



Friday 5th November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you have all managed to enjoy a break with your children over the half-term holiday. The weather has certainly turned much colder this week and the dark nights make it seem as though we really are in the depths of winter already! Your washing machine may also be relieved to know that the field is currently out of bounds to the children due to the wet, muddy grass.

Covid Update

The Local Authority and Public Health have contacted all schools in Durham to make a range of suggestions that schools might want to consider to help to minimise the risk of spread of Covid in the local community. Many of these our school is already doing such as good ventilation, holding virtual meetings and reducing the mixing of year groups as much as possible. Additional ventilation, cleaning and hand hygiene is also helping to keep the school community as safe as possible. Carbon Dioxide monitors have also just been delivered to school too which will help us to identify where ventilation needs to be improved.

However, there are some testing suggestions that I would like to bring to your attention that have also been recommended.

- Firstly, if any adult or child is a close contact of a positive case in their household, it is highly recommended that the whole household have a PCR test.
- Secondly, it has also been recommended that Daily Lateral Flow Testing is carried out for 7 days at home for any adult or Key Stage 2 pupil who is a household contact of a positive case and is exempt from isolation and continues to attend school. Testing should start from the day the household member has symptoms or if they don't have symptoms, from when they tested positive.

Obviously, we cannot enforce any of this testing outside of school, but I do think it is going to be important that we are all as careful and considerate of others as possible to help minimise the spread in our community. Please also refer to the additional information regarding Covid procedures.

Pyjama Appeal

The wonderful donations of pyjamas were collected on the final day of half term and I am delighted to inform you that Hayley Wilkinson delivered 456 pairs of pyjamas to the RVI Children's Ward. To say she was overwhelmed by your amazing generosity is probably an understatement! All credit to you all for your generosity and support of such a worthwhile cause.

Friday 5th November - BBC Radio Newcastle Children in Need

This news has been under an embargo and we were not allowed to share any information with you until today! We were approached at the beginning of September to be involved in a BBC-wide singing event. Each BBC local radio station across the country were asked to find one school who were prepared to get involved in a fancy-dress sing-a-long! I think they know that we cannot say no!

We decided the ideal day to record this was on our Pyjama Day after Mrs Knighton had spent time teaching the children Calvin Harris and Tom Grennan's 'By Your Side'. This was broadcast this morning on Radio Newcastle and will feature again throughout the Children in Need Appeal.

It is looking highly likely that BBC Radio Newcastle will come to our school to do their Mid-Morning Show on Children in Need Day (Friday 19th November) as well.

Saturday 6th November at 9am - Winter Wonderland Tickets on Sale

This year, due to the great response and demand from the community, our magical Winter Wonderland will be open to the public on Thursday 9th & Friday 10th December from 4-6pm. Come and join us for a ride on our very own "Polar Express" followed by toasted marshmallows by the fire and hot chocolate or mulled wine at the EP bar. Plus, no Winter Wonderland experience would be complete without a visit to Santa's Grotto.

Tickets will be £5 per person (under 1s go free) and will go on sale at **9am on Saturday 6th November** via www.eventbrite.co.uk (search for Lanchester Winter Wonderland). We will also be displaying flyers around the village and posting on Twitter.

All our children will still get to experience the Winter Wonderland during the school day from Monday 6th December but we are really excited to be able to share this event with our local community this year too.

Please note, places are limited and are only available to purchase on EventBrite - unfortunately we are not able to book these in the School Office. Once the tickets are sold, they are sold!

Poppies on sale from Monday 8th November 2021

We have a super collection of poppies and associated stationery and 'small toys' from the Royal British Legion which we will be asking for donations for next week. Some of our Year 6 children will take the box round school every afternoon and they will also be available from the School Office too. Please give generously to this very worthy cause in advance of Remembrance Sunday on 14th November!

Monday 8th and Tuesday 9th November 2021

Captain Chemistry will be working with our Year 3 classes on Monday followed by our Year 5 classes on Tuesday for practical work based on their Science topics this half term. The children get so much out of these lively, fun and interesting days and I am sure they will love to tell you all about their latest experiments!

Open Morning for Reception 2022 Starters – Saturday 13th November

We know that many Nursery parents are trying to decide which primary school to apply to for their child for September 2022. To help them make this crucial decision, we will be holding an Open Morning on Saturday 13th November between 10am and 12 noon. Please come along, meet some of the key staff, have a look at the environment in Reception and Key Stage One and ask as many questions as you would like!

However, if you would like to come and have a look round during the school day, we are also more than happy to show you round. Just email the school office and we will get back to you with some suggested dates. Choosing the right school for your child is probably one of the biggest decisions you will make for your child, therefore it has to be the right one!

