



LANCHESTER E.P. (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



Friday 15th October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I find it hard to believe that next week is the final week of the half term. It has been such a tough few weeks for so many of us and our school has struggled (along with most others in the country!) because so many staff and children are continuing to test positive every week. Thankfully though, because of the new guidelines, it has not been anywhere near as disruptive as last academic year.

This week, we have had to revert to our Covid Outbreak Management Plan due to a number of cases across school, but especially in one of our Year 4 classes. It is a timely reminder to us all that Covid is still with us, and we all still need to be careful and continue to maintain our excellent hygiene procedures. Hopefully, the half-term break will be with us at an appropriate point in time and will help to act as a bit of a circuit breaker for us all.

Erasmus+ Staff Training Visit

We have four more members of staff heading off on an Erasmus+ visit for the second of our projects. Mr Knighton, Mr Gill, Mrs Coyle and Mrs Knighton are heading off to Batalha in Portugal for some staff training on 'European Tunes Choir for Peer Bullying'. During their time in Portugal, they will visit two schools as well as learn more about how schools in Portugal use music and singing to help combat bullying. This is the first meeting of this project so we are really looking forward to forming some long and lasting relationships with staff from all of the countries – Turkey, Greece, Portugal and Latvia.

Mrs Tate will be teaching Year 3 every afternoon in Mrs Coyle's absence and we are delighted that Mr Wilson is back again to work with Year 6 every morning. I think it is probably fair to say that Mr Gill is looking forward to this visit more than any of the other staff put together!

Year 5 Residential to Birchwood

I have to say that the Year 5 cohort we took to Birmingham were just superb this week. Their behaviour and attitude were first class and they were a real pleasure to be with – even the hall floor didn't feel quite as hard in their presence! They all certainly seemed to enjoy the whole experience and it was lovely to continue to build those links with our partner school, Birchwood. We are now looking forward to reciprocating the favour and welcoming their Year 5 cohort to our school at the beginning of May in 2022.

Parent Workshops on Sounds Write

Thank you to all parents who turned up for our Sounds Write workshops this week. We do hope you found them useful. The presentations have been uploaded onto our website and the Key Stage 1 presentation will also be posted on your child's eSchools pages too. If you missed the workshops, please take the time to read the information as well as looking at the Sounds Write website (sounds-write.co.uk). The children have made a great start with this new programme so far and we are confident that it will have the desired impact!

Parents' Evenings

All class teachers are looking forward to meeting with you virtually on Tuesday and Thursday evenings next week. They will all send you a Zoom link the day before you are due to meet them. Please log onto this call a few minutes before your appointment time. You will be held in the Waiting Room and admitted at your appointment time.

Friday 22nd October – Non Uniform Day

We are holding a non-uniform day on Friday 22nd October which has been organised by our Rotakids. They are asking us all to bring into school some toiletries e.g. toothpaste, soap, shaving cream etc. which are essential everyday items and they will be given to a charity in Newcastle supporting refugees entering our country who have nothing at all with them. We hope that you will support us in this worthwhile cause.

India Trip

Thank you to all those parents and carers in Year 5 & 6 who completed the form regarding the visit to India in February. We are thrilled with the response but as a result, do have more children than we can take on the visit. We are therefore making some enquiries to the Turing Scheme about what is and is not possible. This does mean though that we are unable to confirm which children will be taking part on this visit until after the half-term break. We will get back in touch with you as soon as we know the way forward.

Early Years News

We are really excited to be welcoming Tiny Tweeties to sing and dance with our Reception children next Tuesday. We have the date on our class calendar and we are very excitedly counting how many sleeps until Tuesday! Nursery children are not missing out – the Tiny Tweeties are coming to see them on 30th November.

Thank you so much for all your efforts in collecting sponsor money for the Autumn Treasure Hunt. We will let you know our final total after half term but we are confident that we will be able to go ahead with exciting improvements to the outdoor area including a wooden castle structure and a new play house. Your support in this has been second to none!

Reception children will be starting to bring home a phonic reading book over the next few days. Please leave a comment on Evidence Me when you share this with your child. We are not using a reading diary this year as we find it has worked better sharing comments on Evidence Me. Please ensure that your child brings their book back to school daily in their book bag so that it is available in school to share with their teachers. Books will be changed once or twice a week and children will also continue to bring home a wordless book to share. Please feel free to supplement this by sharing books for pleasure with your child. This year's Reception children just love sharing books!

Holiday Club

Mr Graham will once again be running his fantastic holiday camp at school during the school holidays at the end of this month. He will be holding the holiday camp in school from Monday 25th October to Thursday 28th October. If you would like to book, please email: lewisgraham91@hotmail.co.uk or fill in this [online booking form](#). This is open for all children aged between 4 – 11 years old. You can book your child in for the full day (8am – 5pm) or half days (8am – 1pm or 1pm – 5pm).

Open Morning for Reception 2022 Starters – Saturday 13th November

We know that many Nursery parents are starting to think about which primary school to apply to for their child for September 2022. To help them make this crucial decision, we will be holding an Open Morning on Saturday 13th November between 10am and 12 noon. Please come along, meet some of the key staff, have a look at the environment in Reception and Key Stage One and ask as many questions as you would like!

However, if you would like to come and have a look round during the school day, we are also more than happy to show you round. Just email the school office and we will get back to you with some suggested dates. Choosing the right school for your child is probably one of the biggest decisions you will make for your child, therefore it has to be the right one!

Squid Game

A number of children across KS2 have mentioned that they have watched the series 'Squid Game' on Netflix. If you are not aware of this new programme, it contains graphic scenes and violence that children might find upsetting. We are also aware that versions of Squid Game are available on Roblox, Minecraft and Fortnite, so although children may not have watched the programme, they can still be exposed to the same graphic themes via these platforms. We have also noticed a small number of children starting to discuss and/or play their own versions of this game in the playground, which in turn can cause conflict within friendship groups and is just not appropriate.

It is important to note that the age restrictions for Squid Games is 15+. Age restrictions are in place to safeguard children from any inappropriate content or dangers on line.

I do think it is important that parents are aware of our concern regarding this game so that you can monitor this at home and also just to raise awareness of the content that is circulating on many social media platforms – just in case you are not aware. You may also be interested in the link below which gives you more information about this: <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/wakeupwednesday/squid-game-trending-across-platforms-what-parents-need-to-know>

Return to School Date

Please note that the children return to school on **Tuesday 2nd November 2021** due to a teacher training day taking place on the Monday.

Positive Thinking

Every situation in life is temporary.

So, when life is good, make sure you enjoy and receive it fully.

And when life is not so good, remember that it will not last forever and better days are on the way.

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! Hope you all enjoy a lovely break with your children.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Davis

Mrs Jane Davis
Head Teacher