



Lanchester E. P. Primary School



Summer Newsletter (6)

I find it hard to believe that I am writing the final newsletter of the year – and what a year it has been! I think I said last year was the toughest school year ever, but I think this year has most definitely pipped it to the top position! We are still facing real challenges daily although they just change as time progresses.

The news this week about the delay to lifting all social restrictions has helped us make some tough decisions and sadly, we have decided that we just cannot take any unnecessary risks for the remainder of the school year, especially with the positive cases in one of our Year 5 bubbles last week. This means that our Reception New Starter Meeting on Thursday 24th June will be over Zoom, our Summer Fair will take place in school just for the children – similar to how we organised our Christmas Fair - and we are still pondering over how to send our Year 6 children off in style. It does look like the leavers' service and assembly will have to be over Zoom although I will confirm this once I have spoken to Revd Sutherland. However, if this is the case, please take some comfort from the fact that parents and carers really enjoyed them both last year and we even had grandparents join us from all over the country and even from France and the Caribbean! Obviously, I totally understand how disappointing it is for both parents and the children but once again, there is absolutely nothing we can do about it as things are just out of our hands which I am sure you all understand.

We hope that our Year 6 children will look back on these last few weeks together with great fondness as they spend their last half term together as one year group. They are all heading off to many different schools with the majority heading to Consett Academy and St Bede's. We also have some children going to North Durham Academy, Tanfield, St Leonard's, Wolsingham, Durham Johnston, Framwellgate Moor and Durham School so it really is the end of an era for them all. I am sure that all parents of Year 6 can hardly believe that the time for them to leave us is quickly approaching. Many have been with us for the whole 7 or 8 years and, as a staff, we do all become very attached to them.

Equally, we are always sorry to see some of our Nursery children leave us. More than ever are staying and joining us in Reception but, of course, some children will also be transferring to All Saints R.C. School. Again, we are very sorry to see the children leave us, but know they will enjoy the rest of their education wherever they go. We wish them all the very best and look forward to seeing them around!

It is lovely though that this half term is busier than ever and every week is just completely action-packed so please look out for all the weekly letters and read the diary dates on the final page carefully. There is such a contrast to my diary from this time last year to now – it is brilliant! The children have been thoroughly enjoying their trips and residential and it is just so wonderful to see them skip into school with pure joy and excitement on their faces.

It is disappointing that we have not been able to host our bi-annual musical in Consett Empire Theatre this summer. Two years ago we were in full swing of rehearsals for Ocean World which I am sure many of you will remember with great fondness. A theatre filled to capacity with 250+ children and 450+ parents and carers seems like a distant dream at the moment but I cannot wait until this can happen again.

One of the great qualities of our school is the excellent relationship we have with you, our parents and carers. We continue to have some great help on our trips and you are an essential part of the success of these visits. We also really appreciated the help and dedication of our wonderful adult volunteers on our bike rides during Fun and Fitness Week just before half term! We also really appreciate all the family members who have and are joining us next week at Roker Beach for the Nursery and Reception trips. We could not do this without you all – thank you so much. We especially appreciate you driving yourselves there and taking the lateral flow tests prior to you coming.

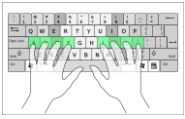
As always, please do not hesitate to speak to us if there is anything at all that we can ever do to help.

Jane Davis

Staff News



As you know, there will be some changes in the office structure in September. Mrs Janette Marklew retires at the end of this academic year and I would like to thank her once again, for her dedication and commitment to our school during her 9 years with us.



Mrs Rachael Bowden will be the main contact in the School Office as she is our new administrative assistant. Miss Natalie Rippon will be our Operations Manager and Ms Naomi Hawke our Office Manager. However, I know that they will both be on hand in the first few weeks back until Mrs Bowden is more familiar with our way of working!



Miss Amy Watchman is also leaving us at the end of the summer term as she will have successfully completed her apprenticeship. We wish Miss Watchman all the best for her future – she has certainly had an interesting apprenticeship here during a pandemic!



Mrs Nicola Newby will be starting her maternity leave during the summer holidays. Unfortunately, she has not been well since the Easter holidays and so has not been able to work this term and then she will be on maternity leave for some time when we return in September. I am sure you join with me in wishing her all the very best for the birth of her child – you may well see some updates via twitter during the summer holidays!



Mr Simon McLoughlin will be in school for the first three days in September and he will then be taking the first half term as paternity leave. His baby is due at the beginning of August too – I think it will be a race to see which baby is born first – his or Mrs Newby's!

