



Friday 26th November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week has again, been one of those very special weeks with some wonderful things happening. Year 4 had a great day at the Centre for Life and Year 3 enjoyed a really terrific Graffiti Workshop. It was wonderful seeing the children so engrossed and engaged in creating their graffiti boards!

Then on Wednesday we had a truly inspirational morning in our Year 5 classes. Gillian Walnes (MBE), along with Isobel Aptaker from 2Simple and Nigel Canin, the owner and managing director of 2Simple all joined us for a wonderful session about Anne Frank. We were also honoured to receive a brief visit from a rabbi from Gateshead too! Gillian Walnes completely captivated the children for over an hour while she shared so much information and knowledge about the life of Anne Frank whilst encouraging the children to empathise with all that Anne lived through. A truly special morning.

We are sorry that the flu nasal sprays were postponed – this was simply due to a shortage of staff in the immunisation team. These have been rearranged and will now take place on Friday 10th December.

Saturday 27th November 2021 – Help with Moving the Bark

As you may have seen, we have had a huge delivery of bark chippings ready to help prepare our paths in the Winter Wonderland. Last year, we had a great army of parents who made the whole job so much easier. We would really love it if this could happen again this year.

We would be very grateful if any parents who bring their child to Mr Grahams' Football Coaching on a Saturday morning would be able to use the time their child is playing football to help us move the bark! Please just bring some sensible shoes, a shovel and a wheel barrow if possible. Many hands certainly do make light work!

Saturday 27th November 2021 – Switching on of the Christmas Lights

Two of our Year 6 children, Cuthbert and Sophie, have the honour of helping to switch on the Christmas lights on Saturday evening at 6pm on the Village Green. The Parish Council aim to keep this event fairly low key and I am sure we will all enjoy the benefit of the lights over the next couple of months. They really do make such a positive difference to the area.

Tuesday 30th November 2021 – Tiny Tweeties Visit Nursery

Our Nursery children are really looking forward to welcoming Tiny Tweeties on Tuesday 30th November. We love Tiny Tweeties and they lead some excellent sessions which the children both thoroughly enjoy and get so much out of. We can't wait!

Wednesday 1st December 2021 – Nursery Non Uniform Day

Our Nursery children are having their non-uniform day in exchange for a gift for the Christmas Fair on Wednesday 1st December so that none of the Nursery children miss out. For this event, we ask the children to bring something such as some sweets, confectionary, children's gifts or stationery, gift sets, bottle of alcohol (adult to drop off please), or any item that can be used as a gift for the raffle or in our Christmas Fair.

Thursday 2nd December 2021 – Celebration of Hanukkah in Year 1

A rabbi priest will be visiting Year 1 on Thursday 2nd December to talk to the children about how the Jewish religion celebrate Hanukkah. The children are really privileged to be able to hear this first-hand and I know they will enjoy a fascinating morning.

Thursday 2nd December 2021 – Reception Trip to Newcastle

Our Reception children are visiting the Laing Art Gallery and Fenwick's Window on Thursday 2nd December. They are all to wear school uniform with a warm coat as usual and bring a packed lunch with a drink. They

will also need to bring a carrier bag to bring their artistic creation home with them. They will return to school in time for the end of the school day. I am sure they will all enjoy a great day out!

Thursday 2nd December 2021 – Year 6 Trip to Beamish Museum

Our Year 6 children are visiting Beamish Museum to support the history curriculum. They are to wear school uniform and will need to be well wrapped up and with comfortable shoes and a warm coat. They will need to bring a packed lunch with a drink too. They will return to school in time for the end of the school day.

Thursday 2nd December 2021 – No Digital Leaders Club

There will be no digital leaders club on Thursday 2nd December and for the rest of the half term due to staff absences. Sorry for any disappointment this may cause.

Friday 3rd December 2021 – Non Uniform Day for the Christmas Fair

All children from Reception to Year 6 are asked to come to school in non-uniform in exchange for a gift for the Christmas fair. Any donations of confectionary, stationery, alcohol, gift sets, toiletries etc would be really appreciated!

Christmas Shopping Event

The deadline for orders for this event is 5pm tonight so please act now if you don't want to miss out! Gifts are all priced at £2 and you can order them now using this link: <https://form.jotform.com/FoLEP/christmas-shop>

Next week, the gifts will be brought into school for the children to choose which gift they want to give to their chosen recipients. The staff will know who the child is choosing for as they will have a list so it should all work like clockwork – it certainly has in the past!

