



LANCHESTER E.P. (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



Weekly Bulletin 2 – Friday 10th May 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

I love my job as Head Teacher and just thrive on the buzz we have in school on a weekly basis. However, next week is the one week of the school year that I find very challenging. The reason is that our Year 6 children will take a set of very narrow national tests (Statutory Tests) that test them only on their Maths, Reading, Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling knowledge.

Next week, however, is really a test of me, our teachers and school – not of our children – but so many children feel an undue pressure during the week, despite our best efforts. However, I feel very strongly that primary education should be about the whole child and the wealth of opportunities that we offer, such as the school walk, residentials, wheels day, end of year musical in Consett Empire, bike ride, creativity weeks, sporting events and all the wonderful extra-curricular opportunities that our staff offer so willingly, all in their own time.

Yes – we want our children to do well in the tests and to feel proud of their wonderful achievements – but not to the detriment of everything else we do in school.

What these tests do not measure is the wealth of skills, personality and talents our children all possess. They really are amazing children in our school who do incredible things both inside and outside of school – we are so proud of them all. We have athletes, musicians, footballers, black belts, tumblers, gymnasts and a huge number of children whose talents it is just impossible to measure. We have those who are compassionate towards others, go out of their way to check in on their friends, support classmates in time of need and crisis and who just get on with life quietly and caringly and who are just super citizens.

We will try to make sure that our children enjoy next week. We will have a real party atmosphere in their classroom while they enjoy a feast of a breakfast every morning. We will watch in pride as they enjoy the close comradeship they have with one another. We will watch in pride as they show terrific resilience during the tests. And I know we will burst with pride when their results come through in July too!

Monday – Thursday at 8.30 am – Year 6 Breakfast Club

We are inviting all Year 6 children to come to school for 8.30 am from Monday to Thursday next week and enjoy a feast of a breakfast. Please wait outside the main entrance where staff will let them in (no earlier than 8.30 please – we need time to prepare the feast!).

Thursday 16th May – Year 4 Football 3.30 pm

Our Year 4 children have another set of matches at Leadgate Primary on Thursday 16th May straight after school. They are playing exceptionally well and have won all three matches without conceding a single goal! Let's hope they continue their winning streak for a little longer!

Thursday 16th May at 2.15 pm – Coffee Afternoon for Parents of Children with Additional Needs

This is the first time we have held an event like this but Mr McLoughlin is always keen to involve you, the parents, as much as possible in the educational journey of your child. On Thursday afternoon, we are asking a range of external professionals with whom we work very closely, to come into school and talk to you about their role, their expertise and how they may be able to both help and support your child. This coffee afternoon is really aimed at parents of children with additional needs. Many of you will have met with these professionals before and some may be waiting to do so! But we hope, by having them all in school, on one afternoon, it will help parents to be able to talk to them on an informal basis. We will be welcoming Elizabeth Rogerson (Advisory Inclusion Teacher), Gill Ellison (Educational Psychologist) Alix Kirtley, (Cognition and Learning) and Lyndsey Ellwood (Voluntary Community Services). We look forward to seeing you there.

Friday 17th May – 12.30 pm – Year 6 at Deano's

Our Year 6 children will enjoy the end of the week with a treat of a lunch at Deano's to celebrate the end of their week of tests. This has become an annual event for our school now and is a highlight of the school calendar. I know the children are certainly all really looking forward to it too!

Foundation Stage (Nursery and Reception) News

Stories for next week in Nursery are 'Growing Frogs', 'Some Bugs', 'The Crunching, Munching Caterpillar', 'I Am Going To Eat This Ant' and 'Superworm'.

For those parents and carers who have been waiting to see Mrs Moran about their child's progress, there will be a sign-up sheet in the EYFS entrance for morning appointments on Wednesday 15th and Friday 17th May.

We are continuing to work on developing our outside area and would welcome any donations of pots, plants, tyres and any topsoil to fill our digging pit. We can also make use of any gravel/pebbles, pieces of trellis or gardening tools you have spare. Remember that we have a Pinterest account you could follow which shows you ideas of what we are trying to achieve. Follow us @ Lanchester EYFS.

We are still waiting for some Sun Cream Permission forms to be returned into school. If you have not filled one of these in for your child in Nursery or Reception, please make sure you hand one in as soon as possible to the School Office if you would like our staff to apply sun cream on your child during the school day. If we have not received a form back from you, we will not be able to apply any sun cream to your child. (We are always hopeful of better weather!)

Advance Notices

Fun and Fitness Week

The week after next is our Fun and Fitness Week when we have a wealth of sporting activities on offer for the children. As usual, we will be asking the children to come to school wearing their sports gear all week so that they are ready for action. Please also remember that Thursday is our Wheels Day and we will be asking all children to bring in a wheeled item if they have one – scooters, bikes, roller boots, prams, go karts etc. However, please remember that children will also need a helmet.

Year 5 & 6 Cycle Ride

We are also hoping for lots of volunteers for our Year 5 & 6 bike ride that will take place on Thursday 23rd May. We will be cycling along the old railway line, past Malton and towards Bear Park. We would love any parents/carers/grandparents/family members to join us for the day too!

Overnight Camp in School

A flyer will accompany this letter from the Friends of the School with details of our overnight camp on the school field which was such a huge success last year. This will take place on Friday 7th June.

Main School Sports Day – Another Date Change

I am so sorry about this, but after last week's newsletter went out, a parent brought to my attention a letter that I had not yet seen saying that there is an additional transition day to St Bede's for our Year 6 children on that day. I can only apologise! So, after consulting once again with the diary and the staff, the Main School Sports Day will now take place on **Friday 5th July 2019 at 1.30 pm**. I can only apologise to you all. I know that lots of you like to take the day off so that you can come along to support your child and I know these changes will not have helped. However, this is now the final date and will not change... (and if it rains on that day, I will go into hiding!)

One final thought, if you are a parent of a Year 6 child, I would like you to please bear the following in mind this weekend and if your child mentions the tests at all, please distract them and tell them to enjoy just being a child!

SATs don't measure sports, SATs don't measure art, SATs don't measure music, Or the kindness in your heart.

SATs don't see your beauty, SATs don't know your worth, SATs don't see the reasons, You were put upon this earth.

SATs don't see your magic, How you make others smile, SATs don't time how quickly, You can run a mile.

SATs don't hear your laughter, Or see you've come this far, SATs are just a tiny glimpse, Of who you really are.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Jane Davis

Head Teacher