



LANCHESTER E.P. (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



Sunday 19th April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am sure many of you were listening to Gavin Williamson, the Education Secretary, this afternoon at the Government's daily update when he said there were currently no plans for UK schools to open and that he could not yet give a date when schools would re-open. Whilst I appreciate this was probably quite frustrating for you to hear, equally, I am sure you will agree that this is the right decision at the current point in time in ensuring we keep everyone as safe as possible.

However, it is still very odd preparing for the final term of the year with only a handful of children accessing school on a daily basis. I often ask the children whose school it is and they always reply that it is theirs. Never has it been more noticeable because they are the ones who make our school the very special place it is. When there are no children there – it is quiet, empty, eerie, boring and just lacking in life and energy.

But – we need to approach this 'new normality' as positively as possible. So, with that in mind, I just wanted to remind you of the daily activities that are timetabled, planned and set for your children.

I do think it is very important to try and make sure your children have some kind of weekday routine. I realise this is not always easy as so many of you are also working from home, but if each weekday has a structure, it will help your child to concentrate, do their schoolwork and then enjoy their down time too.

We were a little ahead of the game with online learning and were fortunate enough to be forward thinking with setting everything up in good time. We do not, at the moment, have plans to use the generic websites and lessons that the government have had drawn up. That is because we are still planning and delivering our own curriculum through Evidence Me for Early Years and eSchools for Years 1-6.

Early Years

So, just to remind you all, for Early Years, activities, phonics and stories will still be uploaded daily for our youngest children. There will be messages from the Key Workers and a variety of activities uploaded every day for our children to access. This seems to be working very well and has been well-received by both children and parents/carers.

Years 1 - 6

For children in Years 1 – 6, work will be uploaded by a Sunday evening for the first two days of the week and more will be uploaded again on a Tuesday evening for the final three days of the week. In addition to this, please do not forget that links to websites that we use are also on the eSchools homepages – Purple Mash, Timetable Rock Stars and Oxford Owl. Just please remember that children must access this through their own accounts.

The Class Discussion Pages are also proving very popular just to allow the children and teachers to keep in touch with each other. Please encourage your children to use these but also please remind your children of online safety and the fact that whatever they write can be read by every child and teacher!

Learning by Questions 'Live' Lessons

There will be 'live lessons' delivered on Tuesday and Thursday mornings between 10:00am - 11:00am for all classes from Year 1 - Year 6. The lessons will be delivered using 'Learning by Questions' and this can be downloaded as a free app on Apple and Android devices and can be accessed using any web browser.

Links as to how to download the apps/access the website and further information will be included on your child's 'Class Page' on eSchools and links will also be posted on Twitter.

We hope that you support your child (where possible) in accessing these lessons as we progress to an exciting new way of delivering home learning.

Twitter Challenges

We would also encourage you to continue to follow us on Twitter and share your work, photos and comments too! It is really important that we retain our strong school community spirit and we are able to do this through the power of Twitter! I will continue to start every day with a daily Twitter challenge – these are meant to be more fun-based activities which I hope your children will enjoy. I will also continue to end the day with a Daily Davis Update and will continue to do this for as long as we need it!

Year 6 Children

If you have a child in Year 6, please reassure your child that we will make sure they have a special send off from our school – even though it might not be quite the same as in previous years. We will still be organising as much as is feasibly possible when we return to school and will start sorting out the leavers' hoodies soon too! I am sure they will be starting to think about this soon and do not want them to think they have been forgotten. They are too special and important to us all not to do as much as possible for them all!

Key Worker Children

We continue to provide emergency childcare for those parents who are both key workers and staff are timetabled on a rota to provide this care. There is always a member of the Senior Leadership Team in the school office during the day as well. However, please bear in mind that if your child's class teacher is in school providing this care, then it does mean that there will be a delay in them getting back to you regarding any issues.

Senior Leadership Team

Please note that a member of the Senior Leadership Team (Mrs Davis, Mr Knighton, Miss Butler and Mr McLoughlin) will be in school every day. They will be in the office so if you have any questions, need advice, support for any reason, please feel free to ring. Alternatively, drop us an email:

j.davis@lanchesterep.net

a.knighton@lanchesterep.net

s.butler@lanchesterep.net

s.mcloughlin@lanchesterep.net

In addition, please do not forget that the school office email address is also checked daily:

school.office@lanchesterep.net

Finally, if you have any technical problems, please drop Mr Bailey an email who will help you:

m.bailey@lanchesterep.net

Thank You and Keep Calm!

Once again, I would just like to ask you not to expect too much of yourselves or your children. Please do not stress about schoolwork. Please do not stress about your child falling behind. Please do not stress about how we will teach them when they return to school if they have not done all the work.

Our job, as teachers, is to teach each and every child at the level where they are currently working and we will continue to do this, as usual, when the children do return to school – whenever that is! That is our job and we do it all the time!

However, what we do need is for you to share your calm, share your strength and share your laughter with your children right now. This will mean that they are emotionally stable and strong and ready for 'normal' learning when they do return to school.

Keep in touch. Keep safe. Keep thinking positively.

With very best wishes to you all,

Jane Davis

Mrs Jane Davis
Head Teacher