather was kind too. One of the best things for me was seeing so many past pupils and their families. They were all quite nostalgic visiting the school again and talked fondly about memories of their time at school.

## **Staff News**

When we planned the trip to Dubai, it was with the intention of raising the aspirations of the children and knowing that it would be a trip of a lifetime for them. However, I am absolutely thrilled that the visit has not just had a lifelong impact on the children – it also had quite a profound impact on the staff who travelled too. In fact, so much, that Mr Keeton decided he would like to work and live out there and he has now been successful in securing a teaching position at Star International School, Dubai, starting in August!

Mr Keeton trained with us through Durham University and joined our teaching team almost two years ago. We are very sorry to be losing him as he is a great team player and has been such an integral part of our team during the relatively short time he has been with us. Whilst we are thrilled for this next exciting part of his life and career, we will miss him and just wish him all the very best for his new job and life! It is a real fairy tale ending to our wonderful week in Dubai – and of course opens up even more opportunities for our school to partner with his school in the future!

This of course, then left us with an issue of needing a teacher for September. After advertising just before the half-term break, I am delighted to inform you that we have appointed Mr Callum Adamson to our team. Mr Adamson is currently on his final teaching practice placement from Durham University in Year 5 and he has worked with us for almost 3 years now. We recognise real potential and know that he is going to be a great asset to our school.

### **Week Beginning Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June - Islam Week**

Next week, following on our visit to Dubai earlier in the year, children across school will be learning a little about Islam, the culture and how Muslims worship. Children from Reception to Year 6 will all be sharing the book, 'The Proudest Blue'. This is a really lovely and well-known story about two sisters going to school. For the older sister, it is her first day wearing the hijab and it is told from her younger sister's point of view. Then, each year group will undertake different activities following on from this, all linked to the story.

Revd Sutherland will be sharing her experiences of life in an Islam country during Worship on Tuesday and we are thrilled to have a visit from Brother Khadim from Newcastle Central Mosque on Thursday who will be leading an assembly with Years 1 – 6.

### **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June - Captain Chemistry**

Captain Chemistry will be working with Year 2 on Monday for a full day of experiments. They will be rounding off many of their Science topics this year with a day full of fun investigations!

### **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June - Year 6 Leavers' Video**

Year 6 begin work on their leavers' video on Monday so we ask that all children have their leavers' hoodies in school on Monday. The forecast looks as though it might be warm next week so even if they don't actually wear them for the day on Monday, please make sure they bring them in their bags.

This half term is action-packed for Year 6 with so many activities every day so if they are absent from school, they will miss some important events that we might not be able to recreate so 100% attendance is imperative please!

### **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June - Year 5 at Beamish**

Our Year 5 children are visiting Beamish on Tuesday as part of their work on Firedamp and Davy lamps. They are studying mining in County Durham and will be taking a trip down the mine during the time at Beamish. All children need to be in full school uniform and bring a packed lunch for the day. I am sure it will be a great day for them all.

### **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June – Captain Chemistry with Year 6**

Year 6 will be enjoying a day with Captain Chemistry on Tuesday when they will be doing some work around The Body. I am always surprised at how interesting and enjoyable his sessions are and I am sure the children will learn all sorts of lovely facts about their bodies with some fun experiments with Captain Chemistry!

### **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June - Woodwind Concert**

Durham Music Service will be performing a woodwind concert on Tuesday afternoon. This will be a real treat for our children and will give our young musicians the opportunity to see what can be achieved through practice and dedication! It is a shame our Year 5 children will miss it, but it is the only afternoon the Music Service could offer and I did not want to say no!

### **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June - Reception New Starters' Meeting at 6pm**

We are really looking forward to welcoming all the parents and carers of our new starters. We will hold the meeting in the Main Hall at 6pm before breaking off and visiting the classrooms. It is also an opportunity for you to meet the staff who will be working with your children next year. We look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday evening at 6pm.

### **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June - Year 6 Transition Work**

Darren, our School Counsellor, will be back in school on Wednesday to continue some work around transition with Year 6. The groups he worked with this week, all seemed to get a lot out of it and the drop in sessions for individual children to talk through any worries or concerns will start today too.

### **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June - Photograph Day**

The photographer will be back in school on Wednesday taking group photographs of all our classes. If you do not want your child on these photographs for any reason, it is essential you inform the school office no later than Monday lunchtime. Copies of these will be sent home for parents and carers to purchase if they wish. Please note, there is absolutely no obligation to purchase these photographs.

Please make sure your children come to school in full school uniform on Wednesday. Year 6 should wear their leavers' hoodies for this photograph. Thank you.

