



LANCHESTER E.P. (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



Monday 30th August 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the start of a new and very exciting academic year – hopefully, one which is going to be more normal than the last two academic years! A very warm welcome also to all our new children and families who are joining us for the very first time – hopefully, this is the start of a long, happy and very successful partnership.

I do hope you have all had a lovely summer break and that your children are refreshed, excited and really looking forward to starting back to school. I know the staff are all raring to go! I think we have all appreciated and enjoyed the break more than ever this year and are just looking forward to hopefully having an uninterrupted teaching year.

Arrangements for September

I thought it would be useful to re-send the information which was emailed during the last week of term and wanted to wait as long as possible before writing to ensure that we were completely up to date with the new government guidance.

It is great that we are able to return to a much more normal way of working this year. During the last 18 months, we have had to make so many changes to school life but as there are now fewer restrictions, we are able to move away from some of the procedures we had in place, but will keep and amend some of the other systems which proved to work well and were both successful and beneficial.

The bubble system is not in place any longer which means that children can mix more freely at playtime and lunchtime. However, we are reducing the number of children outside at any one time and therefore playtimes and lunchtimes will be in key stages. Nursery and Reception children will have their own times and areas and will be kept separate. KS1 (Years 1 & 2) will be at the same time, followed by Lower KS2 (Years 3 & 4) and then Upper KS2 (Years 5 & 6).

We will also not be sending bubbles or classes home if there is a positive case within the class. Further information about this included towards the end of the letter. However, what is imperative, is that we continue to have additional precautions in place and we will continue to have the additional hand washing times, sanitiser around school for use and increased ventilation in the school building. We will remain very vigilant and have an Outbreak Control Risk Assessment in place which has been approved by the Local Authority for if and when cases do occur. There will no doubt continue to be positive cases across the school community but a positive case will not have the huge impact on the whole class as it has in the past. However, it is essential that we all continue to play our part in helping to prevent an outbreak and therefore, if your child is unwell, please be sensible and do not send them to school if they have any symptoms of Covid – please see the end of the letter for further details about this.

Timings

All children from Reception to Year 6 will have a flexible drop off between 8.30am and 8.45am. Children in Reception and Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2) will finish at 3pm, children in KS2 (Years 3 – 6) will finish at 3.05pm. Nursery times are 8.45 – 11.45am for morning sessions, 12.15 – 3.15pm for afternoon sessions and full day children will be 9.00am – 3.00pm.

Punctuality

It is essential that your children arrive to school no later than 8.45am as the gates will be locked promptly as staff are needed in the classrooms with the children. We have a new attendance officer in place this year and any parents whose children are regularly late, will be contacted by the attendance officer. Essential learning takes place at the start of every day and nothing is harder for a child than to have to walk into a busy classroom late.

Drop Off and Pick Up Points

There will only be 2 different drop off and pick up points.

All Nursery, Reception and Year 5 children will be dropped off on the top yard, where the Main Office is located.

All Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4 and Year 6 children will be dropped off at the field gate on the side road.

Please reassure your children that there will be lots of adults on the gates until they get used to where they are going. Unfortunately, parents and carers will NOT be allowed on school grounds at drop off – children must be dropped off at the gates and adults from school will accompany the children into the building.

At home time, the gates will be opened and parents and carers will be asked to gather on the yard to collect your children.

P.E Kits

We would continue to like Year 5 & 6 children to continue to come to school in their P.E. kits when it is their day for P.E. There will be no P.E. lessons this week – the days for P.E. will be communicated to you at the end of this week. However, please remember that P.E. kit is trainers, shorts/leggings/joggers and P.E. t-shirt in their team colours. A school jumper MUST continue to be worn and not other hoodies or jumpers. Nursery and Reception children do not have P.E. kits. Children in Years 1 – 4 are to bring their P.E. kits to school and leave them in school during the week please as occasionally P.E. lessons can change.

Wrap Around Care

After reviewing the need and cost to the school for this, it has been decided that our wrap around care will take place from 7.30am until 5.15pm Monday to Thursday and 7.30am – 5.00pm on a Friday.

We need to change the timings due to the slightly earlier finish times so:

3.00 - 4.15pm will be £4.00 and 4.15 - 5.15pm (5pm on a Friday) will be £6.00

Please book and pay for this on ParentPay as usual. If your child is new to the school and this is needed this week, please email the school office to arrange this as you will not be able to access ParentPay until your child actually starts and is on our system.

School Dinners

Please note that school dinners have increased slightly in price and are now £2.15 per day - £10.75 per week. These need to be paid for one week in advance. Dinners are free for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

Parents of Year 3 children – if your child is moving to Packed Lunches this year, it is essential that you email the school office as otherwise you will be charged for school meals – please put Packed Lunches in the subject title. Please note that you may not be able to actually make payment for this week until Thursday when the system moves all the classes up to the new school year.

Please remember that we are a nut-free school due to having a number of children with peanut allergies. The packed lunch policy can be found on our website.

Bags and Equipment

Please remember that cloakroom space is at a premium in school with limited room for coats, never mind bags. Therefore, children should only bring book bags only to school and not any large, bulky rucksacks.

No pencil cases, stationery or equipment is allowed to be brought from home – all resources are provided by school.

Masks

We no longer require adults to wear masks when bringing their child to school or when picking their children up from the school grounds. We only request masks to be worn if adults are coming into school and meeting in close proximity with other adults.

New Covid Guidance and Regulations

Your child MUST attend school unless they are ill.

From 16th August 2021, children under 18 (or double-vaccinated adults) do not need to self-isolate or miss school if a member of their household or a contact, has Covid. Instead, they will need to book a PCR test but can continue coming to school until they get the test result, as long as they have no symptoms.

When should your child not attend school?

If your child develops Covid symptoms at home, they should stay at home and book a PCR test (not a Lateral Flow Test). If your child develops Covid symptoms at school, they will be sent home and you should book them a PCR test. If your child tests positive for Covid they will need to self-isolate. The rest of the household does not need to self-isolate if they are under 18 or fully vaccinated, but they should book a PCR test.

As above, anyone who has no symptoms but has taken a PCR test CAN still attend school whilst waiting for the result. It is not a requirement for children to take a Lateral Flow Test.

Communication with School

It continues to be important that if your child has to go for a PCR test, please inform the school office of this: school.office@lanchesterep.net and it is also essential that you let us know the result when you have this too. Although schools are no longer required to 'Track and Trace' we are still expected to have this information and may be contacted by Public Health to assist them. Thank you.

Return to School Dates

Nursery Children

Those children who are returning to us in Nursery this year – start on Monday 6th September. New starters to Nursery have all had emails regarding their visits and sessions. Please email the school office if you need this information re-sent.

Reception Children

Thursday 2nd September

9am – 11am	Miss Butler's Class Visit	Children coming from other Nursery Settings only
1pm – 3pm	Miss Martin's Class Visit	Children coming from other Nursery Settings only

Friday 3rd September

8.45am – 11.45am	Miss Martin's Class	Whole Class Visit
12.15pm – 3.15pm	Miss Butler's Class	While Class Visit

Children in Reception will not be able to access wrap around care on Thursday and Friday this week.

Children in Years 1 - 6

All children in Years 1 – 6 return to school on Thursday 2nd September 2021.

Hopefully, that is all the information you will need for this week. I am sure it will be a smooth return to school for all children although they will probably feel a lot happier once the first few days are out of 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!

Looking forward to seeing you and your children this week.

Best Wishes,

Jane Davis

Mrs Jane Davis
Head Teacher