



Summer 1 Newsletter

It is over a year since I last wrote a detailed half-termly newsletter like this. The last time I sent one out was Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020 – just a week prior to the country going into lockdown – even though at that point in time, none of us had any idea what was to come. I am sure it is not a year any of us will want to repeat but I am certain I speak for many of us when I say that it has really made us reflect about what the important things in life really are.

A hug with those whom we love. A coffee with friends. Seeing extended family members. I don't think we will ever take such things for granted again. The quote below really resonated with me and epitomises what we hope to instil into all our children in school:

***'We have a chance to do something extraordinary.  
As we head out of this pandemic we can change the world.***

***Create a world of love.***

***A world where we are kind to each other.***

***A world where we are kind no matter what class, race, sexual orientation, what religion or lack of or what job we have.***

***A world where we don't judge those at the food bank because that may be us if things were just slightly different.***

***Let love and kindness be our roadmap.'***

It is lovely writing this newsletter with that glimmer of hope and positivity in the air as we appear to have turned a corner. Whilst we have to take one small step at a time, we are most definitely heading in the right direction and at the moment, things are still looking positive. It has also been wonderful to hear the children bursting to share with us where they have been, who they have been to see and what they have done at the weekend!

We were thrilled to be told that educational visits can take place this term and that school residential visits can resume from 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021. They are not without their challenges though – especially with PGL booked for Dalguise, near Perth in Scotland. The different rules in Scotland have meant some raised stress levels in school last week, but as you will read, we have managed to work through the issues!

I would also like to reassure you that we are still following the same risk assessments in school, still being cautious in our approach. The only slight change is that staff do not have to wear masks when outside – we can maintain social distancing and it does make it easier to communicate with yourselves.

We have an action packed term for your children and are thoroughly enjoying a little more normality. Please read the newsletter carefully as there is so much important information contained in it! As always, please feel free to contact me about anything at all, either by phoning me in school or emailing me: [j.davis@lanchesterep.net](mailto:j.davis@lanchesterep.net). I am more than happy to talk through any concerns you may have, or equally, I am more than happy to hear about any good news too! We are a team and it is essential that we work closely together to ensure your children have the best school experience possible. I also believe that we are a team that has become stronger than ever over the course of the last year.

*Jane Davis*

**Staffing**



Mr Innes, our Assistant Head Teacher, finally joins us on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May after waiting over a year for the interviews to take place! 'Good things come to those who wait!' I know he is really looking forward to getting started and we are certainly looking forward to welcoming him. We have been a senior leader short during the most challenging of years so speaking selfishly, it will be extra special to welcome him!



Mrs Janette Marklew, our Business Manager, will be leaving us at the end of August as she has decided to take early retirement. This last year has made her realise how much she has missed spending time with her family and I know she is looking forward to being able to make the most of seeing more of her 10 grandchildren! Mrs Marklew has been our Business Manager for 9 years – and is the only one we have ever had! Her role has really changed and developed over the years and she has been in an invaluable source of information in so many different areas. I know all the staff will miss her knowledge, dry sense of humour, as well as her ability to keep so calm in every situation. We will all certainly miss her. I am sure you will all join with me in wishing her a very long and happy retirement.



The decision has been made to promote Ms Naomi Hawke and Miss Natalie Rippon who will both undertake additional responsibilities which our Business Manager has previously been in charge of. They will both work under the supervision and direction of the leadership team, but I know they will rise to the challenge and are more than capable of taking on this additional responsibility. Miss Rippon will be our School Operations Manager and Ms Hawke will be our Office Manager.



Due to the change in staffing structure in the office, we will be appointing a full-time administrative assistant. This will initially be a one-year full-time contract, but it is hoped that this will then be extended and made permanent. The advert for this position is on our school website so please look at that if you are interested. The new administrative assistant will work alongside both Miss Rippon and Ms Hawke in a very busy office environment!



We have some staff absences at the moment which we are covering internally. Ms Butler will continue to teach Mrs Burke's class for the foreseeable future but it is great to see Mrs Moran start to return to work. Some teaching assistants have changed year groups during the course of the term and Mrs Moran will be working in Year 2 as she returns.

