

LANCHESTER E.P. (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL

Weekly Bulletin 3 – Friday 28th June 2019



Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to say a huge thank you to the staff and children who have represented our school admirably this week. Our 'Make a Difference Group' from Year 5 have worked exceptionally hard this year with their project aiming to make a difference to the amount of clothing that is wasted and encouraging us all to upcycle and recycle our old clothing. The climax for this was their presentation at Belmont on Wednesday. Mrs Coyle has worked with this group and was exceptionally proud of them all. Well done!

On the same day, some of our digital leaders were presenting at the Durham ICT Conference with Mr Stephenson. Two of our Year 6 girls were keynote speakers to a hall packed full of nearly 200 teachers and specialists from all over the North-East. They spoke about our use of social media and the impact Twitter has had on our school. They were terrific – so confident and eloquent! This was followed by our children leading workshops with Now Press Play and Learning By Questions. Again, they interacted with teachers, talked with them and were superb ambassadors for our school. I was so proud of all the children.

It is lovely to have all our Year 5 & 6 children back safely from their France residential. They have had a great time there and I think returned home just in time, before the heatwave hits that part of the country. Again, thanks must go to the staff for giving up their week to accompany the children too.

Monday 1st July - Kwik Cricket

Our children will be playing at Consett Cricket Club again on Monday evening immediately after school – the weather has affected the last few fixtures but it is looking good for next week!

Tuesday – Friday at 7.30pm – The Little Mermaid

Consett Theatre Works are performing their summer production of The Little Mermaid at our school on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday next week. This will take place in the Junior Hall and starts at 7.30pm each night. Consett Theatre Works are an exceptionally talented group of young performers who perform regularly in and around the Consett area. We are delighted that they are using our school for this show. Tickets are £8 for adults and £7 for concessions and can be bought on the door every evening.

Monday - Wednesday - North Durham Academy Transition Days

NDA have their Year 6 transition days on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday next week. Parents have been informed of the arrangements and children are to make their own way to the school. At 6pm on Wednesday, NDA are holding their Open Evening for Year 6 starters. Again, this is an opportunity to meet the key staff and find out more about arrangements for September.

Tuesday 2nd July 2019 – Consett Academy Transition Day

Year 6 are attending the transition day at Consett Academy. All children will be transported to their transition day by coach and are to come to our school as normal. They need to wear PE kit for the day and lunch will be provided for them. They need to arrive at school on time as the bus will arrive at 9.00am for them and will return them back to us in time for the end of the school day. This is followed by the Open Evening at 6.00pm for all parents of new starters when you can meet all the key staff.

Tuesday 2nd July 2019 - Reception New Starters from Other Nurseries

New Reception children who are starting with us in September from other Nursery providers will be joining us on Tuesday morning from 9.15 – 11.30am.

Wednesday 3rd July - Early Years Sports Days

It was such a shame that we had to postpone our Early Years Sports Day from Wednesday but as you will have realised, the weather was just too wet! Hopefully, it will be very different next week. The same arrangements will be in place. Giraffes Monday – Wednesday, Flamingos, Meerkats and Mrs Burke's class will have their sports day at 9.30 in the morning. At 2.00 pm, the Wednesday – Friday Flamingos, Zebras, Penguins and Mr McLoughlin's class will enjoy their sports day. Parents will gain access to the school field via the school gate through the staff car park next to the All Weather Pitch. Children are to come to school dressed in their sports gear ready for the day ahead! If they wish, Nursery parents can take their children home after the Sports Day has taken place. Equally, the children can also stay with us.

Thursday 4th July 2019 – Revd Earle leading Worship

It is lovely to be welcoming Revd Earle back to school to lead Worship on Thursday morning for Years 1 – 6.

Friday 5th July 2019 – Non-Uniform Day

It is that time of year when we start making plans for our Summer Fair which takes place on Saturday 13th July between 11am and 1pm. So on Friday, we are holding our non-uniform day to allow children to come in clothing of their choice in exchange for a gift for the summer fair. Our fair is always very popular and any money raised from this, is spent on all the children in our school, whether it is on equipment, ice creams, subsidies for trips and visits or those extra treats that our children are often being given! All gifts such as bottles of wine and alcohol, chocolates, toiletries, biscuits, children's games, colouring books, toys etc. will all gladly be received from you. All we ask is that an adult accompanies the alcohol to school! Thank you, in anticipation of your support.

Friday 5th July 2019 – Main School Sports Day – 1.30 pm

We are looking forward to our main school sports day on Friday 5th July which will start at 1.30pm on the main school field. The children will compete in their teams – **ALL CHILDREN MUST HAVE THEIR SCHOOL PE T-SHIRT ON FOR THIS EVENT**. They will enjoy a mixture of competitive and non-competitive events, followed by the finals of skipping and running races. There will also be a separate mother/grandmother and father/grandfather race at the end of the event followed by our infamously competitive staff race. Please note – we cannot be held responsible for any injuries that may occur during these races! The Friends of the School will be serving refreshments during this event – hot and cold drinks and ice creams for any younger children. However, in a bid to be plastic friendly, if you bring your own refillable cup, your drink will be half price! Any help for this would be very gratefully received – obviously you all want to watch your children but if you can spare even 15 minutes that would be wonderful!