Monday 22nd November – Year 4 Visit to Life science Centre, Newcastle

This term, children in Year 4 will be going on a visit to Life Science Centre in Newcastle on Monday 22nd November. On this trip we will be visiting the science centre and attending a 'Light Fantastic' workshop, which will help to supplement our science work. A letter has already been sent to Parents & Carers of Year 4 children and the trip is now available on ParentPay.

Christmas Events

We have delayed making a decision about indoor Christmas events to give us plenty of time to see which way the positive Covid cases were progressing. Sadly, we feel it is not worth the risk of holding mass indoor gatherings in school before Christmas. I realise this is very disappointing for many of you, but equally, I am sure you will understand the thinking behind these decisions.

But, you will not miss out. Each Key Stage will be filming and recording some festive fun for you and it will be uploaded to Evidence Me and eSchools for you all to enjoy in the comfort of your own homes. If you DO

NOT wish your child to be part of these recordings, please email the school office or your child's class teacher.

The Diary Dates on next week's newsletter will include all the Christmas dates including parties, Christmas Fair, Christmas Dinner and Christingle.

Switching on the Christmas Lights

The Christmas Lights on the village green are enjoyed by thousands of people walking and driving through our village. We have been asked to nominate two of our Year 6 children to play an important part in this event and help to switch the lights on. This year, Cuthbert and Sophie from Year 6 have been nominated by the staff and I am sure they will feel very honoured to have been chosen.

Christmas Shopping Event

The Friends of Lanchester EP are holding the Christmas shop event again this year for the children. It is always such a popular event! Gifts are all priced at £2 and you can order them now using the link below or the links on the Friends of Lanchester EP Facebook page. You order gifts by recipient and your child chooses a gift for that person from a selection in the shop. The shop will be brought into school for the children to visit and the volunteers will have the spreadsheet there so they will know exactly which family members each child is choosing for.

Once chosen, the gifts will then be sent home, a few days later, ready wrapped and labelled. They can be popped straight under the tree and be a surprise on Christmas Day. The children love the chance to shop for their loved ones and we really love giving them this opportunity. All year groups will be included and there is no limit on how many gifts you can order. It is truly wonderful to see the pure delight on the children's faces as they choose their gift for their mum, dad, grandparent, brother, sister etc.

This is a very time consuming event for the Friends of Lanchester EP volunteers so we would appreciate orders being placed as soon as possible please. The cut off will be Friday November 26th and orders placed after that date cannot be guaranteed to be processed.

The link is:

<https://form.jotform.com/FoLEP/christmas-shop>



Christmas shop

Please click the link to complete this form.

form.jotform.com

India Visit

Due to an overwhelming response for this trip of a lifetime, it has been necessary to draw names out of a hat. This took place during Achievement Assembly this morning, when Mr McLoughlin had this unenviable task! The children obviously know if they are one of the lucky ones and I will email all parents and carers this weekend to confirm their place. More information will follow in the next few weeks and Mr Keeton will be running an After School Club for these children too so that they can begin to work together and prepare for this amazing experience.

Holiday Club

Mr Graham will once again be running his holiday camp at school for three days at the start of the Christmas holidays. He will be holding the holiday camp in school from Monday 20th December to Wednesday 22nd December. If you would like to book, please email: lewisgraham91@hotmail.co.uk or fill in the [online booking form](#). This is open for all children aged between 4 – 11 years old. You can book your child in for the full day (8am – 5pm) or half days (8am – 1pm or 1pm – 5pm).

Early Years News

Thanks to all our supporters who helped raise an amazing £1347.40 by taking part in the EYFS Autumn Treasure Hunt. We have taken delivery of an outdoor play castle which will be ready for the children to use next week. We are also planning to order an outdoor playhouse and to supplement our collection of crates and planks to enhance the outdoor construction area. If anyone still has sponsorship money at home, please bring it in by the end of next week. Your support is very much appreciated!

Labelling clothes & accessories

Now that the weather is colder, can you please ensure that any hats, gloves, scarves and coats the children wear for school are clearly named? We try our very best to support the children to look after their belongings but we do need your help in this.

Evidence Me

Please remember to check Evidence Me for updates on the activities your child is engaging with in Nursery and Reception. If you have any problems accessing the system, please let your child's teacher know.

Raise Donations for School with easyfundraising

If you are doing any shopping online this year, please remember you can raise money for our school without it costing you a penny. Over 6,000 shops and sites will donate to Lanchester EP Primary School for FREE when you use easyfundraising to shop with them. You can raise donations for us when you buy anything from decorations and festive food to gifts like toys, jewellery, tech, experiences and more! These donations really help us and all you have to do is use easyfundraising when you're ordering the things you'll be buying anyway. Just sign up to our [easyfundraising page](#). So far, our supporters have raised £120, so thank you to everyone who is already signed up.

Positive Thinking

***You can't go back and change the beginning,
But you can start where you are and change the ending.***

As usual, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or the school office. We are here to help you all! Hope you all enjoy a lovely break with your children.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Davis

Mrs Jane Davis
Head Teacher