We have a vacancy for a cleaner. The job is now advertised on our website so if you are interested, please take a look. The contract is for 10 hours but please note that all cleaners work outside of school hours either before or after school. We have a good cleaning team who are kept rather busy!



### Lost Property



Please, please, PLEASE, label your child's belongings, especially jumpers, cardigans and coats. As the weather gets warmer, we have more jumpers and cardigans left lying around and we cannot reunite these with their owners if they are not named! Our uniform supplier will initial your sweatshirts and cardigans free of charge and biro on washing labels is also a really effective and cheap way to make sure your children do not lose their uniform. Thank you!



### Fairtrade



It is so lovely to be getting back to some kind of normality in school and don't worry, we haven't forgot about Fairtrade. Just before the lockdown last year, our fantastic Fairtrade team had been getting ready for a big school assembly and had other things organised which unfortunately were cancelled. I let the Fairtrade school's Organisation know and they awarded us with another FairActive award! They were so impressed with everything they have done and all of the things they had planned. Well done guys! I hope to get you all together after half term and finish the year with some fantastic events. Watch this space! **Mrs Moran**



### Eco Rangers



This year, Eco Rangers are hoping to achieve their Blue Peter Green badges, which are awarded to Blue Peter Climate Heroes. In order to do this, the children have all made three pledges to help the environment focusing on power, plastics and plants. They are now working hard to fulfil their environmental promises and achieve their goals. Look out for a new wildflower area near the Henry Dancer Garden. Together we can make a difference!



### Royal Mail Heroes Stamp Design Competition



Over the next few weeks, children from Years 1-6 will be participating in the Royal Mail Stamp Design Competition. The theme this year is based on honouring heroes of the coronavirus pandemic. Children will be asked to think of the heroes who have continued to work tirelessly to keep the country moving during the pandemic and to come up with a bright and colourful design for their stamp. We cannot wait to see their finished masterpieces!



## Lanchester Wombles

by Michael Martin (parent)



Ivy (one of our Y1 pupils) was very excited to take part in the annual Lanchester Litter pick but like many other things this past year, it was cancelled. Not to be discouraged she was bought her own litter picker and she set off around the streets picking up the mess.

Like many others, we were trying to fill our home-schooling days with extra activities which would get us out the house for an hour. Ivy was given a choice and decided on a litter picking relay, passing the litter pickers on to another family so they could clean and pass them on and so on. This was posted on local Facebook page and really caught on. Local residents asked to be part of the clean-up campaign and the Lanchester Wombles was born. A Facebook group of more than 120 people, sharing their litter picking adventures and encouraging each other.

Not only is this activity fun, great exercise and great for the environment, it has proven mental health benefits too. The 'do good, feel good' factor from taking positive action gives pride and raised self-esteem. Also just being in nature can raise well-being dramatically. It's a win, win activity for the whole family.

So please come and join our Facebook page, The Lanchester Wombles, and start feeling the benefits for you and your family.



## Year 3 Overnight Residential to Birdoswald



49 of our Year 3 children are all really looking forward to their overnight residential at Birdoswald Roman Fort which will enhance their learning about the Romans. It makes such a huge difference to the children's learning to be able to actually go to the Roman Wall, stay overnight there, meet a Roman Soldier, have a story in one of the mile castles and have a tour of the Roman Fort too!

Mr Stephenson's class will leave at 9.30am on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June until Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June and will be accompanied by Mr Stephenson, Mr Knighton and Miss Brierley.

Mrs Grayson's will leave on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June and return on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June and will be accompanied by Mrs Grayson, Mr Bailey and Mrs McGilvray. I will also be staying overnight with both groups.

Please don't forget that we will have a meeting on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May at 6pm over Zoom when the final arrangements will be shared. The children will be choosing their menu choices soon and hopefully start to feel really excited about the two days. A reminder to all parents that the final payment for children attending Birdoswald Roman Fort is Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021.



## Year 4 Overnight Residential



42 of our Year 4 children are also really looking forward to their overnight residential at Dukeshouse Wood, near Hexham in Northumberland. During their time at the centre, the children will take part in a number of different outdoor activities which will encourage good communication, team work and resilience.