Sports Week and Sports Days



We have a Creativity Week starting Monday 21st June and during this week we will be holding all of our sports days. Unfortunately, it is just not possible to have parents on site again for these events due to numbers involved and the need for social distancing. The children will be completing the sports days in their bubbles – there will be two different year groups outside at the same time, but we have separate tracks on the opposite sides of the field so there will be no contact between them.

We are asking children to come to school on the day of their sports day, dressed in their P.E. Kit, ensuring that they have their coloured t-shirt on for the day (if your child does not have a school PE t shirt please make sure they have a plain t-shirt in their team colour). The events will be a carousel of activities and for KS1 and KS2, there will also be some competitive races too.

Wednesday 23rd June – Early Years Sports Day

Thursday 24th June – KS1 Sports Day – Morning

Friday 25th June – Lower KS2 - Morning and Upper KS2 – Afternoon

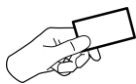
Summer Fair



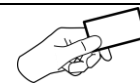
Due to the continuing restrictions, we are unable to hold our summer fair on a Saturday with parents and members of the local community attending. So that the children do not miss out, we will still host a fair, but it will be on Friday 9th July with a number of stalls, games and rides for the children and they will all have the opportunity to take part in the day's events.

We are holding a non-uniform day on Wednesday 7th July when we are asking the children to come in non-uniform and donate an item for the summer fair. As usual, we suggest items such as chocolate, toiletries, children's games, toys or stationery as well as anything suitable for a raffle e.g. alcohol (this must be dropped off by an adult) and gift sets. Please see below for more information about this year's raffle.

We are sure that the children will have a fabulous time at the fair and more details will be sent out nearer to the time, along with raffle tickets for parents.



Fundraising for Lisa Shaw's Charity - Lisa's LittleUn's



As you are all aware, the tragic death of Lisa Shaw shocked all the staff in school as well as many others around the North-East. She had great connections with our school and ourselves and we had forged very close relationships with her over the last few years in particular. Attending our school as a child, those links with Lanchester E.P. were so strong, that the funeral cortege drove past the school on the way to Durham Cathedral for her funeral service last week.

Her family have set up a charity called 'Lisa's LittleUn's' and this charity aims to support children who lose a parent and provide funding for holidays and activities for the children when they go through such a tragic time in their lives. I am sure many of you will completely relate with this, as we sadly have children in school who have experienced the sad loss of a parent.

So, what we would like to do this year, is donate all the proceeds from our raffle to her charity so we want to make it bigger and better than ever. We will be asking local businesses to donate and we hope to sell hundreds of tickets. Please ask all families and friends to buy tickets for the raffle because every single ticket purchased and every single pound donated will help to make a difference to the lives of many children at the lowest point of their little life.



PGL Residential



We have a record number of 96 children who are taking part in this residential at PGL Caythorpe Court, Lincoln which is just wonderful! It is fabulous that so many children are keen to go on residential and that parents are willing to pay for them to attend. I am sure your children appreciate the fact that many of you save for weeks and make sacrifices yourselves so that they are able to go. We will make sure the children have a wonderful time and will share lots of photographs on twitter!

All EV4 forms have been given to the children and the itinerary and kit lists have been emailed to you all too. Please ensure all EV4 forms are signed & returned to school no later than Monday 21st June. The school is going to be very different that week with a quarter of the school away! Let's just hope that the weather is kind to us all during the week too.



Lost Property



There is a box of cardigans and jumpers in the entrance hall that have been left around school and on the school field. Many of these may have names on and we have done our best to reunite the items with their owners. If you are dropping off or collecting children, please come and have a rummage in the box. Teachers in school will remind children not to leave their uniform lying around (most of it is left on the playground) and will try to make sure at the end of the day that children have what they came into school with, but please could you also emphasise to your child that they need to take responsibility for their belongings and try not to leave them lying round – this is an important skill to have not just in school but in all areas of life. Thank you!



Leave of Absence in Term Time



If you know in advance that your child is going to be absent from school for anything other than illness or unavoidable appointments, please fill in a leave of absence form (these can be found on the website, or can be filled in [here](#) or requested from the school office).

You will receive a response emailed to you to let you know if your request has been authorised. If the leave of absence is not authorised and is still taken, it will be marked on the register as unauthorised. You may be fined if your child is absent for more than 7 unauthorised school days within a 12 week rolling period. The fixed penalty notice starts at £60 for each child for each person with parental responsibility (so if you had 3 children, each parent would be fined £180 – if two parents have parental responsibility that would be £360 in total).

