



LANCHESTER E.P. (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



Weekly Bulletin 1 – Friday 10th January 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very happy new year to you all and all the best for a healthy and peaceful 2020. It has been lovely to welcome the children back and to see them tackle their work so enthusiastically. Long may it last!

Our Year 1 children had a fantastic start to their new topic of Paws, Claws and Whiskers when they welcomed Crazy Creatures along on their very first morning back! The photos on twitter were just incredible – and they wondered why I didn't go down to join them?!

Meanwhile our Year 5 children have had a great trip to the Great North Museum to support this term's topic on the Ancient Egyptians. Then, Year 2 head off to the Centre for Life on Monday to attend some workshops and also visit the planetarium in support of their 'Moon Zoom' topic.

Staffing

There have been a few changes to staffing in school this term:

- Mrs Pat Riddell is now teaching in Early Years every afternoon. This ensures greater continuity for the children rather than her just being there for the occasional day during the week.
- Miss Chloe Dawson is also a new teaching assistant in Early Years due to our new intake and increased numbers.
- Mrs Julia Evans is also now working full-time in Early Years while Miss Charlotte Brierley supports in Year 3.
- Mrs Laura Peters will be working across the school, delivering Forest Schools sessions this term.
- It is also lovely to welcome Miss Leanne Bainbridge back to work after her maternity leave – she is supporting in Year 2.
- Mr Peter Taylor is now teaching in Year 6 while Mrs Sandi Coyle teaches his Year 5 class and Mrs Clare Sant has her Year 4 class full-time.

Forest Schools Sessions

We are so lucky to have such fabulous grounds and staff who are so keen to develop learning outdoors. Mr Junemann, our groundsman, is so proud of our wonderful forest and he and Mrs Peters have been working on creating another outdoor classroom in that area.

This term, every class will have regular access to these sessions – but it is important that they have appropriate clothing and footwear for these days. Please look out for more information on the weekly letter.

Applications for Reception Intake September 2020

Please remember that the deadline to apply for a place for your child's school place in Reception is Wednesday 15th January 2020 at the latest. It is really important that this deadline is not missed to ensure you have more chance of gaining a place at the school of your choice.

Year 3 & 4 Residentials

These have both now been booked and parental meetings will be held on Monday 27th January 2020. At 5.30pm there will be a meeting for Year 3 parents and this will be followed at 6pm for a meeting for Year 4 parents. Both residentials take place at the end of March. Year 3 will be going to Birdoswald to support their work on the Romans while Year 4 will be going to Alnwick Gardens and Castle and staying in Seahouses to support their English work on Harry Potter and their study on the history of medicine. More exciting opportunities for our children!

Monday 13th January 2020 – Year 2 at The Centre for Life

Our Year 2 children are all looking forward to their day trip to the Centre for Life on Monday next week. All children need a packed lunch and should come to school in their normal uniform. They will return to school in time for the end of the school day. Thank you to all parents and grandparents who are coming to help too – it is really appreciated!

Monday 13th January 2020 – Year 5 Indoor Kwick Cricket League

Some of our Year 5 children are taking part in an indoor Kwick Cricket League at the Louisa Centre which starts on Monday 13th January. All children participating have been given a letter. I am sure they will all enjoy the evening!

Wednesday 15th January 2020 – Year 1 Forest Schools Sessions

Our Year 1 children will be spending a morning or afternoon in the woods with Mrs Peters and will be learning outdoors. All children need wellies and warm clothing for this activity. Additional trousers or waterproof trousers would be ideal too!

Thursday 16th January 2020 – Year 2 Forest Schools Sessions

Our Year 2 children will be spending a morning or afternoon in the woods with Mrs Peters and will be learning outdoors. All children need wellies and warm clothing for this activity. Additional trousers or waterproof trousers would be ideal too!

Thursday 16th January 2020 – Winnie the Pooh Special Dinner

Thursday sees our special themed dinner for the term, to celebrate Winnie the Pooh Day which takes place on Saturday 18th January. This special day was created to celebrate the birth of AA Milne. I am sure all the children will enjoy this – the letter has been emailed and can be found on our website too. Please email the school office with your child's choice by 9am on Monday 13th January and make sure any dinner money is paid by Wednesday 15th January. Thank you.

Thursday 16th January 2020 – Science Ambassadors Training

Six of our Science Ambassadors from Year 4 will be attending the training on Thursday afternoon at Ushaw College. They will be accompanied by Mr Stephenson and I am sure they will make the most of the opportunity.