***Please note – there has been a change in organisation for this visit and both classes will go at the same time. They will now all leave on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July and return on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July.***

Miss Jackson, Mr Stoker, Mr Knighton, Mrs Chambers, Mrs Clark, as well as myself will all be accompanying the children. All of the meals are provided and I am sure the children will thoroughly enjoy their time at the centre. Please remember that the next two deposits are due by Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May and Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June. Thank you.

These are all wonderful opportunities for our children which are all made possible by our very dedicated and enthusiastic staff for which I am exceptionally grateful.



## **Banner Making Project**



Reverend Lesley Sutherland from All Saints Church has asked our school to make a banner for the Pilgrimage arriving in Lanchester on Saturday 22nd May. Year 4 Art Club are going to be working on this over the coming weeks. The theme for the banner is 'light'. We will be thinking of designs and then creating our finished piece using fabric paints and materials. Children in school will also be involved in designing a stamp to use on the day as well. Look out for our finished design on Saturday 22nd May in the village!



## **Year 5 & 6 PGL Outdoor Adventure Week**



We are taking a record number of 89 children from our Year 5 & 6 year groups for a fabulous week of outdoor adventure activities the week beginning Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021. This trip was postponed last summer, much to the disappointment of our oldest children. However, I am thrilled that it can go ahead this year (data and road map permitting!).

Nothing is straightforward anymore though! We have always gone to the PGL base in Dalguise, Perthshire in Scotland. This is for the simple reason that the Scottish schools have broken up by then and we get it for around £60 per child cheaper! However, some of you may have read the Scottish rules on educational overnight visits which were published last week. They can go ahead, but every child has to be in a bedroom on their own – they have said it must be single occupancy for all children with only one school on site.

This goes against everything we want to get out of a residential – that fun of being with others, chatting until the early hours, enjoying a sneaky midnight feast when they think we don't know and just socialising with other children. The thought of every child being on their own on an evening would fill them with horror I am sure!

But, I have to say, PGL have been superb and have managed to accommodate us all at their nearest base in England which is PGL Caythorpe Court in Lincolnshire for the same price. I have never been to this site so will be going down for a pre-visit in the middle of May to check out the facilities, accommodation and their COVID-19 risk assessment. I know the children will just love it and cannot wait to tell them all about it!

We will share kit lists before the half term break and please don't forget that we have a meeting over Zoom on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June at 6pm. Please look at Parent Pay for details of how much you owe as there are some parents who have paid instalments since last year and others who have just signed up more recently. But remember, many parents find it useful to pay smaller amounts more often in order to pay it all off.



## **Ski Trip**



We have been amazed by the interest in the ski trip next year. The most we have taken in the past has been 23 so to have 82 of you sign up to this is just terrific. It really is going to be a truly amazing week. It means that we will have the whole hotel to ourselves and access to so many more ski instructors, meaning the children will be able to get more specialised instruction.

So, this is to confirm that the trip will go ahead (COVID-19 permitting) and the schedule of non-refundable deposits must be adhered to. This means that the next payment of £100 is due by Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May. However, please remember that you can pay into ParentPay anytime you want – some parents chip away and make smaller payments more regularly which is absolutely fine too.



## **Turing Scheme Application**



Thank you to all Year 4 and Year 5 parents for completing the online form about a possible visit to our partner school in Rajkot, India. Due to the number of positive responses to the form, there is certainly more than enough interest so we will go ahead and complete the paperwork. However, please remember, that the funding is not guaranteed. There will be hundreds of schools also applying for funding and it may be that we are not successful. If this is the case, we will re-apply next year. The visit would be almost fully funded for 10 – 12 children and would be a full week. However, obviously, at the moment this is not something which could be considered at all due to the current, very disturbing COVID-19 situation in India.



### Easter Raffle



Although it now seems quite a while ago, we would like to thank you for your terrific support for our Easter Raffle. We had 38 Easter Eggs donated by the staff and governors and the children were very excited when the draw was taking place. We raised a terrific £860 which will be used to help treat your children to those lovely extras that they enjoy, such as ice creams, treats and those additional resources that we provide so often! I just hope all the eggs made it home – some were being broken into before they even left school!