### **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June - Big Breaktime**

This was due to take place today – on 10<sup>th</sup> June – but due to tight timescales, we decided to postpone it a week so this will now take place on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June. All children will be enjoying an hour outside playing games and activities with the adults in their class. This will be a sponsored event and a sponsor form has been sent home with your child today. We are raising money for 3 very worthy charities – NSPCC, Henry Dancer Days and Lisa Shaw's Little'uns – all charities which are very close to our hearts.

### **Y5 and Y6 Residential**

All the information has been sent out regarding these residential so if you have misplaced anything, please just let us know and we will forward it onto you. I know all the children are very excited about their time away with almost all children going too which is great. Let's just hope the weather is kind to them all!

I am sure there will be some further information that is sent out via email a few days before travelling but meanwhile, we will continue to update individual year groups with information as needed.

### **Musical in Consett Empire Theatre – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July**

Work is well under way now for the musical with excitement noticeably rising across all the year groups in KS2. We have over 100 children who have solo, narration or small group parts which is just amazing. We are now sorting out costumes and scenery so please watch out for an email next week with further information about that. Exciting times!

### **Year 6 Leavers' T-Shirts**

Last year one of our Year 6 mums, Hayley Wilkinson, who has a small business, printed some leavers t-shirts for our Year 6 children to sign on the final day of term. The white school polo shirts will have 'Lanchester EP 2022 Leavers' printed on them. This was a huge success and both the children and their parents loved it, so we are offering this opportunity again to our Year 6 leavers.

Prices are £6 if you supply your own t-shirt or polo shirt. We ask that you bring the t-shirts into school, along with a sealed envelope with the cash no later than Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June. Alternatively, you can make payment directly to Hayley over Paypal using the email address below. I am sure many of you will know Hayley Wilkinson. If you have any questions, please email Hayley: [hayleywilkinson@hotmail.com](mailto:hayleywilkinson@hotmail.com)

### **After School Clubs**

Please see the table below for the list of extra-curricular activities we will be offering this half term, starting from Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June until Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July. **Please note, clubs will NOT be running during the last two weeks of term.**

Each club has a limited number of spaces; if more children apply for a place than we can accommodate, then names will be chosen using a random number generator. The form will close at 3.30pm Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June and you will be emailed on Friday afternoon to inform you if your child has a place.

The online form can be accessed via this link: [Extra-Curricular Activity Form](#) – please fill in a separate form for each child and each club they are interested in – the form should only take a few minutes to fill in.

Year Group	Extra-Curricular Activity	Activity Leader	Day	Maximum Number	Finish Time
Reception	Fun & Fitness	Miss Butler	Monday	20	4.15pm
Year 3 & 4	Cricket	Mr Graham	Monday	20	4.15pm
Year 5	Cricket	Mr Graham	Tuesday	20	4.15pm
Year 5	Geography	Mr Taylor	Wednesday	16	4.15pm
Year 6	Cricket	Mr Graham	Wednesday	20	4.15pm
Reception	Mindfulness	Miss Martin	Wednesday	20	4.15pm
Year 6	Games	Mrs Tate	Thursday Lunchtime	No sign up required	

### **Early Years News**

We still need adults to accompany us on the trips to Roker Beach on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June. Tickets on the bus cost £5 for volunteers. If you are interested, please let Miss Butler know by email as soon as possible. If you would like to help us but would prefer to make your own way to Roker then please let us know. Nursery parents have been notified of the day of their trip via Evidence Me. If you are not sure of the date, please check with Miss Brown. If we do not have enough volunteers from Nursery parents, then we will not be able to offer this trip to the Nursery children, as it will not be safe to do so. Thanks to all who have offered help so far.

We are looking to improve our role-play provision in both Nursery and Reception, especially in our home corners. A well-resourced home corner is invaluable to the children as it offers opportunities to develop their vocabulary and communication skills, in addition to supporting them to develop their play skills in a familiar setting. To this end, we are asking for donations of anything that might be useful! The possibilities are endless – old phones, pots and pans, empty food packets, baby equipment/clothes, pegs, clocks, kitchen utensils, cushions, ornaments... anything that we can use to make the areas homely and welcoming and full of familiar, real things. If you have anything that you think may be useful, please let us know. We would also like to build up our stock of clothes for dressing up. We are looking for real clothing items such as waistcoats, floaty scarves, hats of any kind, shirts/tops made of interesting materials – again, anything goes but we do not want any more commercial ‘dressing-up’ outfits such as superhero costumes or princess dresses as we have lots of those already. Items can be adult or child-sized. Again, if in doubt, please ask! Thank you for any donations.

### **Positive Thinking**

***The best gifts in the world are not the material objects one can buy from the shop,  
But in the memories we make with the people we love.***

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