Thursday 16th January 2020 – Meeting re the Bett Show Weekend at 5.30pm

A meeting for the parents of the children going to the Bett Show will take place at 5.30pm on Thursday 16th January. All of the final arrangements will be shared at this meeting and you will also have the opportunity to ask any questions too!

Thursday 16th January 2020 – Friends of the School Meeting at 6pm

The first Friends of the School meeting takes place on Thursday 16th January at 6pm in school. All interested and new parents/carers are very welcome to come and along and share ideas or just listen to the plans for the events this year! We look forward to seeing you there.

Early Years News

We are very pleased to welcome our new starters to Nursery and hope that they settle quickly and enjoy their time with us. A huge welcome also to all our new families. We are delighted that you chose to send your children to us to begin their school career.

Can all of our EYFS parents please check that you have confirmed your email for our online learning journal, Evidence Me. For new parents, we will be setting this up over the next fortnight so that you can receive updates about your child's achievements and experiences during their time with us in Nursery and Reception.

Reception children will be bringing home a new set of letters for their word-building pack in the next day or so. If you could cut them up and put them in your child's word wallet, that would be a huge help. We are including the digraphs 'sh', 'ch', 'th' and 'qu' this time, which a lot of the children are finding quite tricky. We will be revising these sounds over the next week before moving on again with new sounds. The Reception children are making great progress in their reading, so thank you for your help and support with this! As always, if you have any questions, please feel you can ask a member of staff or email us.

As part of 'Understanding the World', children need to find out about different occupations. If you or a family member would like to come in and talk to a small group of children about your job or hobby, we would love to welcome you in to school. Please let us know if you might be interested!

We have had a number of named clothing items go missing over the past few weeks. Could you please check that you have no coats/school sweatshirts with another child's name in them, please, we appreciate that it is exasperating to lose a named article of clothing and would love to reunite the lost ones with their owners!

Pick Up Time

Obviously at the end of the school day, the roads and estates do become quite congested with cars when parents/carers are collecting children from school. With so many cars around, the air can become quite polluted if engines are left running. This is bad, both for the air quality and it can also be dangerous, especially for those with asthma. Please can we ask that engines are switched off when you are waiting for your children to try and help prevent any such issues. Thank you.

Children and Road Safety

We have had a resident contact us to express their concern at some of our older children 'playing' in the middle of the bypass road where the crossing patrol normally stands. Apparently they have been jumping into the road and even doing star jumps. Obviously this is highly dangerous. We have talked to the children but also ask that you take this opportunity to reiterate road safety to your child – especially if they do cross that road on an evening. Thank you.

Collecting from Early Years After School Club

Please look out for a bell on the door of the entrance to Early Years. When it is dark on an evening, it is impossible to see outside and some parents have experienced difficulties in collecting their children. To help alleviate these issues, we will be installing a doorbell – please look out for this and use it when collecting your children from Early Years After School Club. Thank you.

Letters and Email Addresses

Increasingly, we are corresponding with parents and carers electronically and via email. Some parents and carers have said they have not received emails when they were expecting them. Please make sure you check your junk/spam box. If they have not dropped in there, please contact the office so that we can check that we have the correct email address for you.

We are also starting to request that responses and replies are emailed to the School Office rather than relying on slips of paper being brought back to school. This helps the planet, reducing the amount of paper we send out, as well improving efficiency and potential issues of children forgetting to take slips and forms out of their bags! We hope you also prefer this method of communication!

Advance Notices and Dates

Tuesday 21st January 2020 – Environmental Day for Year 5 with SAFC

Friday 24th January 2020 – Bake Off and Coffee Afternoon - organised by Friends of the School

Friday 24th January – Sunday 26th January 2020 – Bett Show, London with some Digital Leaders

Monday 27th January 2020 – Holocaust Survivor Sigmund 'Sigi' Ciffer in school talking to Year 5/6

Monday 27th January 2020 – Meeting for Year 3 Parents at 5.30pm re Overnight Residential at Birdoswald

Monday 27th January 2020 – Meeting for Year 4 Parents at 6pm re Overnight Residential at Seahouses

Thursday 6th February 2020 – Disco for Reception to Year 6

Monday 10th February 2020 – Parents' Evening

Tuesday 11th February 2020 – Parents' Evening

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,

Jane Davis

Mrs Jane Davis
Head Teacher