### Fun and Fitness Week



We are planning an action-packed week again for the whole school for Fun and Fitness Week which takes place from Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May until Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May. As usual, we will be spending the week being active, physical and enjoying some games together. We will also be asking the children to come to school every day in their sports gear and not their school uniform for the week as we will be enjoying sports activities every day.

On Monday, we have Dave from Skip2Bfit putting us all through our paces with some skipping fun. We will also be welcoming a number of local coaches so the children can enjoy a carousel of sporting activities.

Tuesday will be our Wheels Day when we ask all children to bring in a wheeled item from home. These will obviously be stored outdoors making it safe to bring in. Previously, children have brought prams, rollerblades, scooters, bikes, anything with wheels. The only thing we insist is that if your child brings a bike, rollerblades or scooter, then they MUST have a helmet, otherwise they will not be permitted to use them.

On Wednesday, our Reception classes will be walking along to Malton and enjoying a picnic lunch there. They will have a leisurely stroll (after the bike ride leaves!) and parents and carers can join us too! This will be sponsored in aid of Barnado's. Our Nursery children will also enjoy a sponsored walk in our school grounds, woodland and possibly to the park and this will also be in aid of Barnado's.

Wednesday will be our Year 5 Bike Ride. Due to our increased numbers, we are going to have to take the Year 5 & Year 6 children on separate days as we could still have over 50 children on each ride. We do ask if any parents would like to join us for these bike rides. Obviously it is outside so we would ask that you keep your distance and that you also take an LFT test prior to joining us.

Thursday will be the Year 6 Bike Ride. Again, parents are welcome under the same arrangements as above. It is imperative that all the bikes are checked well in advance of the bike ride taking place as we regularly have disappointed children whose tyres are flat, or whose brakes don't work and therefore have to drop out of the ride at the very last minute. Any pupils who do not have access to a bike or are unable to ride one will still need to attend school as they will be joining in with the activities planned in school. Thank you.

On Wednesday and Thursday we are also welcoming Outdoor Street Games into school to work with the whole school. They are an organisation who teach the children a range of games they can play outside – both at playtimes in school or on the streets outside at home. It would be lovely to see some traditional playtime games make a comeback in an attempt to prise children away from technology!



### LJG Coaching Holiday Club



Mr Graham and LJG Coaching will be running a holiday club during the half-term break. These will be on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May, Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> June and Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2021. To make a booking, please click on the link below: [LJG Coaching Holiday Club Form](#)

On Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, he will also be holding another football camp which was very popular during the Easter holiday. The football camp is for dedicated children who want to improve their game and most of all, just enjoy playing football. The running of the sessions will involve warm ups, game-related skill sessions along with small sided games. These sessions will be outside so please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather conditions and also has plenty of fluids. The price is £10 per child.

**Reception to Year 2: 10am till 12pm**

**Years 3 to 6: 1pm till 3pm**

If you are interested in the football camp, please BOOK IN by email: [lewisgraham91@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lewisgraham91@hotmail.co.uk)

There will be limited spaces for this so it will be on a first come first served basis.



## Creativity Weeks



As well as Fun and Fitness Week, this half term we will be holding a Science Week, followed by two additional creativity weeks next half term. One will be an Environmental Week and the other will be a Sports Week.

During the week beginning Monday 17th May we will be celebrating STEM across the school with a Science week based on Electricity, Sound and Light. As part of that week, we will be welcoming back Captain Chemistry who has already worked with a lot of our children since September, most recently with Reception and Year 1. He will be working with children in Y2-5 investigating, making and testing wind turbines. Elsewhere, the Y6 children will be designing and making some fun and interactive games using circuits which we will then be showcasing with other schools as part of our Ogden Trust partnership.

We will then hold our Sports Week the week beginning Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June. During this week we will hold our Sports Days across the school. We are anticipating this to be a carousel of activities during the course of the week with some sprint races included too. However, even though this is after the eagerly awaited date of 21<sup>st</sup> June, I still expect these events to be for children only and to be held in their bubbles. We will not know until nearer the time, but wanted you to be aware of what we are considering. I know it is disappointing as it is another event which is eagerly anticipated by so many families, but we will do what we can under the current circumstances.