The children will make their choices on the following days:

Monday	Reception and Year 1
Tuesday	Year 2 and Year 3
Wednesday	Nursery
Thursday	Year 4 and Year 5
Friday	Year 6 and Catch Up on Absentees

It is so special to see the sheer delight on the children's faces as they choose their gifts. It really makes the children realise that giving is often better than receiving!

I would like to thank the army of volunteers from the Friends of the School who have made this all possible. The organisation that has gone on behind the scenes is second to none! They have been choosing, shopping, ordering, wrapping for weeks in order to make this happen. Huge thanks to each and every one of you!

Ski Trip 2023 – Friday 3rd December Deadline

A letter was emailed last week to all parents and carers of the current Years 3, 4 & 5 about next year's ski trip. I know it is hard to think about this when next year's trip has just been refunded but deposits are needed by Friday 3rd December in order to secure places on this trip. Please don't miss the deadline!

After School Activity Clubs

Please remember that next week is the last week that Activity Clubs will be running, with the exception of Digital Leaders, which is cancelled. Thank you.

Winter Wonderland Tickets

The tickets for this event are almost sold out and we now only have a few tickets available for the 4pm slot on Thursday evening. If you would like to book these tickets, they are £5 per person (under 1s go free) and can be bought via www.eventbrite.co.uk - (search for Lanchester Winter Wonderland).

Rota Kids Christmas Fundraiser - Advent: a time for giving

We would love to be able to support the Salvation Army Christmas Present Appeal again this year and help to make Christmas a happy one for every child. Look out for the envelope that your child will be bringing home tonight and please make a donation, returning the envelope to school no later than Wednesday December 1st. Together we can make a difference!

Christmas Jumper Recycling

Mrs Emmerson is organising a Christmas Jumper/T-shirt Exchange for both children and adults. If you or your child has a Christmas Jumper or T-Shirt that no longer fits or that you do not want anymore, please wash it and send it into school. These will then all be organised into sizes and photos will be posted onto the Parents Facebook Page for parents and carers to get in touch about which item they would like. Many thanks to Mrs Emmerson for such a great idea and for offering to organise it all.

Book Party

Your school book party is now open and will run until Friday 3rd December. The following link will take you to the school's unique online shop: [Lanchester EP Christmas Fair - Scholastic Book Parties](#)

Here you can choose from a great selection of books at a discounted price, and when you buy from here the school receive free books too! It's simple, just select group delivery at checkout and your order will be delivered into school. Please make sure to add your child's full name to the order. Thank you.

Reverse Advent Calendar

We all have an expectation of how Christmas should be but are all too aware that for many families, it is a time of added stress on already over-stretched budgets. Families that struggle from day to day suddenly have to try to stretch further to provide a Christmas dinner and presents for children and many simply cannot.

Our school is co-ordinating a huge reverse advent calendar and are asking parents and carers to send in an item of food to school following the food list below. We are asking parents to consider purchasing an extra item of food in their weekly shopping that can then be used to make up hampers which we can then donate to the foodbank.

The food items needed for the hampers are:

Sponge & Christmas Pudding	Coffee & Tea	Tinned Veg
Custard & White Sauce	Squash, juice or fizzy soft drinks	Tinned Tuna & Meat
Gravy Granules	Pasta	Baked Beans & Tinned Spaghetti
Cake	Breakfast Cereals	Soup
Chocolates, Sweets & Biscuits	Jams, Chocolate Spread & Peanut Butter	Handwash
Mince Pies	Part Baked Bread	Shampoo
Savoury Snacks	Cooking Sauce	Shower Gel

Please bring in any of the above items and place in the box in the Main Entrance, or send them in with your children.

In addition to this, the staff and governors will also be making up their own hampers to deliver to needy families in the village. If you know of any family who would appreciate one of these hampers, please let me know. It can be done confidentially by emailing me on j.davis@lanchesterep.net. We are very privileged to be able to play a part in helping our local community.

School Photographs

By now you should have received your child's photograph proofs. If you have not received one and your child was in school that day, please email school.office@lanchesterep.net by Friday 3rd December and we can get in touch with the photo company. Thank you.

Holiday Club

Mr Graham will once again be running his holiday club 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 this [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

Now that the weather is getting colder it is important that your child is dressed warmly for outdoor play. We recommend that your child has a pair of gloves/mittens and a hat with them in school each day and that all items are clearly named so that we can match them to their owners. Please spend some time teaching your child how to zip up their own coat. We are always on hand to encourage and support them but it is wonderful for their self-esteem when they are able to be independent – and they get more time to play if they are not waiting for help!

If you are updating your Christmas decorations and have anything you no longer want or need, we would be very grateful of any donations to add some festive spirit to our EYFS classrooms. Shiny and/or sparkly things are especially welcome!