End of Year Questionnaire



The link for this form will be emailed to you during the penultimate week of the term. We really value your comments and suggestions and all responses are shared with the governing body in September for discussion and consideration. Please take the time to complete this questionnaire with your honest opinions. This questionnaire is specific to our school, the new initiatives we have put in place as well as improvements we hope to make.

However, we would also encourage all parents to complete the Ofsted Parentview. This is an **online** questionnaire which just takes minutes to complete. You need to register with your email address and a password at <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk> Once your login has been activated it only takes a few minutes to complete the answers to the 14 questions below.

The 14 questions on Parent View **that you need to complete on line** are as follows. There are some differences to the ones given in previous years:

1. My child is happy at this school
2. My child feels safe at this school
3. The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved.
4. My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively.
5. The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year.
6. When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly.
7. Does your child have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)? (yes or no)
If yes, the survey asks parents how strongly they agree with this statement: 'My child has SEND, and the school gives them the support they need to succeed.'
8. The school has high expectations for my child.
9. My child does well at this school.
10. The school lets me know how my child is doing.
11. There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school.
12. My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school
13. The school supports my child's wider personal development.
14. I would recommend this school to another parent. (yes or no)

School Reports



All end of year school reports will go out on Friday 9th July with the children. Once again, these are very comprehensive documents which summarise your child's progress and achievement this year. On Wednesday 14th July, we will hold a parents' evening if there are any parents who have any questions or issues arising from the reports. More details will follow nearer the time.

Environmental Week



The week beginning Monday 5th July, we are holding an environmental week when the children will participate in a number of different activities. We have many children who are very keen to make a difference to the environment and I am sure they will enjoy the activities we have planned for that week.

Holiday Club



LJG Coaching, hosted by Mr Graham, will be in school running his holiday club from Wednesday 21st July through to Friday 30th July. The club runs from 8.00am – 5.00pm each day, and you can book either a full day session or a half-day session from 8.00am – 1.00pm or from 1.00pm – 5.00pm. If you would like a place, please fill in the online form [here](#). Activities take place outside, so if your child is attending please make sure they are in appropriate sports clothes, and prepared for all weathers.



Year 6 Leaving Photo – Friday 9th July



On Friday 9th July we have a photographer coming into school to take a Year 6 Leaving Photo. This will be a more relaxed photo than the usual class photographs and will be a lovely memento of their final year at primary school. We would like all children to come into school in their leavers' hoodies that day. You should get the photo proofs the week after the photo is taken and there is absolutely no obligation to purchase a copy.



Seahouses to Bamburgh School Walk **12th July (Years 4 – 6) & 13th July (Years 1 – 3)**



As has been mentioned in previous newsletters, this year our 'full school walk' is not quite the same as usual. This year, we are taking Years 4, 5 & 6 on Monday 12th July and Years 1, 2 & 3 will be going on Tuesday 13th July. Each year group will have a separate bus in order to maintain the integrity of the bubbles.

For the first time ever, we will not be able to provide transport for volunteers due to the COVID-19 situation. However, we would absolutely love it if you would be able to join us up there – we usually arrive at about 11am at Seahouses Main Car Park.

If you are going to meet us there and are happy to supervise a group of children, please fill in the online form [here](#). This form will be available until Sunday 4th July and we will be unable to accept any more volunteers after this date to allow us to organise the groups and adhere to the government guidelines and restrictions.

We are asking any adults who join us to have a negative result on a Lateral Flow Test either the evening before the trip or the morning before the trip sets off. You will only be able to join us on one of the trips to further help us avoid any COVID-19 issues, so if you have a child in Year 4 and one in Year 2 and want to attend the trip you would have to choose one only. Again, this is very different to previous years, but just need to adhere to all regulations and guidance.

Please note, dogs are not allowed to join us for obvious Health and Safety Regulations. All children must return with us on the bus and are not permitted to return home with parents – this is simply because otherwise, it becomes a logistical nightmare. Please also remember that the children are not due back until 5pm on these days.

This is always a real highlight of the year for both the children and adults and I am sure it will be just as good this year – just a little different.

However, please note, we will be keeping a very careful eye on the forecast. In the past, when the weather has been changeable, we have been asked to make a decision regarding whether the walk will actually take place or not, the day before to help parents who have taken the day off work. Whilst I understand that this is useful for working parents, sometimes it is just not possible to make the decision before the day itself. The only time a decision to cancel will be made in advance of the day is when we are in a period of low pressure and the forecast is for very heavy rain. In all other cases, we will wait and see what the day brings.