Our Environmental Week will be held during the week beginning Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July. We have been in touch with one of our parents, Michael Martin, who founded the Lanchester Wombles which you can read about in this newsletter. During the course of this week, our aim is to support the local community, have a mass litter-pick, learn a little more about climate change and the environment and also to launch a cross-curricular project bringing English, Music and Computing all together. More will be revealed closer to the time!



## Whole School Walk



We did have our whole school walk booked for Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June but have made some changes to this plan. I am sorry as I am very aware that some parents will have taken the day off work but hopefully, by letting you know so far in advance, it will mean this can be changed.

This is not a decision we have taken lightly but due to COVID-19 and our increased numbers, we came to the conclusion that it was in the best interests of the children to make changes for this year.

Nursery and Reception children will be going to Roker Beach. On Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June, Mr Osmond's class will go with half of our Nursery children and on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June, Miss Martin's class will go with the other half of our Nursery children. Our Reception children missed out on this visit last year, so we thought it was a good transition before going on the main school walk.

Then, on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July, Years 4, 5 & 6 will go on the school walk from Seahouses to Bamburgh and on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> July, Years 1, 2 & 3 will go on the school walk from Seahouses to Bamburgh. The extended lunchtime will take place in the sand dunes as usual and it means that the children can be kept separated as we will have a carousel of children eating lunch, playing on one sand dune before enjoying time on the other sand dune.

Parents and carers are more than welcome to join us on all of these trips, but unfortunately, we do not feel it is possible this year to provide a coach to transport parents en masse. So if you would like to join us, you will need to make your own transport arrangements. As usual, dogs are not allowed to be with us for the walk or when we are having lunch – for obvious health and safety reasons! Nearer the time, we will send an online form to find out how many parents or grandparents are intending to join us.

This walk is always one of the highlights of the school year and I am just so thankful that we are able to organise this again. Although it will be different, I am sure the children will all enjoy it just the same. It will also help the queues at the toilets at the start and the ice cream van at the end!



## Covid-19 Information



Please remember that if your child displays any of the key symptoms of COVID-19 whilst they are in school (a high temperature/raised from what it usually is, a new and persistent cough, a loss or change in the sense of taste or smell) you will be contacted to come and collect them and they will not be able to come back into school until they have a negative PCR test result or have completed their period of isolation (if they get a positive result). If your child has siblings, they will also need to be collected at the same time.

Whilst we understand this may be frustrating, please remember that we are only doing our job and trying to keep the community safe. We are not medical professionals; we can only stick to the guidelines we have been given.

If your child has COVID-19 symptoms or needs to isolate, please make sure you let the school office know either via email or on the absence line – this information is important as whilst most of the time it is a false alarm, it enables us to be prepared if there ever was a case in school and we had to send other children or staff home. Likewise, if a child tests positive on an evening or during a weekend, please email Mrs Davis on [j.davis@lanchesterep.net](mailto:j.davis@lanchesterep.net) with the email subject 'COVID-19 Positive Result' and include your child's name and class group in the email text.

Please also be reassured that if your child is ever off with COVID-19 symptoms or a confirmed case of COVID-19, or just need to isolate due to being in contact with someone positive, this will not impact on their attendance percentage for the year. We want all our children to be in school as much as possible, but we know it must be reassuring that your child will not be penalised for missing school for COVID-19 reasons and we would rather be safe than sorry when it comes to COVID-19.

Please also remember that LFT tests can be ordered for all adults to take at home. Just click on the link for more information about this: <http://www.durham.gov.uk/CovidLFT>



## Attendance Information



With all the disruption we have had over the past year to children's schooling, I would like to share with you all the very positive news that our whole school attendance so far this academic year is a brilliant 97.7%. I think this speaks volumes about just how happy the children are to be back into school and it is so great to see – the atmosphere in school is incredible.