As in previous years, we are inviting the children in Nursery and Reception to decorate a peg to put on our classroom Christmas Trees. We will be sending pegs home over the next few days. Children can decorate the pegs as they wish, with or without help and then bring it back to school (in a named bag or envelope) to put on our tree. At the end of term, children will be able to bring home their peg to put on your tree at home.

Uniform Labelling & Lost Property

Please make sure you label all items of clothing that comes into school – we have numerous items of unnamed lost property which we are not able to find owners for. From Wednesday 1st December, all lost property around the school that is not named will be put in the Office entrance area. Any uniform that is unclaimed by the end of the term will then be sorted into sizes and available for parents to help themselves to next term.

ParentPay Outstanding Balances

Each week there is an automatic reminder sent to parents and carers who have an outstanding balance on ParentPay for Wrap Around Care or School Meals. If you believe this has been sent in error, for sessions you know your child didn't attend, please let the office know as soon as possible and we may be able to adjust this for you. If the outstanding balance gets too high then you will receive a letter home. Please make sure all debts are cleared by the end of this term. Thank you.

Covid-19

Please make sure that you continue to get PCR tests for your children if they are displaying any one of the following symptoms:

- high temperature
- loss of sense of taste or smell
- new, persistent cough

We know there are many things going around at this time of year and that lots of people are experiencing these symptoms as the result of another bug but we simply cannot take the risk. If your child develops one of the symptoms at school, you will be asked to pick them up and take them for a PCR test – a negative lateral flow test is not enough to bring them into school – it must be a negative PCR test. We are seeing results coming back often in under 24 hours, so whilst we understand this is inconvenient it is vital that we all stick to the guidance. The last thing we want is for people to catch Covid and to be unwell for Christmas, and to prevent this we all need to play our part.

Absence Reasons

Following on from the above, please make sure if your child is off school because of illness, when you phone in or email the School Office please give the symptoms your child is suffering from – feeling unwell or poorly is not enough information as we need to be able to see whether there are bugs spreading around school. Illness absences are authorised but this is by the Head Teacher’s discretion and you may find if there is no adequate reason given this mark goes down as unauthorised. Our Attendance Officer monitors our attendance and the reasons given so it is vital that you give a reason. This is also a safeguarding issue as we need to make sure that children aren’t missing out on education for no reason. Thank you.

Forthcoming December Dates

Wednesday 1 st	All Day	Non Uniform Day in aid of the Christmas Fair for Nursery Children
Thursday 2 nd	All Day	Reception Trip to the Laing Art Gallery & Newcastle
Thursday 2 nd	All Day	Year 6 Trip to Beamish Museum
Friday 3 rd	All Day	Non Uniform Day for Christmas Fair for Reception – Year 6
Monday 6 th – Friday 10 th	All Week	Winter Wonderland for Whole School
Thursday 9 th	All Day	Year 6 at Newcastle Theatre Royal, Uno’s & Fenwick’s Window
Thursday 9 th	4 – 6pm	Winter Wonderland Opened to the Community
Friday 10 th	All Day	Nasal Flu Spray for Children in Reception – Year 6
Friday 10 th	4 – 6pm	Winter Wonderland Opened to the Community
Monday 13 th	All Day	Christmas Jumper Day
Monday 13 th	Afternoon	Christmas Fair
Tuesday 14 th	Morning	New College performing ‘A Christmas Carol’ in school for Years 2 - 6
Tuesday 14 th	Afternoon	Year 6 at Consett Academy for ‘Matilda’
Tuesday 14 th	Afternoon	Year 1 Christmas Party
Tuesday 14 th	Afternoon	Year 3 Christmas Party
Wednesday 15 th	All Day	Nursery Christmas Party
Wednesday 15 th	Lunchtime	Christmas Dinner
Wednesday 15 th	Afternoon	Year 2 Christmas Party
Wednesday 15 th	Afternoon	Year 4 Christmas Party
Thursday 16 th	Morning	The Greediest Christmas Elf Theatre Visit for EYFS
Thursday 16 th	Afternoon	Nursery Christmas Fair
Thursday 16 th	Afternoon	Reception Christmas Party
Thursday 16 th	Afternoon	Year 5 Christmas Party
Thursday 16 th	Afternoon	Year 6 Christmas Party
Friday 17 th	Morning	Years 2 – 6 in All Saints Church for Christingle and Carol Service

Positive Thinking

Remember you’re the one who can fill the world with sunshine.

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!

Yours sincerely,
Jane Davis
Head Teacher