



LANCHESTER E.P. (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



Weekly Bulletin 1 – Friday 6th September 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to welcome you all back again to school after the long summer break. I hope you have all enjoyed some quality family time and that your children are pleased to be back with us. These first few days have gone so quickly! All the children have made a fantastic start to the new school year, especially those who are joining us for the first time, creating such a lovely atmosphere in school. I would like to extend a particularly warm welcome to all our new families in Nursery, Reception and throughout the wider school. I am sure this is the start of a long, happy and successful journey together.

Weekly letters

Weekly letters, with information regarding events the following week as well as important reminders, are written every Friday. However, this is the only hard copy of the letter that you will receive. In response to huge parental agreement, we will only email and send copies of the letter via the eSchools app. Therefore, it is imperative that new parents download the eSchools app and/or ensure we have your email address. These letters contain all the information you need on a weekly basis (and take hours to write!) as well as sharing important information.

School Twitter Account

We have a very active Twitter account which we use both to send out reminders and messages to parents, but mainly to let you know what your child has been doing during the day. We know how keen you are to know what your child has been doing during the school day and when you ask them, they invariably say, 'nothing!' Now, you can have a very small insight into what is taking place in the classroom on a daily basis and will know exactly what your child does as all teachers will be regularly tweeting! Please follow us at: **@LanchesterEP**

Monday 10th September 2019 - Year 5 Visit to the Centre for Life

Year 5 have started their topic, Stargazers this week, and as part of their learning about space, they will be going to the planetarium at the Centre for Life. Children need to come to school in normal school uniform and will need a packed lunch for the day. They will return to school in time for the end of the school day.

Thursday 12th September 2019 – Year 2 Visit to Hartlepool Marina

As part of their 'Land Ahoy' topic, Year 2 are visiting Hartlepool Marina on Thursday 12th September. This is always a fabulous visit and I am sure all the children will thoroughly enjoy their exciting day there. Again, all children should be dressed in normal school uniform and need a packed lunch. Please make sure they are also wearing sensible footwear as they will also be climbing below the deck on the boat. We do need some additional adult helpers for this visit so please let the office or either of the Year 2 teachers know if you are able to assist with this visit. Thank you.

Dinner Money Reminder

School meals are free for all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. However, please remember that when children are in Year 3, school meals are no longer free and need to be paid for unless your child is eligible for free school meals (in which case you need to contact the school office). Dinners are £2.05 per day, £10.25 per week and must be paid at least one week in advance via ParentPay. If you require log in details for ParentPay, please contact the office.

Wrap Around Care

Please remember that wrap around care **MUST** be paid for in advance. This year, if accounts are in debt by more than one week of payments, your child will not be able to attend either breakfast or after school club.

Any new starters should receive their ParentPay log in details via text message or letter by the end of today. These details will enable you to book onto and pay for wrap around care and dinner money if applicable. Any issues, please contact the school office on school.office@lanchesterep.net.

Karate

In addition to the after school clubs the school staff organise, we also have an outside provider who runs a karate class on a Friday after school from 4.15 – 5.15pm. The 'Seiken Ryu Shukokai Karate Class' is led by Mr Simon Rayner and takes place in the Junior Hall. Lessons are £5 per child (Reception to Year 6 and adults too!) and the first lesson is free. Please just bring your child along at 4.15pm if you are interested. Thanks.

Advance Notices

Meet the Teacher – Tuesday 17th September at 4.00 pm and 4.30 pm

This has become a regular event and one which is welcomed by many parents. On Tuesday 17th September, straight after school, you will have the opportunity to get to know your child's new class teacher a little better and attend our 'Meet the Teacher' sessions after school. The meetings will last for about 15-20 minutes and take place in the classrooms. The teachers will be sharing information about the timetable and topics for their class, as well as giving you the chance to see your child's classroom and ask any questions you might have. The meetings take place at 4.00 pm and 4.30 pm – that way, if you have children in different classes, you will still be able to meet both of their teachers. We look forward to welcoming you all in school on Tuesday.

New Curriculum Meetings – Tuesday 17th September at 3.45pm and 4.45pm

On the same evening as our Meet the Teacher sessions, we will have two sessions where we will tell you a little more about the new curriculum in Years 1-6 this year. We have made some small changes to our teaching approach to the foundation subjects which will be explained in more detail at these meetings.