Due to the unprecedented challenges this year has brought to all of us, it is even more important that when the children can attend school, they are here and they are here on time. Every session missed has an impact on your child's attendance percentage and if your child's attendance gets below 90% they are considered a persistent absentee.

Studies have consistently shown that pupils who have good attendance perform better academically than their peers, as well as benefiting from social and emotional support that they get from being in school with their friends. This past year has also been a real eye opener in terms of showing just how important school is for our children's mental wellbeing.

I know many of you have missed holidays that were booked for last year. However, please note, we simply cannot authorise them during term-time. This cannot be classed as exceptional circumstances. I realise this may be frustrating for you, but everybody is in the same boat. So please consider very carefully when any holidays are re-booked as they cannot be authorised if taken during the term. Every day is even more invaluable due to the length of time they have missed over the last year.



## Year 6 Leavers' Events



We are so pleased that we will be able to send our Year 6 children out in our usual style this year. We are only too aware of how much they have missed over the last year so we hope that they will all enjoy their final term with us.

The leavers' hoodies have now been ordered so we hope that they will be with us in the next couple of weeks. Whilst this year group will not be taking their statutory tests, they will still enjoy the SATs week in school with special breakfasts during the week and a pizza lunch on the Friday.

The trip to The Forbidden Corner has been booked for June, their sleepover in school has been organised (and we are hoping to make this slightly different and even better this year), the leavers' service and leavers' assembly are in hand and I am sure they will all thoroughly enjoy their last few weeks with us.

We do not yet know the exact organisation of their leavers' events and whether parents will be able to be included – again – we will know that nearer the time, but parents and carers might wish to make a note of the dates in case all goes to plan!



## The Northern Saints Trails Bishops on the Way of Light, May 2021



Last year four new pilgrim routes, associated with local saints, were unveiled in our Diocese and preparations were made for our Bishops to bless and open the routes by walking them. Lanchester lies on the Way of Light, associated with Saint Oswald, Saint Wilfred and Saint Cuthbert, which goes from Heavenfield via Hexham and Castleside to Durham Cathedral.

Sadly, last year's lockdown meant that none of the Ways were opened - but we're trying again this year! COVID restrictions permitting, we expect Bishop Paul, Bishop Sarah of Jarrow, Bishop Christine of Newcastle and Bishop Mark of Berwick, to break their journey at All Saints at lunchtime on 22nd May, the day before Pentecost. We hope to extend our Lanchester hospitality to their group and to have a short service which (COVID restrictions permitting) might include some congregational singing outside, a community picnic and a contribution from our children. Each church along the way will have its own stamp for the Pilgrims' passports, and the design for our stamp will be by one of the EP pupils.

Numbers for the service will inevitably be limited by how far lockdown has been eased, so please do watch out for further information- and if you would like to explore the new pilgrim ways yourselves, please do have a look at: <https://www.thisisdurham.com/northersaints> which is full of information, stories and suggestions for stopping points along the way.



## Summer Fair



We are hoping to be able to hold some kind of summer fair this year although we do not yet know what format this will take. If all goes to plan and outdoor events can be held, then it will take place on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July from 11am to 1pm. However, if we are still unable to have outdoor events, or we feel it is not yet safe enough to do so, we will have some kind of summer fair on the afternoon of Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July in school just for the children. We will let you know nearer the time what format it will take.



## Digital Leaders in Action



We are delighted that two of our Year 6 Digital Leaders have been invited to be part of the Net Support 'Check it Out Show' which will be broadcast live online on the morning of Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May. The pupils will be discussing the powerful connections which Twitter has enabled us to have over the years and how, particularly during lockdown, it helped to keep our school community 'connected'.

We have a very long-standing relationship with Net Support and they have been very generous in their sponsorship of our BETT Show trips in recent years. We are therefore delighted to support them with our participation in this online event and it will be another wonderful experience for our Digital Leaders. Once more, the ways in which we embrace technology at Lanchester EP will be showcased to a worldwide audience.

