



LANCHESTER E.P. (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



Weekly Bulletin 1 – Friday 8th November 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a miserable week it has been weather wise – although in school itself, it has been one of the sunniest! I have had the privilege of spending time in all Key Stage 2 classrooms this week and have been so impressed with our children. Their attitude, resilience, behaviour and enthusiasm has been first class and I am so proud of them all. This was followed by a fabulous Outdoor Learning Day yesterday – to see the children so totally absorbed in their learning outdoors was very special.

We will be building upon our outdoor learning education and are beginning to introduce weekly Forest School sessions throughout the school. Next Wednesday it will be the turn of our Year 1 children but this will increase as the weeks progress. Exciting times ahead for our children!

Staffing

I have some bittersweet news regarding staffing in school. Mr Mordue will be leaving us at the end of this term as he has been successful in securing the Deputy Headship of Bishop Ian Ramsey CofE Primary School in Medomsley. Whilst we are all delighted for him, obviously we will be very sorry to see him leave our school. He has been with us for seven years and has been an invaluable teacher and member of our Senior Leadership Team during his time here. However, he more than deserves this promotion and I know he will do an excellent job in his new school – they are certainly very lucky to have him joining their team.

This obviously leaves us with a bit of a problem with Mr Mordue's teaching commitment in Year 6. After much thought and discussion with the governors, we have decided that the best solution for the whole school is that from January, Mr Taylor will teach Year 6 for the remainder of the year, Mrs Sant will teach full-time in Year 4 and Mrs Coyle will take over full-time teaching in Mr Taylor's class.

Obviously it is not ideal changing teachers in the middle of a school year. However, there are times when circumstances are just beyond our control. Year 6 is a crucial year in a primary school and Mr Taylor has over 5 years of teaching experience in Year 6 so he is the obvious solution to the problem.

I do realise that this may cause some concern to Mr Taylor's parents. However, you have my reassurance that your children will actually benefit in the long term because whilst they will now have a change of teacher in Mrs Coyle for two terms, they will once again have Mr Taylor as their teacher in Year 6 for the whole year.

In January we will be advertising a Senior Leadership post for September 2020 to replace Mr Mordue permanently.

If any parents have any questions at all about this, please feel free to either drop me an email or call in to see me next week.

Saturday 9th November 10am – 12pm Early Years Open Morning

We are holding an Open Morning on Saturday between 10am and 12pm for any prospective parents considering sending their child to our school in Reception or Nursery. Come along and have a look at our learning environment, meet some of the staff and also look round some of the other classrooms. We look forward to seeing you there.

Monday 11th November – Year 5 Football Competition

Some of our Year 5 boys are taking part in a football competition at Washington. I am sure they will represent the school admirably and thoroughly enjoy the occasion.

Monday 11th November – Reception Trip for Mr McLoughlin's Leopards

We have all of our Reception Transport Trips taking place next week. The children will be taking the bus to Durham, train to Newcastle, metro to North Shields and the ferry to South Shields. What a day! Let's hope the weather is kind to them.

The Leopards will go on their trip with Mr McLoughlin and Mrs Davis. Children will need to come wearing uniform and comfortable, preferably waterproof footwear. If the forecast looks rainy, we will put all-weather suits on the children, but if your child would prefer to wear their own then please send them wearing it. Children will need to bring a packed lunch which they will carry themselves, so a backpack would be ideal if they have one. We will be catching a bus at 9.30am so please ensure that your child is in school promptly by 9 am at the latest. If you have offered to come along to help, then please make sure that you are in school ready for a briefing at 8.45am on the day of your child's trip.

Monday 11th November – Early Years Open Evening

Our Open Evening is on Monday 11th between 6pm and 7pm for any families who are unable to attend on Saturday morning. We hope you will be able to make it!

Tuesday 12th November – Maths Workshops for Parents 2.45pm and 6pm

On Tuesday we have our parent workshops about our teaching approaches to Maths. We often have many parents ask how we teach calculation as they want to be able to support their children at home but don't want to confuse them by showing them a different method. Well, come along on Tuesday and Mr Mordue and Mr Taylor will show you how we teach all four methods of calculation in both key stages. Parents have always found these exceptionally informative in the past. We hope to see you there. The first session starts at 2.45pm in the Junior Hall and the second session will start at 6pm.

Wednesday 13th November – Reception Trip for Mr Osmond's Dolphins

The Dolphins will be enjoying their trip on Wednesday with Mr Osmond and Mrs Nash. The day will be an exact replica of the trip on Monday with Mr McLoughlin's class so please read the information above.