Friday 5th July 2019 – Overnight Camp in School Field

I think we have everything crossed for a beautiful, hot, sunny Lanchester evening! The gates will open at 5.30pm for access to the school field to start erecting tents. Breakfast will be served at 8am the following morning. Gates will be locked between 10.00pm and 7.00am. So many were very disappointed when we had to postpone this event in June so I just hope that the weather will be kind to us this weekend!

Ocean World Tickets

We have had a lot of orders for tickets for Ocean World but please remember to place your order by Thursday 4th July as on Friday 5th July they will go on general sale. After this date, you are not guaranteed a ticket and it will be out of our power to be able to do anything about it. If you require additional tickets, please make sure your order is placed at the Office from Friday 5th July as these will then be sold on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Friends of the School

The Friends of the School have enjoyed another very successful year organising many events for both children and adults over the 12 months. In the two years that they have been in action, they have raised over £3,000 which is amazing! They have already purchased classroom games and toys for each class for wet playtimes as well as a fire pit for our Foundation Stage. They have also organised and paid for the Year 6 leavers' disco. The rest of the money they have raised will be going towards large outdoor play equipment – the children, staff and Friends of the School will be meeting in the new school year to discuss exactly what this will be and what the cost will be too.

Next week, they will have their pre-loved uniform stall in the cycle shed again. This is good quality clothing that can be taken in exchange for a donation.

On some hot and sunny days, there is also a chance of them organising Ice Cream Sun Days! When time and work allows, members of the Friends will be selling ice creams and lollies at the end of the school day for 50p. Obviously the children love this and it helps to raise much-needed funds for our school too. So pop some change in your pockets when coming to collect your children – just in case!

Foundation Stage News

Please note that the sports days on Wednesday will take place **instead of** the planned Stay and Play sessions, as we have children taking part in sessions in both the morning and the afternoon.

To support the Reception children with transition to Year One, when they will need to walk to their classroom without you to support them, we are encouraging you to let your child come in to the Reception classrooms on their own from the end of next week. We are hoping that this will give them a sense of independence and make the first few days back a little easier.

A reminder to parents of children returning to Nursery in September: there will be a short meeting on Tuesday 2nd July at 3.15pm in Nursery to chat through the arrangements for next year. We do hope you can come or send a representative.

We have a small number of children who do not stay over lunchtime and we will be offering them the opportunity to stay for one day this term, just to help their transition to Reception. On Thursday 11th July, these children will be asked to stay for their dinner so they can experience going into the school hall and having a school lunch on this day.

ParentPay

Once again, can I please implore that you check your ParentPay balances. We have an increasing number of families who are in debt for either dinner money or wrap around care - sometimes both! Please ensure that you check your balances and make payment by the end of the week and please keep your account in credit. We ask that you pay for dinner money and wrap around care a week in advance to avoid any arrears building. Thank you for your support with this.

School Photos

We are still waiting for a few of the late orders to come back from the photographers. These should be here next week. We still have a number of photograph orders sitting in the School Office which have not been claimed - all were unnamed. If your child is in one of the following classes and you have yet to receive your order, please come and collect it from the school office:

Mr McLoughlin's Reception (1 x tube photo)

Mrs Burke's Reception (1 x tube photo)

Mr Osmond's Year 1 (1 x tube photo)

Mrs Startup's Year 2 (1 x tube photo)

Mr Stephenson's Year 3 (1 x tube photo)

Mrs Grayson's Year 4 (1 x cardboard framed photo)

Year 6 (1 x tube photo & 1 x cardboard frame as a single order)

If you are still waiting for a class photo that you have ordered and it has not gone home with your child, please contact the school office. Thank you.

Lost Property

We are making another plea to you to carefully check **ALL** jumpers/cardigans your child takes home to make sure they have not taken anyone else's logoed items by mistake. We have some families who have lost numerous jumpers/cardigans – all with initials embroidered on. They are not in school which can only mean that someone has taken them in error. Please have a good look and check at home for any items that do not belong to your child. Thank you.

In addition, when collecting from After School Club, please make sure that your child does not leave anything behind as we have an increasing number of unclaimed items that are left behind. Thankyou.

Parent Governor Ballot

Once again we have a vacancy for a parent governor. This is due to the end of another governor's term of office. Two parents have applied for this role – Sarah Blakeman and Denice Atkinson. Each family will receive two ballot forms, one for each parent. This means if you have three children at the school, you will still only be given two ballot papers. Please read the candidates personal statements carefully, vote and return the ballot papers to school no later than Friday 5th July.

As usual, if you have any questions or queries at all, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me. We are here to help!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Jane Davis

Head Teacher