



LANCHESTER E.P. (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



Friday 19th June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Well it really has been a week of totally contrasting emotions. On the one hand, it has just been wonderful to welcome so many more children back into school. We have had some of our Year 6 and Year 1 children in school this week and it really has been terrific to see them again.

Whilst some of Year 6 were fairly quiet to start with, they soon remembered how to be 11-year old children in their last year in primary school and it didn't take long before they reverted back to talking incessantly!

Year 1 were welcomed with bubbles which I hope just helped to soothe their nerves (if they had any!) on their first day back with us. I have to say – they just seemed to be more excited than anything else and have been wonderfully happy, and enjoying all the super activities the staff had planned for them.

On the other hand, however, we are very aware that three-quarters of our children are still being home-schooled with parents juggling all kinds of challenges. Please be reassured that even though most staff are in school working in different bubbles of children, we have a timetable in place so that staff can access eSchools and Evidence Me regularly throughout the day so that no child misses out.

We do have some spaces in both Year 1 and Year 6 bubbles. We have had more children join us throughout the week and we would be more than happy to welcome back some more children from these year groups. However, these will have to be offered on a first-come-first-served basis as we do have to limit the number of children in these bubbles. If you would like to request a place, please contact the school office. The Reception bubbles are full though and we have no more spaces in those bubbles at the moment.

I would also like to thank all parents and carers for their wonderful attention to the markings and one-way system that we have in place – this is really appreciated and makes everything so much safer for everyone!

We do hope your children have enjoyed speaking to their class teachers. All children will be receiving a phone call over the next couple of weeks as we realise how crucially important it is to maintain as much contact as possible.

Staffing

Our school has grown so much that we now have 2 classes in every year group, which means we need an additional class teacher for September. I am delighted to tell you that Mr Kenny Keeton has been appointed for the next academic year. Mr Keeton was a student teacher at our school in the Autumn term; he has now qualified as a teacher and we were delighted to be able to offer him the position after interviews took place a few weeks ago. He was based in Year 5 when here previously so I am sure many of the older children will remember him.

We are still hoping to appoint an Assistant Head Teacher too but this has been postponed until the Autumn term. This is a crucial leadership appointment and it is essential that the appointment process is as thorough as possible. With this in mind, the governing body made the decision to postpone the interviews until they can be done in person (hopefully) at some point during the Autumn term!

Next Academic Year

We hope to be able to inform you next week of the school organisation for next year. This has been slightly delayed due to the need to appoint an additional teacher and also because of the additional workload in organising the new arrangements for this half-term. This is also going to take some careful planning and preparation due to the unique circumstances we currently find ourselves in.

Summer Opening

I know there is lots of speculation, (as usual!) regarding schools opening during the summer holidays. Our school has been open every day (apart from the Bank Holidays) since we returned after February half term – this will be 21 weeks by the end of this term, with no break at all for key staff. I am sure you will appreciate that all staff have been working tirelessly during this period of time – and done so completely willingly! However, the time has come when we do need to close the school to allow staff to have a break and also to allow essential work to be carried out. Therefore, the school will be closed for the summer holidays.

Zoom Calls

Again, the highlight of our week has undoubtedly been our Zoom calls when we got the opportunity to meet so many of our amazing children! Year 1, Early Years and Year 6 have all had calls this week and every one of them was so special and unique! Thank you so much for taking the time to let your children access these calls as I know it is not always easy!

We thought it would be useful to have a little more notice about future calls so these are the days and times of the calls next week. Please note that the link will be emailed 30 minutes prior to the call taking place. If you do not receive an email with the link half an hour before the call is due to take place, please contact school by phone and we will try to get it sorted for you!

Year 5	Tuesday	12pm for Mr Knighton's Class	1.30pm for Mrs Coyle's Class
Year 4	Wednesday	12pm for Mr Stoker's Class	1.30pm for Mrs Sant's Class
Year 3	Thursday	12pm for Mrs Grayson's Class	1.30pm for Mr Stephenson's Class

Home-Schooling for Next Week

We will continue to set Maths and English tasks as usual next week but have planned Outdoor Activities for each of the afternoons. Next week would have been our annual walk from Seahouses to Bamburgh as well as the start of our Sports Days. We thought it was very fitting to recognise such an important week in our school calendar so hope your children can take part in the following activities. Please also look at our Twitter Challenge for today – it is a great trail round Lanchester – written by Mr Moran. It would be great if you started the outdoor education week early and took part in this trail over the weekend! We have set a different task for each afternoon, although they can be carried out whenever is easiest for you and the weather is at its best!