Wednesday 13th November – Year 1 Forest Schools Day

Both Mrs Burke's and Miss Martin's classes will enjoy some Forest Schools sessions during the day on Wednesday. Therefore it is essential that all children bring in wellingtons and waterproofs as they will be outside learning whatever the weather. I am sure they will really enjoy their activities!

Wednesday 13th November – Mr Taylor's Class at Durham Lumiere 4.30pm- 6.30pm

Mr Taylor's Year 5 class took part in the Start Programme whilst they were in Year 4. This project has been delivered by Artichoke and OASES. To end the project, they have been invited to a 'Behind the Scenes Visit' to the Lumiere in Durham. The visit will focus on 'For the Birds' which includes 20 installations in Durham University Botanic Gardens. The bottle chandeliers, which the children made in a workshop in the Summer Term, will also be nearby, so the children will get to see their own artwork on display. They will need to remember warm clothing (including a waterproof jacket) and warm footwear e.g. wellies with thick socks or sturdy boots. The staff accompanying the children on this visit will be Miss Jackson, Mr Taylor, Mrs Grieve and Mrs Boyd. Please ensure your child's permission slip and photo consent is handed into the office no later than Monday 11th November.

Thursday 14th November – Flu Immunisations

The flu immunisations will take place in school on Thursday. A reminder email was sent this week so that you are able to give consent online or a printable form was also provided.

Friday 15th November – Children in Need non-uniform day

Children can come into school next Friday in non-uniform in exchange for a donation to Children in Need. We have always raised a fantastic amount in the past; let's make Pudsey proud!

Friday 15th November – Reception Trip for Miss Butler's Eagles

The Eagles will go on their trip with Miss Butler and Mrs Moran. The same organisation and arrangements for this trip are as Monday so please read the information above. Please note that the children must wear their school uniform for this trip.

Friends of the School Events

The children enjoyed a wonderful disco in school last night. A big thank you to the Friends of the School for organising this and the staff for helping to supervise. They have a number of events planned for this half term as highlighted below:

Friday 22nd November – Quiz Night – 7pm

The annual Quiz Night takes place on Friday 22nd November in the Junior Hall starting at 7pm. Tickets are £2.50 per person and are available to buy from the School Office. It is essential that you put the correct ticket money in an envelope with your child's name and class on the front of the envelope. Please note – the quiz is for adults only. Bring your own food and drinks along for the evening too!

Early Years News

Now that our Nursery children have settled in, we would like to offer you the opportunity to meet with your child's Key Worker and/or Family Group Teacher. We will be putting sign-up sheets on the Parents Board in the EYFS entrance for you to make an appointment. These appointments will be during the school day, but if you need a later appointment, please email our EYFS Leader: s.butler@lanchesterep.net and we will arrange an appointment with your Family Group Teacher. Key Workers will be available on the following days:

Mrs Moran (Robins, Family Group Teacher - Miss Butler) - Monday 25th November (all day), Thursday 28th November (morning only)

Mrs Nash (Goldfish, Family Group Teacher - Mr Osmond) - Tuesday 26th November (all day)

Mrs Davis/Miss Pugh (Hedgehogs, Family Group Teacher Mr McLoughlin) - Wednesday 27th November (morning only) and Friday 29th November (afternoon only).

Thank you for helping the children to do their Autumn Treasure Hunts. They are quite fantastic - come and see them displayed in the Lab! All money raised from your kind sponsorship will be spent on resources for our outdoor area.

Reception parents, please look out for a guide to supporting your child with reading, which will be sent home in your child's book bag in the next few days. For your reference, we have introduced the sounds and actions for the letters s,a,t,p,i,n,m,d,o,g,t,c,k,ck and e.

Advance Notices

Friday 22nd November – Friends of the School Quiz Night

Thursday 28th November – Collection of Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

Thursday 28th November – Friends of the School AGM at 6pm

Thursday 5th December – Choir singing in Concert at All Saints Church

Thursday 12th December – Christmas Film Night

Christmas Fundraisers

The children will be designing their own Christmas Cards next week which will then be printed for you to purchase if you choose. Please watch out for this proof and order form coming home with your child!

The Friends of the School will soon be sending out forms for their Christmas Gift Shop – this was exceptionally popular with all our children last year so please keep an eye out for those forms.

Our Christmas Fair will be held on Friday 6th December at 2pm. Save the Date!

Lanchester Calendars on Sale

The local community have printed some local calendars again which are being sold in the village at a cost of £5 with funds raised going to Willowburn Hospice. These will be sold at the school gates over the coming weeks starting next week. Please support this worthwhile cause if possible.

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