Meetings for Parents in Years 5 & 6 – Residentials – Tuesday 17th September at 6pm

PGL, Dalguise for Year 5 & 6

This year, the children in Years 5 & 6 will all have the opportunity to go on two residentials. In July 2020, from 6th – 10th July, we will be taking children from both Year 5 & 6 to PGL Outdoor Adventure Centre in Dalguise, Perthshire. This is always our most popular residential when the children have the opportunity to enjoy a wide range of outdoor activities including abseiling, kayaking, raft building, mountain biking, zip wire and many more.

Tamworth for Year 5

Year 5 are being given the opportunity to visit the National Space Centre in Leicester, Cadbury World in Birmingham and sleeping over in our partner school in Tamworth. This takes place on Thursday & Friday 16th – 17th October 2019.

Ford Castle for Year 6

Our annual Year 6 two night residential to Ford Castle takes place from Wednesday 26th to Friday 28th February 2020. This is always a wonderful opportunity for our Year 6 children to enjoy some special time together as well as experiencing what it is like to sleep in a real castle!

If you would like to find out more information about any of these residentials, please come along to the meeting at 6pm on Tuesday 17th September when more information will be shared. Thank you.

Sickness & Diarrhoea Policy

I would just like to take this opportunity of reminding parents of our policy when children have vomited or have had diarrhoea. If your child has been sick or has had loose stools, you MUST keep them away from school for 48 hours. This is for the benefit of all, as I am sure you are aware just how quickly bugs can spread in establishments such as schools. It is also possible that if you send your child back to school too quickly, they can come down with the bug a second time. Please respect this policy which is in place for the benefit of all children and families, and follows the NHS guidelines and procedures for schools. I realise that it can be awkward for working parents, but the last thing we want is for a bug to spread across the whole class simply because one child has been sent back to school too early. Thank you for your help in this matter.

Safeguarding in School

Our 'Safeguarding our Children' policy can be found on our website in the Safeguarding tab in Parents information section. Keeping our children safe is of paramount importance in school and if we have any concerns at all about a child, it is our duty to make a referral to First Contact. However, if at any time, you or a member of the public have any concerns that a child is being harmed or neglected, you can contact First Contact on 03000 267979. It is important that we work together to ensure the safety of all our children.

Head Bumps

Please note that we have made some minor changes to our head bump policy. This year, if a child has a minor head bump in school, but is fine and with no side effects, we will text you. In the case of worse bumps and there is a mark, or visible signs of the bump as well as some form of headache, we will ring you. In the past, our phone calls I know have caused a degree of concern amongst parents when the child has been absolutely fine! Any questions about this, please just ask the office or your child's class teacher.

PE Kits in School

Part of our uniform policy states that all children from Year 1 to Year 6 need a t-shirt in their team colour. These t-shirts are available from our uniform suppliers. We also request that PE kits are kept in school during the week. Whilst PE lessons are timetabled for certain days, it is possible that this can change and therefore the children need to be prepared for PE every day of the week. Please support us in making sure your child has a PE kit in school at all times. Thank you.

Mobile Phones for Years 5 & 6 and Walking Home Alone

We realise that some children, once they reach Upper KS2 (Years 5&6) do start to walk home alone and bring mobile phones to school with them. Whilst we actively discourage children bringing mobile phones, we do realise that they are useful if they are walking home on their own after school. Any mobile phones must be left at the school office where the children sign them in at the beginning of the school day.

Equally, if you would like your child to walk home on their own, please complete a form stating you are happy for them to do this. Forms are available from the school office or the website. Thank you.

Holidays during Term Time

Following local and national policy, we do not permit holidays during the school term unless it is for exceptional circumstances. Please support us in giving your children the very best education possible by sending your child to school during term time. There are 13 weeks of the year when the children are on holiday from school and can be taken away. Again, thank you very much for your support with this.

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.

Foundation Stage News (Nursery and Reception)

A huge welcome to all our Reception children and families. We hope you find your first experiences of life at Lanchester EP to be positive and happy.

