



LANCHESTER E.P. (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



Friday 14th January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have enjoyed another lovely week in school and whilst some staff have returned from isolation, we have also had others test positive. I know we have also had a lot more children and families affected this week too. We do hope anybody isolating at home keeps positive and takes care. I think all workplaces continue to struggle with staff absences and we are no different. However, it is also very helpful that the isolation period has been shortened so that staff and children can potentially return more quickly.

Please remember, the guidelines changed once again on Tuesday and at the moment, if anyone tests positive on a lateral flow test, if they have no symptoms, they do not need to go for a PCR test and can come out of isolation on Day 7 if they have had two consecutive negative lateral flow tests 24 hours apart on Days 6 & 7. Day One of isolation is the day following the date of the test.

However, from Monday 17th January, the guidelines are changing again so that if you test negative 24 hours apart on Days 5 & 6, you can leave isolation on Day 6. For example, if someone tests positive on a Wednesday, Day 1 of their isolation is Thursday. They can do a lateral flow test on Day 5 which is Monday. If they test negative on Day 5 and then on Day 6 which will be Tuesday, and have no symptoms (including a temperature), then they can leave isolation on that day – Tuesday (Day 6). Please remember that there has to be 24 hours between the tests taken on Day 5 and Day 6 which is why our staff are taking them first thing in the morning.

I really find it amazing how much of my weekly letters have been about COVID-19 over the last 2 years rather than anything to do with education!

Captain Chemistry

He has been into school this week working with Year 3 & 4 and the children have thoroughly enjoyed their time with him. He really is amazing and really captivates the children's attention and enthusiasm!

Deadline for Applications for School for September 2022 – Saturday 15th January 2022

All Nursery Parents – please do not forget the deadline of 15th January 2022 (tomorrow!) for applying for a school place for all Reception class new school starters. Missing this deadline hinders your chances of gaining your first choice school and we do expect to be over-subscribed this year.

European Celebration Day – Thursday 20th January 2022

We are really looking forward to our European Celebration Day on Thursday 20th January 2022. On this day, we are asking all classes to come to school dressed in the colours of their chosen country for the day. All classes will be taking part in some cultural activities of their country, learning more about their climate, landmarks and food as well as their language. I know Mrs Hamill has lots of great ideas for her lessons that day. She will also be leading a very special European Assembly too. We are also really looking forward to our special European dinner on the same day!

Here are the countries and the colours that each year group will be learning about:

Early Years – United Kingdom	(Red, White & Blue)	Year 1 – Spain	(Red & Yellow)
Year 2 – France	(Blue, White & Red)	Year 3 – Italy	(Green, White & Red)
Year 4 – Greece	(Blue & White)	Year 5 – Germany	(Black, Red & Yellow)
Year 6 – Belgium	(Black, Red & Yellow)		

Please note, full non-uniform is fine for the day and please do not worry if you have nothing in the country's colours! We do not want anyone going out to purchase anything at all for the day!

For those who have signed up for a chargeable school meal as a one off, payment will be added to ParentPay once the meal has been taken, so don't worry if you have yet to be asked for payment – if you can't remember whether you have signed you child up,

School Governing Body

It is wonderful that we have so many parents and carers who have expressed an interest in being a parent governor. It is great that so many of you are willing to give up your time to support and challenge our school. There will be a parental ballot in the next few weeks, so please keep a look out for the information around this.