Movement Monday – We would like the children to plan and carry out a sequenced movement activity. It could be dancing, tumbling or gymnastics. It would be great if, after practice, the final movement could be videoed and uploaded to Twitter.

Trekking Tuesday – This was our Seahouses whole school walk day. Why not head out into the countryside and go for a long walk. You could use a tracking app, a GPS watch, a website (like Map My Run) or a map to plan your walk and work out how far you have been. Who will walk the farthest? Let us know on Twitter.

Wheels Wednesday – Today is a day for wheels! Grab your scooter, cycle, unicycle, BMX, mountain bike and head out. What will you see on your journey? Take some photographs of where you have been and send us them. Can you take photos of unusual places that you pass on your journey?

Throwing Thursday – What can you find to throw? A wellington boot, an old shoe, a ball? How far can you throw it? (Safely of course!) Can you beat this distance? Keep trying to improve. What is the strangest thing you can find to throw? We would love to see your photos or videos.

Fitness Friday – The final challenge of the week is to set up a course or sequence of activities to improve your fitness. Perhaps start with press ups, then star jumps, burpees. What else can you think of? Can you hold the plank for more than one minute? If you upload your sequence, the other children in the class or school can also have a go!

Rainbow Challenge Twitter Challenge

Thank you all so much for such a terrific response to this! We have loved seeing hundreds of your photos! The deadline for receiving the photographs is 3.30pm today as Mr Bailey will be putting it all together over the weekend. We hope that this piece of art work will be a piece of history of the life of the school. We also hope to have a banner made for the fence outside the front of school so please keep a look out for this in around two weeks' time! We really do have a remarkable school community who are all so willing to be so involved – thank you each and every one of you!

Wider Re-Opening of School for Reception Children

On Monday and Tuesday we welcome back some of our Reception children – we cannot wait to see them all! Please do not forget to read the wide range of documentation and communication, which was either sent out last week and put on the school website, or will be sent to you today prior to your child returning to school:

- Covid-19 Risk Assessment
- Covid-19 Return to School Parent and Carer Guidance
- Covid-19 Home-School Agreement (and email a signed copy to the school office)
- Covid-19 Wider Re-Opening Key Information
- Reception Leaflet to Welcome Back to School

One very important document which MUST be returned to the school office (school.office@lanchesterep.net) prior to your child returning to school is the Home School Agreement. Please read this carefully and add your electronic signature to this, date it and return it to the school office. Please note – it is essential that this is completed prior to your child returning to school. They will not be able to join us unless this is completed. Thank you.

This documentation can all be found on the school website in the Parent Information section. Leaflets will also be sent out to parents and carers of Reception children who are returning to school next week. Please share these with your children to prepare them for life in school which will be slightly different to what they are used to. A video will also be available for you to watch with your children. Please watch this with your children as it will also help to prepare them for next week. The link for these will be emailed to you and will also be put on Evidence Me.

Lockdown Lunches

If your child is in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 and you have asked to have a school dinner for the rest of term, you will be sent a link with menu options to fill in. Please do this as soon as possible so we can get numbers to the kitchen. For those parents of keyworkers, your child will be given a choice daily as usual.

Early Years Home-Schooling

For the EYFS children who are working from home, please bear with us as we adjust to being back in school. We may start to release the tasks on Evidence Me in blocks rather than throughout the day so that we do not miss anything out. We are hoping to mirror the tasks planned in school as much as possible for home learning. Look out for some different activities which will hopefully reinvigorate your child's interest in joining in.

If you are unsure about anything, please feel that you can email us to ask, but be patient as we may not be able to reply as promptly as we have done in the past few weeks.

We hope that your child is continuing to make progress in their reading and strongly encourage anyone who hasn't yet requested a Rising Stars account to do so. Please let us know if you feel that your child needs access to more book titles online or if you are experiencing any problems.

Further Guidance

Obviously, like yourselves, we are just waiting for further announcements from the government about what will happen in the future regarding schools and the education of our children. We will just continue to keep you fully informed about any changes that might occur. If you have any queries or questions please remember to either email on: school.office@lanchesterep.net or phone 01207 520436 to the school office.

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

A child is like a butterfly in the wind.

Some can fly higher than others, but each one flies the best it can.

Why compare one against the other?

Each one is different. Each one is special. Each one is beautiful.

With warmest wishes to you and your families,

Jane Davis

Mrs Jane Davis

Head Teacher