



LANCHESTER E.P. (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



Weekly Bulletin 1: Friday 11th June 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope your children have all enjoyed a lovely week off and were able to make the most of the wonderful weather! Long may that continue.

This week has been one of real highs and lows. The high point of the week has been, without a doubt, the residential for our Year 3 children. All 58 children took part in this over a period of 2 days for each class and it has just been brilliant to eventually be able to get the children away. We had additional members of staff on the gate for drop off as we were anticipating some tears from children who have hardly had a day away from home in over 15 months. There was not a single tear as they all left their parents & carers and they were all incredibly well-behaved with impeccable manners. They were wonderful ambassadors for our school and we were so very proud of each and every single one of them.

Another high point of the week was when our Year 6 children received their leavers' hoodies. Their excitement was great to witness – the only slight issue is that they will not take them off, even when the temperature is 22 degrees outside and they are playing rounders! It is lovely to see them wear them with such pride! It is just so hard to believe they just have another 5 weeks with us....

The low point of the week has been the closure of one of our Year 5 class bubbles. We were informed on Tuesday lunchtime that one of our pupils had tested positive with COVID on the lateral flow test so the children were sent home to isolate until the full PCR test had been taken by the child involved. Unfortunately, this also came back positive meaning the class have to isolate until 18th June. This is far from ideal for them all and our heart goes out to them all having to isolate again – they were the first bubble to go down in September too. We are thinking about them all and send our love and best wishes to each and every one of them.

Another difficult part of the week was my attendance at Lisa Shaw's (BBC Radio Newcastle Presenter) funeral on Thursday morning at Durham Cathedral. I was really touched to be invited to attend the service and represented our school with a heavy heart. I think her death has shocked everyone who knew her – and indeed those who didn't know her – due to the circumstances surrounding her death. It also seemed quite fitting that our first Pre-School Group (whose name we changed from 'Muddy Wellies' to 'Lanchester Little'Uns' in her memory) took place on the same day. We will be holding a fund-raising activity later this term to raise money for the great charity the family have set up – raising money to fund children's activities and treats when a child loses a parent.

Staffing

I am delighted to tell you that Mrs Moran is now back to work full-time and Mrs Tate is starting a return to work next week following an operation. I know the children will all be delighted to see them again!

We have also appointed an administration assistant who will be starting work with us in September. Mrs Rachael Bowden will be joining our office team in September and I know she is really looking forward to starting work with us.

Mrs Sant is working in another local primary school for this half-term, helping to support them after they had some tricky staffing issues. This is a temporary measure only and she will be returning to our school and working part-time again as usual in September.

iPads, Twitter and Evidence Me

I am sorry if you have noticed that there have not been as many tweets or posts to Evidence Me for our younger children this week. All staff iPads have been sent off to Apple for updating and staff are lost without them! We hope they will be returned to us next week and that you will be able to tell when we all have them back!

Monday 14th June 2021 – Mr Osmond's Class and Nursery Beach Trip

We are looking forward to the first of our Roker Beach trips on Monday 14th June. The coach is booked to leave at 9:30am, so if your child is coming on the Monday trip, they should be in school by 9am to allow us to prepare them for leaving promptly. We are booked to return to school by 2:45pm so children should be collected at their normal time. Please note, that if you have volunteered to meet us at Roker Park to support the trip, you should be there by 10:15am. Staff will hold a briefing for volunteers before the children get off the coach so that everyone knows how the day will be organised.

Children should bring a packed lunch with them. We very much hope that we will be able to feel the sand and sea under our toes, so a change of clothes and a towel would be very useful. Children are welcome to bring a bucket and spade if they are clearly named with permanent marker – this will be done in Reception/Nursery so we know what belongs to who. This is a fantastic trip and such an experience for the children! Please ask if you have any concerns or worries. We welcome any last-minute helpers – just let us know if you would like to meet us at Roker Park.

Tuesday 15th June 2021 – Year 2 Trip to Moor House Outdoor Adventure Centre

Our Year 2 children are having a real treat on Tuesday when they enjoy the full day at Moor House, Houghton-le-Spring participating in a range of outdoor adventure activities. The children should come to school dressed in sensible outdoor clothes and trainers for the day – trousers are recommended and they will need a sun hat and sun cream applied before arriving at school. All children will need a packed lunch and a water bottle for the day. I have no doubt they will all love their day!

