



LANCHESTER E.P. (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



Friday 10th September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had a wonderful week in school. It has been so good to have our Reception children in school full-time and they have all been amazing. Happy, eager, polite, enthusiastic and so settled – I hope we have lots of proud parents and carers!

Our new starters to Nursery have also been incredible. When you think that around half of their little lives have been lived through the pandemic and so much of that time has been spent not being able to see extended family or friends, it makes it even more remarkable how quickly and easily they are settling. All credit to parents and carers for preparing them so very well for this important stage in their little lives!

Our Year 4 & 5 thoroughly enjoyed their Water Day on Wednesday this week. It was so hard for both year groups during the last 2 weeks of term when they were isolating and they missed out on so much that we felt they deserved to be able to enjoy some of the fun things they missed. Thankfully, the weather didn't let us down either! It is just tough that we still have some children who were not with us due to isolating – life is not fair at times.

Drop off and pick up times seem to be slightly calmer now – thanks for all your suggestions and also your patience until we got this right! Parking is still an issue, but one parent did mention that they had parked in the Kings Head Car Park (which was practically empty) and walked to school (taking 6 minutes) and stated how much easier and stress-free this was rather than driving round, trying to find a parking space. Please consider doing this if at all possible.

However, I have received a number of emails from concerned parents who have commented that drivers have been mounting the kerb, pulling out in front of other vehicles and parking on the double yellow lines on the bend near the bypass. We all need to pull together in order to keep all our children safe – please drive safely, responsibly and carefully.

Attendance Officer

You will receive an email from Mrs Lesley Sabourn today who is our new Attendance Officer. She will be working in school every other Tuesday and will be responsible for analysing our attendance and punctuality data and liaising with any families who are struggling getting their children to school on time. Please read her letter carefully!

Late Book

We will be re-introducing a 'Late Book' for children who are late arriving into school. This was paused during Covid but it is important that this is in place again. Therefore, if your child arrives to school late, please accompany them into the Main Office where you will be asked to sign a form to give the reason why they are late.

The children start their learning at 8.45am and if a child is 5 minutes late every day, that is 20 minutes of lost learning every week and almost 2.5 hours lost learning every half term which can impact negatively on their progress. This is in addition to it being embarrassing for the child walking into a classroom when the lesson has already started.

Please remember that children can arrive in school any time from 8.30 ready for the 8.45 am start! Thank you for your help with this.

Labelling Clothes

Please make sure that any item of clothing that your child may remove whilst in school is clearly labelled with their name. This includes shoes, jumpers, cardigans, trousers, dresses, t-shirts and coats. Every year we have a wide range of clothing which goes missing and these items could so easily be returned to their owner so quickly if only they were labelled.

Cool Milk

All pupils who are under the age of five are automatically registered with our milk supplier, Cool Milk, who provide milk to children under 5 free of charge.

Once your child turns five, if you want them to continue to have milk at school, you will need to register with Cool Milk and pay. To register, go to: www.coolmilk.com You must register and pay for this by Tuesday in order for your child to receive milk the following week.

Children who are over the age of five and are entitled to income related free school meals can also get free milk, which is paid for by the school. If you qualify for this and would like your child to receive milk, please contact the School Office and we will register your child for this scheme.

Phonics

During the first week of term, myself and all our teachers and teaching assistants in Early Years and KS1 have been out of school for training in phonics. This year, we are introducing a new phonics scheme so our approach to teaching phonics will be different. Our phonics teaching has always been good and the majority of children have made very good progress. However, we feel our children could make even better and quicker progress so have decided to invest heavily into the Sounds Write Phonics programme.

We will be holding a Parent Workshop in October when we will be explaining how we are teaching phonics to your child and also talking about how you can help your child with their phonics at home. The date for this will be shared in the main half-term newsletter next week.

Accelerated Reader

Children in Years 2–6 may have told you about some quizzes they have been doing in reading. We are introducing a new reading scheme which some of you may have heard about called Accelerated Reader. There are many schools who use this because it is very thorough, details clearly the reading level of the children and motivates and inspires a love of reading. Again, we will be hosting a Parent Workshop about this scheme next month. Please watch out for the date in next week's half-term newsletter.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

I am delighted that these are going to be starting next week. We are so fortunate to have so many dedicated staff in school who are so willing to run such a varied and interesting set of clubs. Please note, these will change every half-term. I have included the list below so that you are aware of what is taking place on a daily basis. Please also remember that the clubs now finish at 4.15pm and ALL children should be collected from the top yard, outside the Main Office. If you have requested a place for your child, you will be contacted today to let you know if your child has been successful.

