



LANCHESTER E.P. (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



Weekly Bulletin 5 – Friday 8th February 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

February and the final week in the half term already – the year has certainly got off to a brisk start! Don't forget that we break up next Friday 15th February for our half term break. School will re-open on Monday 25th February.

I would like to say a big thank you to the Friends of the School for another very successful disco last night – the children had a great time and thoroughly enjoyed their evening.

I will be able to let Year 3 & 4 parents know next week which days the children will be going to Birdoswald. Unfortunately, I just ran out of time this week to sort it out!

Year 6 parents – please do not forget to return your child's forms for Ford Castle by Monday 11th February. We need them by this time so they can be copied and sorted. Your child cannot attend without it!

Mr McLoughlin will be returning to work full-time after the February half-term holiday. I am sure his class will be very pleased to welcome him back and they will have the best of both worlds in the future with Mrs Riddell and Mr McLoughlin in school for a lot of the time! I am sure you would like to join me in thanking Mrs Riddell for her hard work and commitment with the class for the last term.

Monday 11th February – Year 2 at Durham Cathedral

Our Year 2 are spending the day at Durham Cathedral on Monday as part of their RE work this term. Please make sure that all children have a packed lunch. It is also important that all children wear trainers or boots, trousers, warm coat, hat, gloves and scarf as one of the activities is outdoors. I am sure they will all have a terrific day.

Monday 11th February – Swimming Gala

Some of our children will be representing our school at Derwentside Swimming Gala on Monday afternoon at the Louisa Centre. I am sure they will all be wonderful ambassadors for our school.

Tuesday 12th February – Parents' Evening (Reception – Year 6)

We look forward to welcoming you to our parents' evenings next week. The first one is on Tuesday evening from 3.45 until 6.00pm. As usual, all appointments are in the Junior Hall but please feel free to go to your child's classroom where you can look at their work (Years 1 – 6 only).

Tuesday 12th February – School Nurse Drop-In-Session

Our school nurse, Alison, will be in school on Tuesday evening from 3.30 until 5.00pm to allow any parents to call in to see her for advice and support. She will be based in the Meeting Room next to the Staff Room.

Wednesday 13th February – Parents' Evening (Reception – Year 6)

The same arrangements are in place on Wednesday with all appointments taking place in the Junior Hall and work being available in your child's classroom.

Friday 15th February – Years 3 – 6 at Gala Theatre

Our KS2 children are all visiting the Gala Theatre on Friday afternoon to see New College's Performing Arts Group put on their show of 'Screen to Stage' which features a selection of songs from West End and Broadway Shows. They will have an early lunch and should return to school in time for the end of the school day but please check twitter for any updates during the afternoon. Thank you.

Friday 15th February – Year 1 at Durham Cathedral

Our Year 1 are spending the day at Durham Cathedral on Monday as part of their RE work this term. Please make sure that all children have a packed lunch. It is also important that all children wear trainers or boots, trousers, warm coat, hat, gloves and scarf as one of the activities is outdoors. Again, I am sure they will all thoroughly enjoy the experience.

Foundation Stage News

Please can you ensure that you take everything home before the half term holiday to allow us to clean and organise our cloakroom areas? This includes PE bags and wellies in both Nursery and Reception. In Nursery, we intend to move the Meerkat group's coat pegs into their group area to try to relieve congestion and make it a little bit easier for children to get changed in the winter months. Can we repeat last week's plea to ensure your child's property is clearly labelled and coats have a sufficiently large loop on them to allow the children to easily hang up their own coats?

In Reception this week, the children have been comparing weights and lengths and developing comparative language. It would be helpful if you could support this at home by helping your child to feel the weight of your store cupboard items and sort 3 or 4 of them by the weight they feel as they pick them up, or by sorting the family's socks from shortest to longest. These practical activities, when supported by you modelling the mathematical vocabulary of 'short, long, longer, heavy, light, lightest', will really support your child's understanding of comparison and measurement.

In Nursery, we have continued to be interested in signs and environmental print. We have been so impressed by the writing that has come out of it! You could encourage this by going on a sign hunt with your child. If you would like to take photos of the signs you see and send them to us to share, please feel free!

Sign-up sheets for Nursery parent chats should now be up on our notice board in the entrance. Parents of children in Flamingo Group are welcome to sign up to see the Nursery Teacher, Miss Butler, but if you would prefer to wait to see Mrs Moran then we will arrange dates after the holiday. If you are unable to attend during the times available, please contact Miss Butler (s.butler@lanchesterep.net) to arrange a mutually convenient time. Telephone consultations can be arranged if that is better for you.

Finally, we have very much enjoyed celebrating Chinese New Year with our EYFS children. We have watched a CBeebies Celebration Special about the festivities that you might like to re-watch with your children: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S0ec9SFNtOg> or maybe you could go along to see the celebrations on Sunday in Newcastle. Or in the village at 4pm on Saturday. We would love to see the children's reactions!

Best Wishes,

Mrs Jane Davis

Mrs Jane Davis
Head Teacher