

Lanchester E.P. (Cont.) Primary School

A Caring Community Where All Can Flourish



Wednesday 23rd June 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Once again, I find myself writing to you again today – not what I wanted at all. Closing the school again was a truly awful decision to make. When I awoke to another positive test result in another year group, I just felt we had no option. After consulting with the Chair of Governors, our Education Development Partner and the Head of Education and Skills for Durham, they all agreed that we did not have enough members of staff on site to ensure the safety of the children remaining in school and that it would also be prudent to close to try to prevent any other bubbles needing to isolate due to sibling links across the school.

The school will remain closed until Monday 28th June 2021 to allow time for more staff to return after isolating and also for a deep clean to take place across the school. Please note however, there are no concerns at all about the standard of hygiene in school. We are in this situation through no fault of ours or yours and that has been stated quite clearly to us. Cases are rising everywhere in our area.

Remote Learning

Live lessons will begin from tomorrow for all year groups. Staff will email that information out to you although please note that some of the timings differ to those stated in the Remote Learning Policy. This is simply because we did not foresee the fact that the number of year groups needing to isolate would be so different from one day to another. Therefore, please look out for an email from your child's teacher about this.

Twitter Challenges

Mr Graham will post a PE challenge for the next two days and I will also post a twitter challenge for the whole school. We thought these might add a little fun and physical activity for your children for this week at least.

Residentials

I have spoken at length with Public Health and our Education Development Partner today about the residential next week for Years 5 & 6. They have advised that, in line with current government guidelines, they can still take place and we will be reviewing our risk assessment to ensure we keep everyone as safe as possible. I will be in touch with parents of these children later this week with further details and information about this. I will also lead a Zoom call for those children attending the residential tomorrow. Year 5 children will be at 2pm on Thursday and Year 6 children at 2.30pm on Thursday.

Next Week

By re-opening the school again next week, we hope that the cycle of infection will have been broken. I would just, once again, seriously urge you to strongly consider your movements over the weekend and whether it is appropriate at the moment to mix with larger groups of children and adults. I know one family have postponed a birthday party planned for the weekend – not because of isolation – but to try to prevent the spread between children and families. Thank you!

Confirmed Contacts of Positive Cases

I realise that there has been a wealth of information for parents and carers this week and occasionally, communication can get forgotten. Therefore, I have included a timeline below of the three year groups who are currently isolating and the dates isolation started and ends. I hope you find this useful. Please note that all these isolation periods have been discussed with Public Health as there are different start dates to the isolation period depending on the differing circumstances. It is never straightforward!

Advice for Child to Self-Isolate for 10 Days

There have been several confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the school. The dates of self-isolation are:

As of 23/06/2021 Year groups with Confirmed Contacts of Positive Cases				
Year Group affected	Day 0 (The last time contact occurred)	Day 10 (The last full day of self-isolation)	Return to normal daily activities	Return to School date
Year 1 Ms Butler's Class	Thursday 17 th June 2021	Sunday 27 th June 2021	Monday 28 th June 2021	Monday 28 th June 2021
Year 1 Mr McLoughlin's Class	Friday 18 th June 2021	Monday 28 th June 2021	Tuesday 29 th June 2021	Tuesday 29 th June 2021
Year 6	Friday 18 th June 2021	Monday 28 th June 2021	Tuesday 29 th June 2021	Tuesday 29 th June 2021
Reception	Monday 21 st June 2021	Thursday 1 st July 2021	Friday 2 nd July 2021	Friday 2 nd July 2021

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19:

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards
- keep a regular flow of fresh air into indoor areas.

Reporting a Positive Covid Test

Please email myself: j.davis@lanchesterep.net with COVID19 Positive Result in the subject bar if your child does have a positive test result. I check my emails literally 24/7 at the moment so I will pick this up as soon as possible.

Thank you and Apologies

Once again, we have all been blown away by the magnificent support of our school community. I would like to personally thank all the staff and especially the senior leadership team and admin staff who have been a pillar of support this week. However, I have also felt very emotional numerous times this week by the volume of emails and messages containing such kind words and support from so many of you this week. Thank you each and every one of you. I would also like to apologise as I realise there will be emails that I have missed or not replied to. Please, if you have sent me an email and have not had a response, either bear with me, or give me a nudge and send another!

Finally, I would like to send our very best wishes to all children and adults who have contracted COVID-19 – please take care and look after yourselves.

To all children who are isolating and their parents and carers: ***'It may be stormy now, but it never rains forever'***.

Regards and very Best Wishes to you all,

Jane Davis

Mrs Jane Davis
Headteacher