Free School Meals - Pupil Premium

The Benefits

If your child is entitled to Pupil Premium funding, not only will school receive extra funding, which in this day and age of constant cuts is a godsend, but your child will also receive the benefits of:

- Free Daily Milk at play time
- Free School Meals (for those in Nursery and Year 3 – 6 who are not covered by the universal free meal scheme)
- A food parcel for lunches if your child were ever to be isolating due to COVID-19 (this is automatically offered to those isolating who are entitled to Pupil Premium but you will need to confirm you want it at the time)
- Free Breakfast Club (usually charged at £3 per session)
- Free or heavily subsidised Music Tuition (the school currently offers woodwind, brass, guitar & keyboard lessons for Key Stage 2 pupils)
- Heavily subsidised Year Group Overnight visits – for example, in 2020, Pupil Premium pupils paid £180 less for PGL; in 2021 they paid £40 less for the Year 3 overnight trip & £45 less for the Year 4 visit. Please note, the subsidised amount differs per trip, dependent on cost – however, as you can see it is often a significant difference.

I know money is tight for many people at the moment, so even if you are not sure that you will be eligible it really is worth getting us to do a check for you – all you need to do is fill in this form: [Pupil Premium Eligibility Check](#). A hard copy can also be requested from the School Office.

Illness Absence (excluding COVID-19)

As a school, we follow the guidelines set out by Public Health England regarding when your child has to be off school for illness, and how long for. Please see the list attached to this letter of the exclusionary periods for different infections your child may have.

Residential Visits

India

A group of 16 Year 5&6 children should have been excitedly preparing for their trip to India next month but I had to gather them together this week to explain that, due to COVID-19 and the current travel restrictions, this cannot take place and sadly, due to the forthcoming monsoon season, we cannot even travel there later this academic year. I have to say how impressed I was with their reaction. Our children have had one disappointment after another with so many of their trips being cancelled and yet they all seem to take it in their stride and are just grateful for what they have experienced. All credit must go to them for such a wonderful response.

We have been in touch with the British Council, who informed us that unfortunately, the funding cannot be carried forward into the next academic year. However, we are currently in talks with them to consider other possibilities and I hope to be in touch with parents and carers of those disappointed children soon with more information.

BETT Show

Four of our digital leaders should have been travelling to London this month to present at the Bett Show in the Excel Centre. However, this has been postponed until March so this will still take place, just at a later date.

KS2 Residentials

Letters will be emailed today to all KS2 parents and carers about the residentials for each year group.

Year 3 - Birdoswald, Roman Wall at the end of March

Year 4 - Seahouses, Alnwick Castle and Gardens at the end of March

Year 5 - PGL, Ford Castle in mid-June

Year 6 - Northern Ireland at the end of June

Erasmus+ Visits

We hope that the planned Erasmus+ visits to Brussels, Denmark and Madrid in March and April will all go ahead. We will be taking some of our older pupils on each of these visits and more information will be shared with parents and carers about these visits in the next few weeks so please look out for those emails.

Reception Class Reading Books

From next week, the children in Reception will have an additional book in their book bags. These are readers with words to replace the wordless books they have had so far. The new books will be labelled as 'non-decodable readers' and are for you to share with your child in the same way you shared the wordless books. We do not expect your child to be able to read all of the words in these books as they do not necessarily follow the same progression of sounds that we use in Sounds-Write sessions. They will be able to read some of the words independently but, with your support, they will be able to pick out sounds and words they know and, most importantly, discuss the stories. If you have any questions, please ask your child's teacher.

Advance Notice: Holiday Club – February Half Term (Monday 21st – Thursday 24th 2022)

Mr Graham will once again be running LJG Coaching's holiday club during February half term from Monday until Thursday. If you would like more information or to book your child in to any of the dates, please email LJGSportscoaching@gmail.com or fill in this online form: [LJG Coaching Holiday Club](#). Please note, a £5.00 deposit will be required when booking to ensure your child's place.

Advance Notice: Year 1 Trip to Washington Wetlands – Tuesday 29th March 2022

Parents/Carers of children in Year 1 will have received a letter this week regarding their trip to the Washington Wetlands in March.

Positive Thinking

*A bend in the road is not the end of the road,
Unless you fail to take the turn.*

As usual, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or the school office. We are here to help you all!

Yours sincerely,

Jane Davis

Mrs Jane Davis
Head Teacher