## Office Information



### Sickness and Diarrhoea Policy Information

Please remember our policy on sickness and diarrhoea in line with recommendations from the NHS and School Nursing team: if your child vomits or has loose stools, they must not attend school until 48 hours after the last episode of vomiting or diarrhoea. Whilst you may think your child is not ill and there is another reason for them being sick, we cannot take that chance. Germs spread like wildfire in schools, so to protect your child and others around them please adhere to this policy; likewise, if your child is sent home from school for these reasons they will not be able to come back into school until they are 48 hours clear of sickness and diarrhoea.

### Medical Appointments

We know that sometimes medical appointments can only be made during school time, so in order to minimise disruption and to help keep your child's attendance marks as high as possible, we recommend that if your child has a medical appointment to attend, please try and make it in the afternoon after 1.30pm, by which time they will have gained their attendance marks for the day.

### Leave of Absence in Term Time

Please remember that leave of absence requests during term time can only be authorised by the head teacher and these are authorised on an individual basis – head teachers are only allowed to authorise absences for exceptional circumstances. However, in order to help us to know where your child is, if you are planning for your child to be absent for school for any reason other than medical appointments, please fill in a leave of absence form (the link is [here](#) or is available on our website under the section 'Downloadable Forms & Useful Information'), or the office can email you the link.

Whilst some absences will not be authorised, it is better for us to know where your child is when they are not here, without having to chase parents & carers for reasons. Please also bear in mind that if your child misses 14 sessions unauthorised within a 12 week rolling period (that is 7 days off school), you can be sent a fixed penalty notice from the local authority which starts at £60 per person with parental responsibility, per child. Therefore, if you have two children, each person with parental responsibility would be fined £120.

### ParentPay

Can we please encourage you to regularly check your ParentPay account for any outstanding amounts owed to either dinner money or wrap around care? Unfortunately, we do have a small number of accounts that have an outstanding amount from last academic year which do need to be cleared as soon as possible.

If you are new to ParentPay and have yet to receive your username and password, please contact [school.office@lanchesterep.net](mailto:school.office@lanchesterep.net) for the log in details.

Can we also remind you to keep the office updated with any change of addresses and contact details to ensure that all details we hold are up to date? Texts are regularly not received by parents as they have forgotten to inform us of a change of number.

### Therapy Dogs



We have been looking into accessing some therapy dogs for some time now and are fortunate enough to have secured the services of two lovely dogs who will be coming to our school for the first time at the beginning of July. They are registered and follow the 'Bark and Read' Standards of Practice for Providers of Animal Assisted Interventions in Schools. They come fully insured and have years of practice of working in a number of different schools. Once this is all finalised, we will be in touch with you again with more information about how this will all work. We can only hope that they are as successful and popular here as they have been in other schools!



## Parking



I would like to thank the majority of parents who park so considerately and carefully, ensuring that they park safely so that our children are kept as safe as possible. I must admit that I felt quite demoralised when talking to someone parked on double yellow lines who did not seem to think that was a problem.... and was fairly abusive back in return. I am not trying to be awkward. I would just perhaps suggest that you all take a step back and spend 10 minutes watching the issues caused by the sheer volume of traffic and inconsiderate parking at drop-off and pick-up times. It really does make you think and realise just how dangerous it has become.

All it takes is a vehicle to park on the double yellow lines, on the corner or the junction and then all the vehicles have to go up onto the footpath in order to get past. The footpath where our children and parents walk. It really does make you think.

However, we are in a much better position now that parents and carers can park in both the Social Club Car Park and the Kings Head Car Park. This should really make a difference. It is the perfect time of year to enjoy a short walk too! Just don't forget to park on the left-hand side and towards the bottom of the Kings Head Car Park on an afternoon please. Very grateful thanks must go to the owner of the Kings Head and Social Club to allow us to park there!

