



# LANCHESTER E.P. (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have enjoyed a wonderful week in school with some super children. It has just been really special to welcome so many more children back to school this week. I have been absolutely amazed with how well every single child has come into school so happily! I must also thank all parents for being really respectful of each other, so good at social distancing and particularly good at following the one-way system. Thank you very much!

However, can I please just ask all parents not to arrive early in a morning? Some parents are arriving almost 15 minutes early for their Bubble start time and it really is important that we keep these children separated from each other. We have been quite flexible this week, but after reviewing our systems that are in place, feel that we really must be quite strict in not admitting children early to try and prevent this from happening. The staggered start times are in place for a reason and we must keep to those. Thank you, once again, for your understanding.

As the week has progressed, so have the emails asking for places in the Bubbles. Unfortunately, we are unable to accept any more Reception children at the current time, but do still have a small number of spaces in Year 1 and Year 6. We have now opened the third bubble in Year 6 due to the high increase of numbers in this year group. We are hoping that most of Year 6 may choose to come back as the term draws to a close. This will enable them all to say goodbye to each other and have some closure on their time at our school.

## **Government Announcement**

Many of you will have heard the government announce last week that schools can open to more children in other year groups this term. Unfortunately, we will not be able to do this as we have not even been able to open to Nursery children which was one of the key year groups announced weeks ago. This is simply because of the limited space, staff and number of children already attending. This means that Nursery, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5 will not be back at school before September.

I realise that some of you will be disappointed by this. I actually cannot believe that I am receiving emails from parents wanting their children to come to school and I am having to say they can't. It really is just a bizarre situation we all find ourselves in.

However, recent announcements seem to imply that all children will be back in September. Obviously, we have no further information about this – we find out everything at the same time as you! But it would be lovely to be able to welcome all children back to some kind of 'normality' at the start of the new academic year.

With this in mind, we have decided to have two training days at the start of next year which means that the children will not return to school until Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September - a day later than previously planned. This is simply to allow staff to plan a slightly amended curriculum due to the issues surrounding this term.

## **End of Term and Year 6 and Nursery Leavers**

It is important that our Nursery children (who transfer to a different primary school in September) and our Year 6 cohort have some closure on their time at our school – this is of particular importance for our Year 6 children, most of whom have been with us for over 7 years.

Therefore, with this in mind, we will be closing on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July for all children in Reception and Year 1. Key worker children will continue to attend until lunchtime on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July.

This will allow us to plan Leavers' events for Nursery Leavers and Year 6 on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July and for Year 6 on the morning of Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July. We still do not know quite what this will be as it depends on announcements and guidelines in the coming weeks. We are hoping it might be possible to hold a socially distanced graduation ceremony for Nursery

and leavers' service and assembly for Year 6 on the school field. However, we still do not know if this is allowed. Even if this is not possible though, we will plan something with the children. We will continue to update you weekly about this but please bear with us. Due to the circumstances, we just cannot make too many plans too early – we need to wait to see what is allowed by the middle of July.

### **Staffing for September**

We have had some lengthy discussions about September and have made the decision that it is important to bring this academic year to a natural end and prepare for a new start and academic year in September. When organising staffing for September, we have, where possible, ensured that teaching assistants move up with the children to provide some continuity for them all.

<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Teacher</b>	<b>Teaching Assistants</b>			
Nursery	Miss Butler	Mrs S Davis	Miss Dawson	Mrs Peters	
Reception	Mr Osmond	Miss Martin	Mrs Evans	Mrs Nash	
Year 1	Mr McLoughlin	Mrs Burke	Mrs Moran	Mrs O'Halloran	Miss Watchman
Year 2	Mrs Startup	Mrs Sant	Miss Honan	Mrs Race	Mrs McGilvray
Year 3	Mr Stephenson	Mrs Grayson	Miss Bainbridge		
Year 4	Mr Stoker	Miss Jackson	Mrs Bell	Miss Brierley	
Year 5	Mrs Coyle	Mr Keeton	Mrs Tatham	Mrs Newby	
Year 6	Mr Taylor	Mrs Tate/Mr Knighton	Mr Graham	Mrs Boyd	Mrs Grieve

- Current Reception parents will receive an email today informing you which class your child will be going into in September.
- Mrs Burke's current class will move into Mrs Sant's class. Miss Martin's current class will move into Mrs Startup's class.
- Mrs Startup's current class will move into Mrs Grayson's class. Miss Jackson's current class will move into Mr Stephenson's class.
- Mrs Grayson's current class will move into Mr Stoker's class. Mr Stephenson's current class will move into Miss Jackson's class.
- Mr Stoker's current class will move into Mr Keeton's class. Mrs Sant's current class will move into Mrs Coyle's class.
- Mrs Coyle's current class will move into Mr Taylor's class. Mr Knighton's current class will move into Mrs Tate's (who will teach every morning) and Mr Knighton's class (who will be teaching most afternoons).

