



Weekly Bulletin 4: Friday 14th May 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have all enjoyed a really special week in school this week – so many lovely, positive things have happened. We have had our first educational visits taking place in Year 3 to Jarrow Hall, Reception have enjoyed a fabulous Space Day, our chicks have hatched in Nursery and Year 1, Year 6 have had a highly enjoyable treat week of 'No Sats!' with some very tasty breakfasts and last but certainly not least, we have a new addition to our staff family! What a truly wonderful week it has been! Let's hope we have lots more weeks like this to come!

This is a rather lengthy letter again as there is just so much information to share at the moment. Please take your time to read it as everything is important! Thank you.

Mr Stoker is a Father!

I am absolutely thrilled to inform you that Mr & Mrs Stoker are now the very proud parents of a beautiful baby girl. Emily Rose was born on Tuesday 11th May at 10.36am weighing 6lbs 14oz. I think it is probably fair to say that Mr Stoker – who is always a man of few words – is ecstatic! I am sure you will join with us all in sending our congratulations to them both. Mr Stoker is now on paternity leave until after half term when he will probably return to school feeling rather tired!

Science Creativity Week

We are all looking forward to our Science Week in school next week when all classes will be learning more about electricity, sound and light and carrying out some fun and enjoyable investigations. We are also welcoming Captain Chemistry into school who will be working with Years 2 – 5 throughout the week. I am sure it will be another highly enjoyable and educational week!

Monday 17th May 2021 – Year 2 with Captain Chemistry

Captain Chemistry will be working with Year 2 on Monday throughout the day and I am sure the children will enjoy the super experiments he will have planned for them!

Tuesday 18th May 2021 – Radio Show Broadcast

Two of our Year 6 boys, Henry and Daniel will be featuring on The Check It Out Radio Show with Net Support on Tuesday morning. During their interview, they will be talking about the impact of social media on our school community during the pandemic and the lockdowns. I am sure they will thoroughly enjoy this great opportunity representing our school!

Tuesday 18th May 2021 – Year 5 with Captain Chemistry

It is the turn of Year 5 to enjoy Captain Chemistry on Tuesday and his variety of experiments and investigations.

Tuesday 18th May 2021 – Year 1 Workshops

Year 1 will be enjoying some workshops led by the Discovery Museum on Tuesday morning. These will be based around the Great Fire of Gateshead and Newcastle. On this occasion, they will be delivered virtually but I know the children will thoroughly enjoy them!

Tuesday 18th May 2021 – Meeting at 6pm for Year 3 Parents re Birdoswald

A meeting will be held at 6pm for all parents of children going to Birdoswald immediately after half term. The itinerary of the two days will be shared as well as the organisation for our time there. We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday. Please click on this [zoom link](#) for the meeting.

Wednesday 19th May – Year 3 with Captain Chemistry

Year 3 will thoroughly enjoy their session with Captain Chemistry on Wednesday! All investigations are based around light, sound and electricity.

Thursday 20th May – Year 5 at High Force and Bowness Visitor Centre

Let's hope the weather is kind to us on Thursday when Year 5 are at High Force and Bowness Visitor Centre. They will be there for the whole day and will be walking and river dipping. I am sure they will tell you all about it on their return!

Friday 21st May – Year 1 at The Baltic, Discovery Museum and Newcastle Quayside

Friday sees the turn of Year 1 being out of school. They will be spending the day in Newcastle as part of their 'Bright Lights, Big City' topic. During the day they will visit the Baltic, the Discovery Museum as well as taking part in a workshop. They should be tired on their return to school! You will have received a letter about this visit this morning and it is now live on ParentPay too.

Saturday 22nd May – 1pm – The Northern Saints' Trail Pilgrimage at All Saints' Church

We are asking our Year 5 & 6 children to sing at this celebration event which will be at around 1pm on Saturday 22nd May in the grounds of All Saints' Church. The plan is that we will meet the Bishops outside school at around 12.45pm and then parade our banner with them as they walk through the village to the church. The children will then sing in a short service which is due to begin at 1pm and should only last around 15 minutes. This will take place in the churchyard.

This is going to be a wonderful occasion with Bishops Paul, Sarah, Christine and Mark. We hope that we will have a good turn out by our children. Please complete the online form saying whether your child can take part in this event by clicking [here](#).

Parental Consultation of RSE (Relationships and Sex Education)

There is another letter from myself which will be emailed today about our RSE parental consultation. Please read this very carefully and consider the questions asked. We will look forward to reading your opinions.

Fidget Toys

We appear to have an increasing number of children bringing in some form of fidget toys to school on a daily basis. The toys called 'poppers' have particularly become quite an issue in classrooms. I am afraid no such toys should be brought into school. If a child needs some kind of sensory toy, then please talk to your child's class teacher. We do have a supply of appropriate ones in school for children for whom it would be appropriate to have one. However, there does have to be a need identified by the staff in school for them to be able to use one.