Tuesday 15th June 2021 – Zoom Meeting for Year 5 & 6 PGL Parents & Carers at 6pm

We will be holding a meeting over Zoom for all parents and carers of children going on the PGL residential from Monday 28th June. At the meeting, we will share more details of their itinerary as well as the full kit list needed. We will be able to answer any parental questions (hopefully!) and give you a detailed break-down of the organisation of the week. Please just click on the link below to access the meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/97170674985?pwd=V1kwRHBGckhHWk9GVWpUaHlydGprQT09>

Wednesday 16th June 2021 – Year 1 Trip to Belsay Hall and Castle

Our third trip of the week involves our Year 1 children who are spending the day at the wonderful Belsay Hall and Castle. Children will need to be in school uniform, with a raincoat and a sun hat. A packed lunch and plenty of fluids should also be taken, remembering that we are a nut free school, so no nuts please. This will be a wonderful way to support their topic work this half term.

Thursday 17th June 2021 – Captain Chemistry with Year 6

Captain Chemistry will be working with both Year 6 classes during the day and I am sure the children will tell us all about what they have learnt at the end of the day!

Thursday 17th June 2021 – Year 6 Swimming Sessions

We are delighted that our swimming sessions are starting this half term, even though it is just for a short period of time. However, we have been directed that it must be Year 6 who have these sessions so that their swimming ability can be assessed and so they can also carry out some life-saving skills. On Thursday 17th June, Mrs Tate's class will be swimming and on Thursday 24th June, Mr Taylor's class will be swimming. This will be during the morning session.

Friday 18th June 2021 – Non-Uniform Day

We are holding a non-uniform day on Friday 18th June in aid of Diabetes UK. We have recently had a child diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes and want to show our support for them by raising some money for this very worthwhile charity. We would encourage all children to come in non-uniform for the day in exchange for £1.

Ski Trip Payments

Please make sure you check your ParentPay and that payments for the Ski Trip are up to date. The second deposit of £100 was due at the end of May and this invoice is now ready to be paid but we are still waiting for some payments to be made. It is essential that these are made this weekend. Thank you.

Barnado's Toddle for Nursery and Reception

Our Nursery and Reception children thoroughly enjoyed their toddle which took place during Fun and Fitness Week. I am thrilled to inform you that we raised a terrific £2,115.50. We have never raised anywhere near that amount so that just shows terrific generosity from you all. Many thanks for all your support and please pass that on to everyone who sponsored your children too!

Sun Cream

Can we remind parents that children need to have sunscreen applied before they arrive at school? For children in Reception and Nursery, we do have our own sunscreen and will reapply it during the day if you have completed the consent form (if you have not been reminded to do this recently it is because we already have your consent). However, it is still the parents' responsibility to ensure their child is protected at the start of the day. Early Years staff can provide early years parents with sunscreen to apply at drop off if you forget – just ask. We also need children in the early years to have a named sun hat with them in school each day, as we spend as much time as we can learning outdoors.

Early Years News

Our first sessions of our free playgroup, Lanchester Little 'Uns, has been a huge success. It has been wonderful to meet the children who will be joining Nursery in September. It is not too late to join us if your child will be starting Nursery in September. We are running a session on Thursdays 1:30pm – 2:30pm and on Fridays 10am – 11am. Sessions are free of charge and are a great opportunity for you and your child to meet new friends. If you know of a child starting Nursery with us, please pass on the message!

Can we remind parents that children should have sunscreen applied before they arrive at school? We have permission to reapply it during the day, if you have completed the form, but it is still the parents' responsibility to ensure their child is protected at the start of the day. Staff can provide you with sunscreen to apply at drop off if you forget – just ask. Can we also remind everyone to ensure their child has a named sunhat / cap with them in school?

As previously mentioned, staff are currently having their school iPads updated, so you will hear less from us via Evidence Me for a week or so. We can still see anything you upload from home, so please keep your posts coming and we will resume our normal service as soon as we can!

We will be holding our new starters to Reception Parents Information Evening on Thursday 24th June at 6pm. The format of this has not yet been confirmed, but we will let you know as soon as we know more.

Our meeting for the parents of new starters in Nursery will be on Wednesday 14th July at 3:45pm. More information to follow.

Year 6 Appeals

We realise that many Year 6 children and parents/carers will be feeling quite anxious next week when the appeals for both St Bede's and Consett Academy take place. Please let us know the result of any appeals so that we can complete the relevant paperwork for the appropriate school. Thank you. We are thinking about you all at this rather stressful time.

COVID-19 Information

Now that this has reared its ugly head in school again, we all just need to make sure we know the systems in place so please read the following carefully:

Reminder: If your child displays any of the key symptoms of COVID-19 whilst they are in school 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.

If your child has COVID-19 symptoms at home or needs to isolate, please make sure you let the school office know either via email or on the absence line. Likewise, if a child tests positive on an evening or during a weekend, please email Mrs Davis on 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 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>

Positive Thinking

Challenges are what make life interesting and overcoming them is what makes life meaningful.

As usual, if there is anything at all that you would like to talk about, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Davis

Mrs Jane Davis
(Head Teacher)