### **Transition**

It is going to be important for all children to 'meet' their new teacher this term, even though for most, this will just be a virtual meeting. So, in the penultimate week of term, the children will have a Zoom meeting with both their current teacher and their new teacher. Then, in the final week of term, the children will have a Zoom meeting with their new teacher. There will also be some work we ask the children to complete at home to help their teacher to get to know them.

However, please do not worry about September. We know that most children will not have been in school for almost 6 months. When we return, we are aware that some children may be anxious and it will take time for them all to settle and get into their new routine. We will be prepared for that and all teachers are obviously very experienced in adapting their teaching to meet the needs of our children.

### **Summer Closure**

Some parents have been asking about Mr Graham's Holiday Club. Apologies, but this will not be taking place this summer. This is simply due to the issues surrounding Covid-19 and also the need for maintenance, repairs and building work to take place in school over the holidays.

### **Zoom Calls**

We will be holding more Zoom calls next week for the younger children in school. As usual, an email will be sent reminding you when the call will take place and then the link will be emailed to you half an hour before the call is due to take place. The children have loved seeing each other and the chatter and noise is just wonderful (I never thought I would hear myself say that - although the power to mute them all is immense!)

Year 2	Tuesday	12pm for Mrs Startup's Class	1.30pm for Miss Jackson's Class
Year 1	Wednesday	12pm for Mrs Burke's Class	1.30pm for Miss Martin's Class
Reception	Thursday	11am for all Reception children being home-schooled	
Nursery	Thursday	1pm for all Nursery children	

### **Home-Schooling for Next Week**

Thank you all so much for getting involved in our Outdoor Activities Week this week – it has been great to see your photos on Twitter.

One task for all children next week, will be to complete their form for the end of year school report. All class teachers will be emailing you with an Interests and Achievements Form and we ask that the children complete this and it is emailed back so that it can form part of your child's school report. Class teachers will email this to you at the start of next week.

Next week, our topic focus will be on fun Science experiments that you can do at home. For each activity there are clear instructions including what equipment you need as well as short instructional videos and an explanation as to what is happening!

#### **Experiment 1 - Lava Lamp**

In this experiment, you will be able to create your own lava lamp using items from around the house!

#### **Experiment 2 - Storm in a Glass**

In this experiment, you will be able to create your own model of a rainstorm in a glass and without getting wet!

#### **Experiment 3 - Volcano**

In this experiment, you will be able to witness a chemical reaction between different ingredients that will mix and create carbon dioxide. Warning! This will get messy and is best to do outside!

#### **Experiment 4 - Snow Fluff**

In this experiment using shaving foam and corn starch, you will be able to create your own snow in the house!

#### **Experiment 5 - Milk Art**

In this experiment, you will be able to create your own piece of artwork...using milk! Warning! Do not drink the milk afterwards!

#### **Experiment 6 - Rainbow in a Glass**

In this experiment, you will use skittles to form a magical rainbow within a glass! Warning! Warm water will be needed for this experiment!

#### **Experiment 7 - Gorgeous Gooey Gobstoppers**

In this experiment, you will use gobstoppers to create a wonderful colour palette that even watercolours wouldn't be able to match!

We are sure your children will thoroughly enjoy carrying out these experiments and we are keen to keep them as enthusiastic for as long as possible!

### **Belongings, P.E. Kits and End of Year Reports**

We are aware that a number of children have left some of their belongings in school such as coats, P.E. kits and pencil cases. Staff will be sorting out the classrooms, cloakrooms and trays and during the last week, we will have a timetable when these can be collected from the school yard. School reports will also be able to be collected at this time too. A timetable will be included in next week's letter.

### **PGL Residential Outdoor Adventure Holiday**

We have been fairly persuasive in our emails with PGL and I am delighted to inform you that the company have now changed some of their policies and we have managed to defer this outdoor adventure week until next summer. The actual week of travel is the week beginning 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021. They have agreed to refund Year 6 parents and to allow us to travel with them next year at the same cost per child of this year's trip. This is great news as we are actually travelling slightly earlier which would normally have been a lot more costly.

So, in due course, Year 6 parents will receive a refund – I have no idea how long it will take for them to refund this, so please bear with us.

Year 5 parents – this trip will now take place next year and in September, we will be opening this trip up to current Year 4 children and any other Year 5 children who may now have changed their minds and want to travel.

Obviously this is great news and I believe the company has listened to schools and parents and done the right thing – in the end!

### **Dinner Money for September**

Please note, the cost of a school meal is increasing in September to £2.10 per day – this means that school dinners will cost £10.50 for each week from September.

### **Debts**

It is essential that all debts are cleared before the end of this term. Please contact the school office if you need any further clarification.

Meanwhile, look after yourselves, please keep in touch with us and take care!

***Your hardest times often lead to the greatest moments of your life.  
Keep going. Tough situations build strong people in the end.***

With warmest wishes to you and your families,

*Jane Davis*

Mrs Jane Davis  
Head Teacher