However, if the walk does have to be cancelled due to the weather, we will try to organise alternative, fun activities in school for the children to enjoy throughout the day, as we have had in the past.



Year 4 Residential at Dukeshouse Wood



I am sure our Year 4 children will be really looking forward to their overnight residential at Dukeshouse Wood near Hexham. Numbers have continually increased for this trip too and I know they will just thoroughly enjoy what we have planned for them! Please do not forget the meeting which takes place next week on Wednesday 23rd June when the itinerary and kit lists will be shared. This overnight visit will be here before we know it too! Here is the link:

<https://zoom.us/j/95412896364?pwd=RjZUZ0d3cjE4eCtqVUI0YzZKZmhBUT09>



Lanchester Cricket Club



Lanchester Cricket Club are struggling for players for their Under 11s Team. They train at 6pm on Thursday evenings and their games are on a Sunday morning. If any parents would like further information, please contact them by calling 01207 520198. They would be thrilled to hear from you!



Attendance Information



Whilst the year continues to be very different from what we are used to, I want to once again thank you and your children for making an effort to attend school as much as possible. Children thrive when they come to school regularly and school can have a significant and positive impact on their social and emotional well-being, as well as on their education.

Once again our overall attendance is looking really healthy, at 97.5%. For a comparison, the attendance for the whole school from the last 'normal' year we had was 96%. We also have 123 children from Reception – Year 6 who have 100% attendance – this is incredible!

We do understand that a lot of children are not able to attend school every single day and that there are lots of reasons why children may miss school, so want to stress that 100% attendance is the ideal but children should not feel disappointed if they cannot get here every day. We just want children to attend every session they can. If you need help with your child's attendance or if you are ever having difficulties in getting them to school, please talk to us; we are here to help.



Parents' Evening



This year, we are holding a drop in session on the final Wednesday of the school year – Wednesday 14th July from 4pm until 6pm. This will allow parents and carers the opportunity to discuss any issues you have arising from your child's end of year reports which will have been given out on the previous Friday. We find holding 'normal' parents' evenings at this time of year just means that teachers are repeating everything that is written in the school report and this has been very successful in the past.

These meetings will take place over Zoom and if you would like an appointment, please just email either the School Office or your child's class teacher directly and a time will be allocated to you. However, if you are happy with your child's report and you have no comments or issues, obviously there is no need to book an appointment.



ParentPay



As we approach the end of the year I would strongly encourage you all, and especially the Y6 parents, to check your ParentPay balances. Please adjust your payments accordingly for Dinner Money and Wrap Around Care to ensure that your accounts are at £0.00 for the end of the year.

I would encourage you all to pay for dinner money and any wrap around care sessions at least a week in advance to ensure that your account is always up to date.



Year 6 Sleep Over



We plan for the Year 6 sleep over to take place as usual in the school halls on Thursday 8th July. This is an annual event which the children thoroughly enjoy although I really do not know why we call it a sleep over! The children are asked to return to school on the evening for 6.30pm and this year we plan to hold a barbecue for the children, have a camp fire with hot chocolate and toasted marshmallows and just enjoy some chilled time together. This term is the end of an era for these children who have been together for over 7 years and will be parting ways for so many different secondary schools so we want them to really make the most of their final weeks and days together.

Year 6 Leavers' Services



We have two events planned in the last week of term for the children. However, we do not yet know what form these events will take. We will do whatever we possibly can to make these as special as possible for both the children and the parents although it does look as though they might have to be virtual events again for parents – but we will let you know as soon as discussions have taken place and decisions have been made.

On Thursday 15th July at 1.30 p.m. the more formal Leavers' Service takes place, either in All Saints Church or in school. This is a very reflective service led by the children where we make some formal presentations to the children as well as both looking back at their time at our school and looking forward to life in their new schools.

On the final day of term at 10 a.m. on Friday 16th July, a much more light-hearted assembly is held by the children which is full of humour, fun, laughter and tears! Both events complement each other with parents/carers and grandparents keen to listen and watch! Last year, we held both events on the school yard and streamed it to parents over Zoom. This did work really well and parents still said how much they had enjoyed both events. We will organise something so that you can do the same this year too but will be in touch as soon as this has been finalised.

Organisation for September 2021



I know many of you have been asking about the arrangements for September and whether they would stay the same or be changing and the honest answer is that I just do not know at the moment. I am sure you are all aware of the frequently changing guidelines and regulations over the last 18 months and I expect that some advice will be issued towards the end of the summer holidays. I realise this is not helpful to yourselves or to us!