Year Group	Extra-Curricular Activity	Activity Leader	Day	Finishing Time
Year 1	Multi Sports	Mr Graham	Monday	4.15pm
Year 3	Art	Miss Honan	Monday	4.15pm
Year 5 & 6	Eco Rangers	Mrs Startup	Monday	4.15pm
Year 2	Multi Sports	Mr Graham	Tuesday	4.15pm
Year 3 - 6	Choir	Mrs Knighton	Tuesday	4.15pm
Year 2	Plus-Plus Construction	Miss Butler	Wednesday	4.15pm
Year 3	Multi Sports	Mr Graham	Wednesday	4.15pm
Years 5 & 6 Girls	Girls Football	Mr Taylor	Wednesday	4.15pm
Year 5	Fair Trade	Mrs Moran	Thursday	4.15pm
Year 6	Newspaper Club	Mr Knighton	Thursday	4.15pm
Years 3 - 6	Digital Leaders Existing Digital Leaders only initially	Mr Bailey	Thursday	4.15pm
Year 3	Lego	Mrs Coyle	Friday	4.15pm
Year 4	Multi Sports	Mr Graham	Friday	4.15pm
Years 5 & 6	Boys Football	Mr Stoker	Friday	4.15pm

Early Years News

Please remember that all children in Nursery and Reception need a pair of (named) wellies to keep in school for Forest School and outdoor play. We do have a selection of preloved wellies on the fence outside if you would like to take some for your child.

At the end of the day, can adults collecting EYFS children please join one of the three lines for either Nursery, Miss Butler's Reception Class or Miss Martin's Reception Class? We do try to send the children out as promptly as possible, so it helps us if we can see who is next in line for collection. Please note that we are still getting used to new adult faces, so if you could let us know who you are collecting when you get to the front of the line we would be very grateful. Thank you.

Reception Baseline

Some of our Reception parents and carers may have heard that there is a new Reception Baseline Assessment this academic year. A leaflet has been emailed to you all for your information. Please do not worry about this – the children will have no idea that they are doing any 'assessments' as they are just carried out during the course of the normal school day during teaching time.

Applying for Pupil Premium and Free School Meals

For many families, the last few years have been incredibly difficult financially due to the impact of the pandemic. If your circumstances have changed since your child started school, you may now be entitled to Pupil Premium or Free School Meals. If you fit any of the criteria below, please get in touch with the school office and we will get you to fill in the form which then enables us to check with the Local Authority. This will be dealt with in great confidence. Please also note that for every child in school who registers their eligibility, the school receives additional funding and you will also receive trips and residential at a lower cost.

Pupil Premium and Free School Meal Criteria:

- Universal Credit **with an earnings threshold that does not exceed £7,400**
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit, provided you **are not** entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income, as assessed by HMRC that does not exceed £16,190
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

Vision Screening for Reception & Year 1

Parents of children in Reception and Year 1 should have received a letter this week from the Growing Healthy Family Health Service regarding routine vision screening. If you do not want your child to take part in any aspect of the screening, please contact the Child Health Department by email or post before 27th September, or your child will be included in the screening programme.

Applying for a Secondary Place for September 2022

All parents of pupils in Year 6 should have received a letter regarding Secondary School place applications. The deadline for applications is 31st October 2021.

Applying for a Primary School Place for September 2022

The deadline for applications for applying for Reception in September 2022 is 15th January 2022. The information has not yet been released by the LA about this, but we will be holding an Open Morning in November. Dates will be on the half-term newsletter next week.

Monday 13th September – Girls Football at Consett Football Club

It is wonderful to see the football matches starting again and the girls have their first set of matches at Consett AFC on Monday 13th September. Details will be emailed today to the parents and carers of the girls involved.

Tuesday 14th September - Meet the Teacher at 4.15pm

On Tuesday 14th September we will be holding our Meet the Teacher sessions. These will be over Zoom but we do hope to be able to welcome parents into school later in the half term for parents' evenings. Your child's teacher will hold a Zoom meeting at 4.15pm on Tuesday 14th September to introduce themselves and explain your child's classes and routines. Following this meeting, a video welcome will be uploaded to eSchools which will be available for parents and carers to watch at your leisure. The Zoom link will be emailed to you all by your child's class teacher on Monday.

Wednesday 15th September – Boys Football

Matches for our boys football team begin next week as well and on Wednesday 15th September they will be starting their league games at Consett AFC. Again, letters will be emailed to all parents and carers of those boys involved on Wednesday after school.

Pyjama Collection

A parent of one of our Year 6 leavers has recently launched a pyjama appeal for donations of new pyjamas for children aged between 0 and 18. Here is why:

'In December 2018, my son Charlie who was 13 at the time was diagnosed with a rare form of adult leukaemia which required a lot of treatment. We spent most of 9 months on the children's cancer ward at the RVI. Charlie is in remission now and starting an apprenticeship but because of the love and support we received we want to give something back. We've raised thousands for the wards, taken part in toy and clothes appeals and now we would love to support the PJ appeal. We experienced first-hand the shortage of PJs and how much in need they are that I decided to join the PJ appeal. I would like to help as much as I can therefore I am reaching out to you.

Last year 452 pairs were split between the RVI and treetops in UHND and would love to smash that this year. They are given to children in need, who are taken to hospital with no preparation, to keep them warm and safe. I am collecting and would love your help if at all possible to help me.