### School Holidays - Academic Year 2020-2021

Holiday	Closing Date	Date re-open for teaching purposes
May Day	Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2021	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2021
Summer Half Term	Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> June 2021
Summer Holiday	Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> July 2021	Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2021

### School Holidays - Academic Year 2021 - 2022

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

### Important Dates for 2021 - 2022

***KS1 Statutory Assessment Tests - May 2022***

***KS2 Statutory Assessment Tests - Week Beginning Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022***

***Year 1 & Year 2 Phonics Screening Test - Week Beginning Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022***

***Year 4 Multiplication Test - Week Beginning Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022***

## DIARY DATES

Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2021	All Day	CLOSED for Early Spring Bank Holiday
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	Morning	Mr Innes, Assistant Head Teacher in post
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	Morning	Year 5 Friendship Workshops
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	All Day	World Maths Day
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	Morning	Year 4 Heritage Walk to Consett Steels Work Site
Week Beginning Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	All Week	Year 6 Breakfast Week
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	3.45 & 4.30pm	Meet the Teacher Zoom Meetings for Mr Innes' Class
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	All Day	Mr Stephenson's Class at Jarrow Hall
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	All Day	Mrs Grayson's Class at Jarrow Hall
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	Lunchtime	Year 6 Pizza Lunch
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	All Day	Mrs Davis visiting PGL Caythorpe, Lincolnshire
Week Beginning Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	All Week	Science Creativity Week
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	Morning	The Check It Out Radio Show with Digital Leaders
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	All Day	Year 1 Discovery Museum Workshops over Zoom
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	6pm	Birdoswald Meeting for Year 3 Parents over Zoom
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	All Day	Year 5 at High Force
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> May 2021	All Day	Year 1 at The Baltic and Newcastle
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2021	All Day	Pilgrimage at Lanchester All Saints Church
Week Beginning Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	All Week	Fun and Fitness Week
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	All Day	Skip2Bfit Workshops
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	All Day	Sports Coaches leading carousel of activities
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	All Day	Wheels Day for Whole School
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	All Day	Reception Sponsored Walk and Picnic at Malton
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	All Day	Sponsored Nursery Walk for Barnado's
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	All Day	Year 5 Bike Ride
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	All Day	Street Games Workshops
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	All Day	Year 6 Bike Ride
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	All Day	Street Games Workshops
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	All Day	School Closed
<b>Summer Half-Term Holiday</b>		
<b>Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May, Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> &amp; Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June</b>		<b>Mr Graham's Holiday Club in School</b>
<b>Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> June</b>		<b>Mr Graham's Football Camp</b>
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> June 2021	All Day	Year 3 (MS Class) at Birdoswald
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> June 2021	All Day	Year 3 (MS Class) at Birdoswald
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> June 2021	All Day	Year 3 (KG Class) at Birdoswald
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> June 2021	All Day	Year 3 (KG Class) at Bird Oswald
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> June 2021	All Day	Reception (GO Class) & some Nursery at Roker Beach
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> June 2021	Morning	French Theatre Company in School
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> June 2021	6pm	Zoom Meeting for Y5&6 Parents for PGL
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> June 2021	All Day	Captain Chemistry with Year 6 – Circuit Systems
Week Beginning Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2021	All Week	Sports Week
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2021	All Day	Year 6 at The Forbidden Corner
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2021	6pm	Zoom Meeting for Yr 4 Parents re Dukeshouse Wood
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> June 2021	All Day	Reception (CM Class) & some Nursery at Roker Beach
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> June 2021	6pm	Meeting for Parents of Reception New Starters
Week Beginning Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> June 2021	All Week	Year 5 & 6 Residential to PGL, Caythorpe, Lincolnshire
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2021	Afternoon	Mrs Davis and Mr Bailey at BETT Awards in London
Week Beginning Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> July 2021	All Week	Environmental Week
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> July 2021	All Day	Year 4 at Dukeshouse Wood, Hexham

Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> July 2021	Afternoon	Therapy Dogs in School
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> July 2021	All Day	Year 4 Return from Dukeshouse Wood, Hexham
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> July 2021	6.30pm	Year 6 Sleep Over in School
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> July 2021	11am-1pm	Summer Fair
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> July 2021	All Day	School Walk for Years 4, 5 & 6
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> July 2021	All Day	School Walk for Years 1, 2 & 3
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> July 2021	3.45pm	Nursery New Starters Meeting in School
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> July 2021	1.30pm	Year 6 Leavers' Service in All Saints Church
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> July 2021	10am	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly in School Hall
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> July 2021	3.30pm	School Breaks Up for Summer Holidays