



LANCHESTER E.P. (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



Weekly Bulletin 1 – Friday 2nd November 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have all had an enjoyable half term break with your children and are now ready for the busiest half term of the year!

Friday 2nd November – Choir Singing at Consett Empire Theatre

Our choir are singing at the Festival of Remembrance at Consett Empire Theatre tonight. It starts at 7pm and our children will be performing in the first half. Tickets are available from the theatre at a cost of £7.50. I am sure it will be a very poignant and special evening.

Unfortunately, the concert that had been arranged for Saturday 17th November has now had to be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. However, please make sure that you do have the date of Saturday 8th December in your diaries as we have been asked to perform at a Christmas Concert in the village – more details at a later date.

Monday 5th November – Year 4 at the Centre for Life

Our Year 4 children will be going to the Centre for Life on Monday for a day of activities based around Solids, Liquids and Gases. All children should come to school in full uniform and will need a packed lunch. They will return to school in time for the end of the school day.

Monday 5th November – Radio Newcastle in School

On Monday afternoon we welcome Lisa Shaw into school from Radio Newcastle when she will be recording her feature for 'Little Uns' which will be broadcast at a later date. There will be a small number of our younger children interviewed for this and I am sure it will be a great experience for them all!

Wednesday 7th November – Open Day for Prospective Reception Parents – 10am and 6pm

We are holding open events on Wednesday for all parents of Nursery children who are due to start Reception in September 2019. The first one is at 10am on Wednesday morning when you will have the opportunity to see the school in action, visit the Early Years and also have a look in KS1. Where possible, I would always advise parents to come and look around a school when the children are in – it has so much more atmosphere and really helps you get a feel for the ethos of a school.

However, many of our parents work which is why we are also holding a session at 6pm as well. You will be given exactly the same tour and talk but obviously there will not be any children on site. We look forward to welcoming you to our school to help you make one of the most important decisions you will ever make for your child!

If you are unable to make this date, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will be more than happy to show you round individually.

Thursday 8th November – Friends of the School Meeting

Our Friends of the School have their monthly meeting at 6pm on Thursday 8th November. All are welcome to join us for the hour when we will be discussing future events. We look forward to seeing you there.

Friday 9th November – Year 3 at the Centre for Life

Our Year 3 children will be going to the Centre for Life on Monday for a day of activities based around Magnets. All children should come to school in full uniform and will need a packed lunch. They will return to school in time for the end of the school day.

Friday 9th November – 7pm – Quiz Night in School

Please make sure you purchase your tickets for the Quiz Night from the School Office for the Quiz by Thursday next week. All tickets are £2.50 each and usually the teams consist of around 4-6 people. This was a highly successful and very popular event last year and I know many of you are looking forward to it again. There will be a raffle on the night and feel free to bring your own drink. I am sure it will be equally as competitive too!

After School Clubs

The following After School Clubs will take place this half term. Forms were given out yesterday, as well as emailed via eSchools and are available on the website under the 'Club Letters' section.

	Lunchtime	After School	Year Groups	Adult
Monday	---	Netball	Years 3 & 4	Mrs Grieve Mrs Smith
		Multi Skills	Year 1	Mr Graham
Tuesday	KS2 Choir	---	Years 3 – 6	Mrs Knighton
	---	Curling	Year 6	Mr Graham
Wednesday	Top Trumps	---	Year 5	Mrs Coyle
	---	Mindfulness	Year 1	Miss Butler
		Art Club	Year 2	Miss Honan
		Dodgeball	Year 5	Mr Graham
		Football	Years 3 & 4	SAFC
Thursday	---	Digital Leaders	Years 3 – 6	Mr Bailey
		Netball	Years 5 & 6	Mrs Grieve
Friday	Singing	---	Years 1 & 2	Mrs Knighton
	Eco Rangers	---	Years 2 – 6	Mrs Startup

A text will be sent to parents whose children have a place on each of the after school clubs on Monday with the exception of the Netball Clubs which are open to anyone in the specific years to attend.

Please note that none of the clubs will take place in the last week of term.

Please also note that if a club has to be cancelled with **more than** 24 hours' notice, a message will be posted on twitter. If, in the unlikely event that a club is cancelled on the day, then a text will be sent to the parents of the relevant children.

It is imperative that you do check twitter at the end of a day as then you can see all the tweets for the day. Twitter is our main form of communication so it is worth your while checking it daily!

Mr Jake McGregor Leaving

Mr McGregor, one of our lunchtime supervisory assistants is leaving us this week. He has been with the school now for a number of years and has worked tirelessly in both a voluntary and paid capacity. We would like to wish him all the very best for his future.

Dinner Money

Dinner money for this half term is £82.00 or £10.25 per week. Please check your ParentPay account for any credit due. We would also like to remind you, once again, to keep your child's dinner money and any wrap around care accounts in credit. All payments must be paid at least one week in advance. We really do not like having to chase parents for non-payments but I am sure you can understand that we also cannot be in a position where large debts are owed to the school. Thank you for your help with this matter.

Holidays in Term Time - FAQ

What does the law say about leave of absence in term time?

It says Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Head Teachers should determine the number of school days a child can be away from school if the leave is granted.

If my child's school refuses to authorise my term time leave of absence request, will I receive a Fixed Penalty Notice and can I be prosecuted?

Durham County Council's Fixed Penalty Notice Protocol acknowledges that regular and punctual attendance at school is both a legal requirement and essential for pupils to maximise their educational opportunities.

Circumstances where a Penalty Notice might be issued include unauthorised leave of absence in term time, or other parentally condoned absence where the absence amounts to **seven school days or more in a minimum twelve rolling school week period**. You can be prosecuted if you receive a fixed penalty notice and it is not paid.

Under the Education Act 1996, parents commit an offence if they fail to ensure their child's regular school attendance. Taking a child out of school for a leave of absence without permission and where the absence amounts to seven school days or more of unauthorised absence in a minimum twelve week rolling term is viewed as failing to ensure your child's regular attendance at school.

Payment of a Penalty Notice, where offered, is an alternative to prosecution. If unpaid, prosecution for the Education Act offence may therefore ensue. A fixed penalty notice will be issued to **each person with parental responsibility** for the child / children who is deemed liable for the offence / offences.

Who has parental responsibility for a child?:

The Department for Education (DfE) state a parent means:

- All **natural parents**, whether they are married or not;
- Any person who **has parental responsibility** for a child or young person; and,
- Any person who **has care of a child or young person i.e. lives with and looks after the child**.

The DfE further state: ***'generally parents include all those with day to day responsibility for a child.'***

Foundation Stage News

Our books in Nursery next week will be 'Poo in the Zoo', 'The Thing', 'Jack and the Beanstalk', 'Who's on the loo?' and 'Penguin'.

Thanks to all who have returned Treasure Hunts. We are overwhelmed by your generosity and will let you know the total raised next week and how we will spend the money you have raised.

Everybody should by now have received an invitation from 2BuildaProfile to set up your child's Learning Journal. Please check your junk email if you have not seen your invitation. If you have not provided us with an alternative email address, the one we have on your child's school record has been used. We can still change this if necessary, so please let Miss Butler know if this is the case. You must respond to the invitation to verify your email address before you begin to receive your child's observations. We will begin to send observations out over the next two weeks.

Can we once more remind parents to put children's names in shoes and wellies? We often have several pairs of identical shoes in school and it is extremely hard to sort them out without names! Thanks for your help.

As usual, if there is anything at all that you would like to talk about, or that is concerning you, please do not hesitate to contact me at school. We are here to help you and your child.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Jane Davis
Head Teacher