Collections will be available until middle October ready for handover. All ages, girls and boys, from 0 – 18 years.'

Our school would like to support Hayley Wilkinson in this appeal. I know some of you have already indicated your support on the Parents Facebook page, but we would like to give all parents the opportunity to contribute to this appeal if they wish. So, if you would like to donate a pair of new pyjamas to the children's cancer ward at the RVI, please send the pyjamas into school. We will collect them and then hand them over to Hayley on Wednesday 20th October so they must be sent into school before that date. Thank you for your support of such a worthwhile cause.

In order to highlight this cause, we will also be holding a pyjama day in school on Thursday 7th October. We will be asking children (and staff!) to come into school in pyjamas and we will be having a special breakfast themed lunch, open to all children including those on packed lunches. A menu for this special lunch and information on how to sign up for it will be sent out soon.

School Walk for Years 2-6 on Wednesday 29th September

Unfortunately, like many other events, we made the decision to postpone our school walk to Bamburgh and Seahouses during the last week of term due to the number of positive cases and numbers of bubbles across school having to close.

I am delighted that we have managed to re-arrange this and on Wednesday 29th September, will be taking all children in Years 2-6 for our annual walk to Bamburgh and Seahouses beach. A letter will be emailed with more detail but we wanted to give you as much notice as possible.

Parents and carers are welcome to join us as usual, but unfortunately we will have to ask you to drive yourselves there as we are not asking parents to join us on the buses this year – for obvious reasons!

Meeting for Year 5 & 6 Parents re India Trip on Thursday 30th September

As many of you will already be aware, we found out during the summer holidays that our application to the Turing Scheme had been successful and we have been awarded £36k towards a visit to our partner school in Rajkot, India. This is an amazing opportunity for pupils and staff alike.

Our plan is to take 16 children from Years 5 & 6 and 5 staff in February 2022. We are working very closely with Veena Soni who is an independent consultant who has led many school trips to India and knows the school and area of Rajkot very well. She will be leading the meeting to explain to parents and carers what the trip will look like and we will also have an outline of our itinerary at this meeting.

A more detailed letter will be sent to Year 5 & 6 parents and carers prior to the meeting taking place.

Overnight Visit to Birchwood School for Year 5 – Monday 11th & Tuesday 12th October

We are delighted that we can take our Year 5 children to our partner school in Tamworth, Birmingham for an overnight visit. This trip is to support their topic work on Space as they will also visit Cadbury World in Birmingham and the National Space Centre in Leicester. A letter will be sent out to parents and carers on Monday with further information.

Woodwind and Brass Lessons

Durham Music Service is pleased to offer flute and clarinet as well as brass lessons in our school. Ms Wade came into school this week and gave a demonstration of the flute and clarinet to all pupils in Years 3 & 4. If you would like more information and to sign your child up for lessons, please visit: www.durhammusic.org.uk

To sign up, click on the 'learning' tab and select 'instrumental and vocal lessons' from the menu. If you need any further information or assistance, please contact the Durham Music Service office on: 03000262368 or email: durhammusicservice@durham.gov.uk

Children in Year 4 will also be given a demonstration by our brass teacher next week, Mrs Weaver. Again, if your child is interested in having brass lessons, please follow the instructions above to sign your child up.

Positive Thinking

Think about the child starting Y6. Their last year of uninterrupted education was in Y3.

The child starting Y4. Their last uninterrupted year was Y1.

In a child's short life, this is huge!

No matter how bad things get, something good is out there, over the horizon.

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!

Best Wishes,

Jane Davis

Mrs Jane Davis
Head Teacher

Covid Guidance and Regulations

Advice to All Parents and Carers

We have a number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the school. NHS test and trace have been in contact with individuals who have been identified as a close contact to let them know if they are legally required to self-isolate, and to provide further advice.

How to stop coronavirus (COVID-19) spreading:

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with coronavirus (COVID-19):

- get vaccinated – everyone aged 16 and over can [book COVID-19 vaccination appointments](#) now
- wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitiser regularly throughout the day
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards
- meet people outside and avoid crowded areas
- open doors and windows to let in fresh air if meeting people inside
- wear a face covering when it's hard to stay away from other people – particularly indoors or in crowded places
- participate in twice weekly LFD testing following national guidelines (recommended for 11 years and over). We encourage you to log your results here: <https://www.gov.uk/log-test-site-covid19-results>

Further information

Further information is available at: nhs.uk/coronavirus

Isolation

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.

Covid Symptoms

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.

Lateral Flow Tests

Please remember that it is not recommended that children under the age of 12 take lateral flow tests. PHE have advised there are currently limited public health benefits attached to testing primary pupils with lateral flow devices. Primary School age pupils presenting with symptoms of Covid-19 should take a PCR test.

Please also note that we cannot authorise a child who is isolating with a positive lateral flow test. It is essential (and in our updated risk assessment) that all children should take a PCR test if they have symptoms or if a close contact has a positive PCR 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.