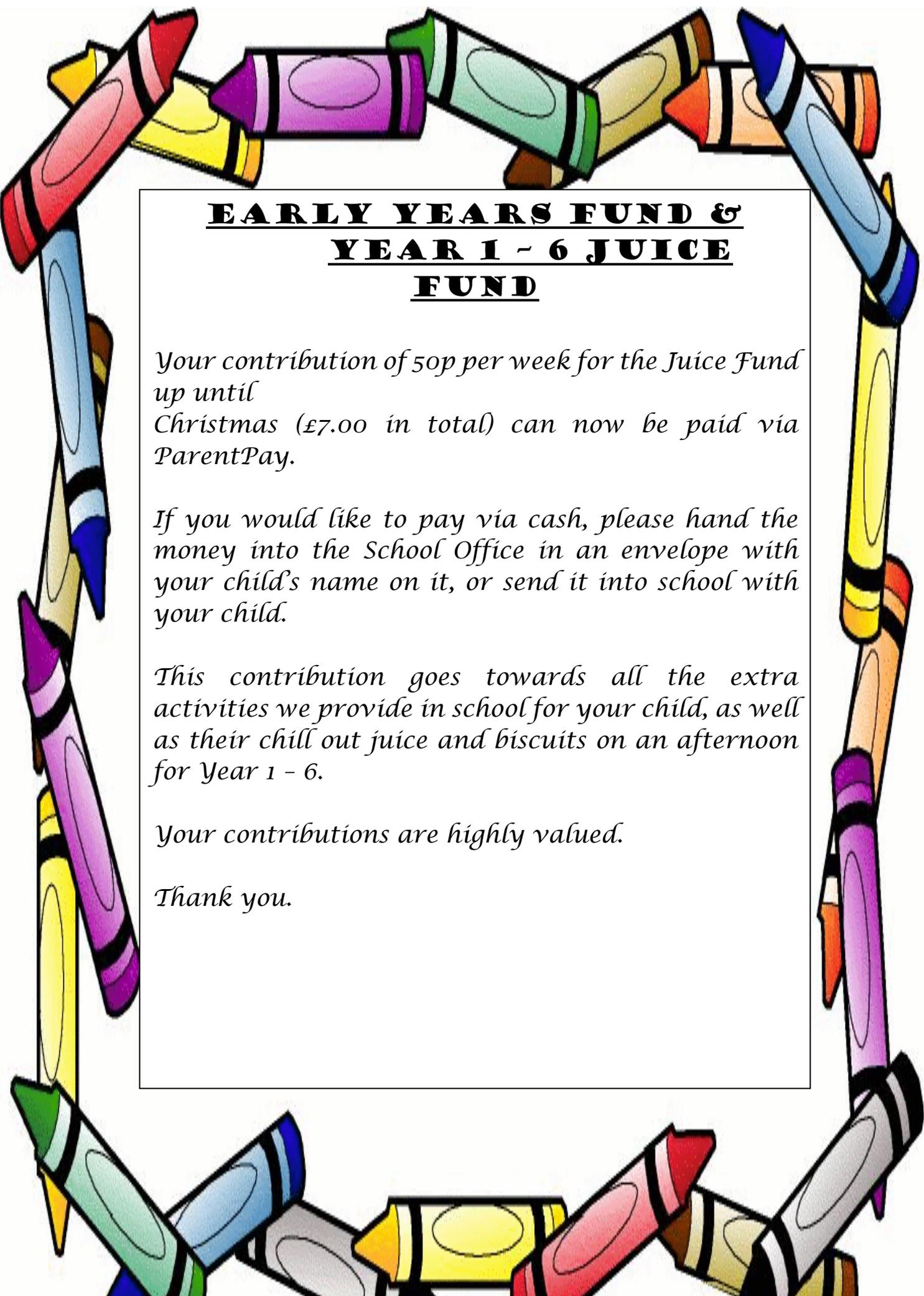
We will be starting to visit our onsite Forest School in small groups on Mondays and Fridays from next week. For your child's safety and comfort, it is essential that they have wellies in school to wear for these sessions. We will provide protective suits for all children to wear over their uniform. If you have any questions about Forest School, please ask a member of the EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) staff.

Can we remind everyone to help their child check their tray at the end of each day and to take home any letters, masterpieces and articles of clothing? We are hoping to support the children in being as tidy and organised as possible right from the start!

The first weeks of Reception concentrate on settling the children in and really getting to know them. We will be sorting the children into their Family Group over the next week or so and will let you know who their teacher is as soon as we have finalised these groups. In the meantime, they will be working with all three teachers and the teaching assistants. Remember to follow us on Twitter @LanchesterEP and on Facebook (Lanchester EP Early Years) to see what goes on while your child is at school.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Jane Davis
Head Teacher



EARLY YEARS FUND &
YEAR 1 - 6 JUICE
FUND

Your contribution of 50p per week for the Juice Fund up until Christmas (£7.00 in total) can now be paid via ParentPay.

If you would like to pay via cash, please hand the money into the School Office in an envelope with your child's name on it, or send it into school with your child.

This contribution goes towards all the extra activities we provide in school for your child, as well as their chill out juice and biscuits on an afternoon for Year 1 - 6.

Your contributions are highly valued.

Thank you.