So, at the moment, we intend to keep the timings exactly the same for the drop offs and pick ups and to use the same entrances and exits. However, if this is to change, we will let you know just prior to the children returning in September.

School Holidays - Academic Year 2021 - 2022

Holiday	Closing Date	Date re-open for teaching purposes
Summer Holiday	Friday 16 th July 2021	Thursday 2 nd September 2021
October Half Term	Friday 22 nd October 2021	Tuesday 2 nd November 2021
Christmas Holiday	Friday 17 th December 2021	Wednesday 5 th January 2022
February Half Term	Friday 18 th February 2022	Monday 28 th February 2022
Easter Holiday	Friday 8 th April 2022	Monday 25 th April 2022
May Day	Friday 29 th April 2022	Tuesday 3 rd May 2022
Summer Half Term	Thursday 26 th May 2022	Tuesday 7 th June 2022
Summer Holiday	Thursday 21 st July 2022	Monday 5 th September 2022

Important Dates for 2021 - 2022

KS1 Statutory Assessment Tests - May 2022

KS2 Statutory Assessment Tests - Week Beginning Monday 9th May 2022

Year 1 & Year 2 Phonics Screening Test - Week Beginning Monday 6th June 2022

Year 4 Multiplication Test - Week Beginning Monday 6th June 2022

DIARY DATES

Week Beginning Monday 21 st June 2021	All Week	Sports Week
Monday 21 st June 2021	All Day	National Music Day
Monday 21 st June 2021	All Day	Reception and Year 6 Heights and Weights with NHS
Monday 21 st June 2021	6pm	RSE Meeting for Parents over Zoom
Tuesday 22 nd June 2021	All Day	Year 6 at The Forbidden Corner
Wednesday 23 rd June 2021	Morning	Mr Osmond's Class & Morning Nursery Sports Day
Wednesday 23 rd June 2021	Afternoon	Miss Martin's Class & Afternoon Nursery Sports Day
Wednesday 23 rd June 2021	6pm	Zoom Meeting for Yr 4 Parents re Dukeshouse Wood
Thursday 24 th June 2021	All Day	Reception (CM Class) & Nursery at Roker Beach
Thursday 24 th June 2021	Morning	French Theatre Company in School for Y4
Thursday 24 th June 2021	Morning	KS1 Sports Day
Thursday 24 th June 2021	6pm	Zoom Meeting for Parents of Reception New Starters
Friday 25 th June 2021	Morning	Lower KS2 Sports Day
Friday 25 th June 2021	Afternoon	Upper KS2 Sports Day
Week Beg. Monday 28 th June 2021	All Week	Year 5 & 6 Residential to PGL, Caythorpe,
Thursday 1 st July 2021	Afternoon	Mrs Davis and Mr Bailey at BETT Awards in London
Week Beginning Monday 5 th July 2021	All Week	Environmental Week
Monday 5 th July 2021	All Day	Year 4 at Dukeshouse Wood, Hexham
Tuesday 6 th July 2021	Morning	Visit from St Bede's Staff for Year 6 Transition
Wednesday 7 th July 2021	All Day	Non Uniform Day in exchange for Gift for Summer Fair
Wednesday 7 th July 2021	All Day	Solar Powered Car in School
Wednesday 7 th July 2021	All Day	Nursery Celebration Picnics in the Garden
Thursday 8 th July 2021	Overnight	Year 6 Sleep Over in School
Friday 9 th July 2021	All Day	Summer Fair for Children
Friday 9 th July 2021	All Day	Year 6 Leavers' Photograph
Monday 12 th July 2021	All Day	School Walk at Bamburgh & Seahouses for Years 4/5/6
Tuesday 13 th July 2021	All Day	School Walk at Bamburgh & Seahouses for Years 1/2/3
Tuesday 13 th July 2021	Morning	Consett Fire Service in school with Year 4
Wednesday 14 th July 2021	Morning	Moving Up Day with New Class Teacher
Wednesday 14 th July 2021	3.45pm – 6pm	Drop In Parents' Evening Zoom Meetings following School Reports
Thursday 15 th July 2021	1.30pm	Year 6 Leavers' Service
Friday 16 th July 2021	10am	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly
Friday 16 th July 2021	3.15pm	School Closes for Summer Holidays
Wednesday 21 st July - Friday 30 th July	All Day	LJG Coaching Holiday Club in School – online booking form here