



LANCHESTER E.P. (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



Weekly Bulletin 3 – Friday 31st January 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well it has been quite a week for our school again. Our Year 5 children had a very special afternoon on Monday meeting Sigmund ‘Sigi’ Ciffer when he visited our school. What a wonderfully inspirational man he is. It is well worth reading his story – written for children – about living through the war, losing 6 siblings and both parents in the Holocaust and yet still demonstrating great compassion. The message he wanted to portray to the children was one of resilience, forgiveness and positivity. There was also an article in The Times newspaper on Tuesday – it is an interesting read: <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/lessons-about-holocaust-start-at-10-zczphtmfdw>

You might also be interested in listening to the interview on BBC Radio with Lisa Shaw who joined us for the afternoon. This can be found at: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0807cm8>

We have also had staff in Sweden on staff training this week as part of our Erasmus+ programme. It is always a privilege to be able to see education in action in other countries – there is certainly a lot we can learn from the Swedish education system. Our staff will be discussing the advantages next week along with everything that has been learned about outdoor education and what can be implemented into our Forest Schools curriculum. I think you might start to see a few subtle differences!

Vacancy in the Kitchen

We are currently advertising a 16-hour position in the kitchen. This is a new position due to an increase in the number of dinners we are serving on a daily basis. This advert will be on our website next week and also on the Durham County Council website if you know of anyone who may be interested in applying for this position.

Advert for Assistant Head Teacher

The Governing Body will be advertising for an Assistant Head Teacher for September 2020. This is a new position which has been created due to there being a vacancy on the Senior Leadership Team. Our numbers continue to grow in school so it was decided to change our staffing structure and create a more senior position in school. An Assistant Head Teacher is a position below the Deputy Head Teacher so the leadership team will then consist of: Head Teacher, Deputy Head Teacher (Mr Andrew Knighton), Assistant Head Teacher, Senior Leaders (Miss Sara Butler and Mr Simon McLoughlin).

As always, we would really appreciate your input into this appointment. We would really value your comments about what qualities you would like our Assistant Head to possess. We will be including the views of staff, children, parents and governors in the job advert. This was invaluable when we advertised for a Deputy Head a few years ago. If you could email me any comments by Monday evening that would be great – j.davis@lanchesterep.net Thank you!

Key Stage One Bake Off – Friday 14th February 2020

When the Friends of the School met with the Pupil Parliament to discuss events and ideas, one of the main themes that came up was increased friendly competitions in school. A few suggestions were made and this year we have decided to kick off with a Bake Off competition which will be held on Friday 14th February, the Pupil Parliament will be judging the competition.

This term it will be only KS1 children baking - Early Years and KS2 will have the chance to take part later in the year. A flyer accompanies this newsletter with further details.

The categories are: Biscuits (max 6), Cupcakes (max 6) and a Showstopper Cake.

Don't worry - there is a separate adults and staff section for all those who would like to take part. There is a 50p per entry fee in each category. There is no set theme and your only limitation is your imagination!

So get your aprons on and get baking - we can't wait to see your creations.

The Friends will be holding a Coffee Afternoon on Friday February 14th in the school hall for everyone to come and see the entries.

Friends of the School Committee

Story Telling Week

The week beginning Monday 3rd February is National Story-Telling Week and as a result, we will be enjoying an increase number of stories in all classes this week as well as sharing some of our favourite stories with different classes. The art of story-telling cannot be underestimated as children of all ages benefit from this.

Tuesday 4th February – RSPCA Inspector with Year 1

Our Year 1 children will be welcoming an RSPCA Inspector into school on Tuesday afternoon which will bring their current topic to a conclusion. I am sure they will learn a lot from listening to what their job entails.

Wednesday 5th February – Discos

The Friends of the School are holding our termly discos on Wednesday 5th February. Children from Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 will enjoy their disco first from 3.30pm until 4.30pm. As usual, the children are to bring their clothes into school and the staff will help them change at the end of the day. The KS2 disco (Years 3-6) takes place from 4.45pm until 6pm. Tickets can be bought from the school office at a cost of £2. The ticket price includes a hot dog and drink.

Wednesday 6th February – No Year 1 Art Club

Please note, that the Year 1 Art Club will not take place on Wednesday due to the KS1 disco. Thank you.

Thursday 6th February – Visitors from Tokyo

On Thursday morning, we are welcoming some professors from Tokyo Gakugei University to our school. They have come to work with Durham University for the week and will be finding out a little more about our approach to teaching Science and Internationalism across school. This is another great opportunity once again for our children and school!

Early Years News

Nursery children have all come home with a letter informing you of your child's Key Worker and Family Group Teacher this week. We have moved some groups around a little to accommodate our new starters, but everybody seems to be settling in well. As always, please contact us if you have any concerns.

We are excited that the Nursery children will be taking part in a pilot study for the Maths Champions programme run in conjunction with the NDNA, Durham University and the University of York. This exciting opportunity will be offered to all children currently attending our Nursery, as long as we have your permission. Letters have been sent home about this and your responses need to be returned by Friday 7th February at the latest. Please note that for children who have just started with us, your information pack will be marked for 2 year olds. This may cause some confusion, but refers to the fact that at the start of this academic year in Sept 2019 your child was still 2 years old. More information about Maths Champions will be available as we start to implement the programme.

Thanks for all your donations of junk materials. We know you are delighted when it comes back to you in the shape of a rocket! As always, we are grateful for any bits and pieces you can offer. Please note that for safety reasons, we are unable to use polystyrene, so please empty any packing boxes before sending them in. If anyone has any offcuts of wallpaper for outside writing, or any old kitchen equipment to use in our mud kitchen, these would be very welcome.

We would like to remind Parents and Carers that the school day begins in EYFS begins at 9am and we need to have our doors locked by this time. If you are late, please bring your child into school via the Main Entrance. Children who are late miss their greetings time and maths input, so it is vital that they arrive promptly. At the end of the day, the Nursery doors are open from 3pm - 3.15pm. Children must be collected no later than 3.15pm as staff are needed to support after-school provision at this point and the Nursery door will be closed. Nursery children are welcome at our EYFS after-school club if necessary at a charge of £4 per session.

Advance Notices

Monday 10th February – Parents’ Evening

Tuesday 11th February – Parents’ Evening

Tuesday 11th February – Meeting at 6pm for forthcoming Hungary Trip for Year 5 Boys

Thursday 13th February – Friends of the School Meeting at 6pm

Friday 14th February – KS1 Bake Off and Coffee Afternoon

*Please remember that there will be no After School Clubs, only the chargeable wrap around care club, during the final week of the half term due to Parents’ Evenings. *

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