Face Masks and Social Distancing

New Guidelines have been published this week and obviously from Monday 17th May, there is further relaxing of the rules nationally. From next week, we will no longer insist that parents and carers wear masks when on school premises – this will be totally your choice. I would like to thank you for your wonderful support with this over the last few difficult months. However, I would still like to remind you all that it is imperative to retain social distancing whilst dropping off and collecting your child. Thank you.

Mobile Phones

I have spoken to all the children in Years 5 & 6 to explain that mobile phones MUST be switched off before the children enter school and not switched back on until the children have left the school premises. If any child is found to be in possession of a phone or using it on school premises, the phone will be confiscated, parents contacted and the child runs the risk of not being allowed it back in school.

Please remember that the Year 5 & 6 children must only bring their phone to school if it is absolutely essential for their safety i.e. if they are walking home unaccompanied. Thank you for your support with this – I am sure you will understand that we are trying to avoid too many unnecessary phones being brought into school and the issues this brings.

Class Photographs

If you would like a copy of the class photograph that was sent home with your child last week, please make sure these are in school by Tuesday 18th May, as they will be collected first thing on Wednesday morning and late orders may incur a fee.

Year 6 Leavers Photograph

We are hoping to arrange a different photograph company to come in after half term once the Year 6 children have received their leaver's hoodies to take a group photo of our Year 6 leavers. This will be a completely different type of photograph in a much more informal style. There is no obligation at all to purchase this additional photograph – we just want to trial a new company and be able to assess their products. Please look out for more details when we get them.

Year 5 & 6 Walk Home Unaccompanied Form

We have adjusted the walk home from school unaccompanied form slightly to help us make sure we know exactly when your child is allowed to leave school by themselves. Please make sure you fill in this new form via this [link](#) - please make

sure you fill this in, whether you have filled in the previous form or not. We want to keep your children as safe as possible and to make sure no mistakes are made. Thank you for your help.

Nut Free School

We would like to remind you that we are a nut-free school. NO packed lunches should contain anything at all containing nuts. We have children in school with severe nut allergies and if they were to come into contact with a nut product, it could be exceptionally dangerous for them. We would just like you to be very aware about what you put into packed lunches as we need to be very careful to ensure there are no products in school at all containing nuts. Thank you.

Sickness and Diarrhoea

I would just like to remind you that as a school, we follow the guidelines from the NHS which is that any child who has had a bout of sickness or diarrhoea, MUST remain off school for 48 hours. Many parents contact us to say their child has been sick because of something they ate or it was phlegm. Unfortunately, nobody ever knows the exact reason their child has been sick, therefore it is essential for the child to remain off school to try to prevent the spread of any germs. We have a bug going around our Early Years at the moment and we are not being awkward – we are simply trying to keep all your children safe. Thank you for your understanding.

Chicks in School

There has been an enormous amount of excitement in Nursery, Reception and Year 1 this week as the children have been able to watch chicks hatch in their classroom incubators. We have welcomed 10 chicks in EYFS and 10 chicks in Year 1. This project has provided the children with many opportunities for wonderful conversations, fantastic pieces of writing and an opportunity to show just how loving and caring they are.

Next week, the children will have the opportunity to have short group sessions with the chicks to learn more about them and how to care for them. They will also have the chance to touch the chicks during these sessions, but we need permission from parents and carers for children to take part in this. Please complete the short permission questionnaire that has been emailed today if you are happy for your child to take part in these sessions. Thank you.

Outdoor Playgroup

We are excited to announce that we are launching our outdoor playgroup, **Muddy Wellies**, on 10th June. This will initially be for children and their parents/carers who are registered to start Nursery in September 2021. Sessions will run weekly in 'The Wild', which is the area just in front of the Nursery outdoor area. This will be a great opportunity for the children to get to know each other and meet our staff, plus a chance for parents to meet and join in with songs, stories, crafts and outdoor explorations with their child. Sessions will run each Thursday between 1:30 and 2:30pm and will be facilitated by our Early Years Lead, Miss Sara Butler.

There is no charge for these sessions, but you must register your interest in advance so that we can ensure we are fully prepared for you all. Please note, there are no toilet facilities available for these sessions and parents/carers **must** attend with their child.

If you are interested, please book a place by emailing s.butler@lanchesterep.net with your child's name and date of birth and the name and contact number of the accompanying adult by **Monday 7th June**. Thank you.

Year 5 and Year 6 Bike Ride

On Wednesday 26th May, Year 5 will enjoy their bike ride and this will be followed by the Year 6 children on Thursday 27th May. The bike ride is one of the most popular events in our school calendar so we are delighted to be able to organise this again for Fun and Fitness Week. The children cycle along the line towards Langley Park and have a packed lunch near Bear Park. The ride is around 10 miles in total.

As this is outdoors, we are able to ask for parent helpers. However, if you would like to come and along and help on this ride, we must ask that you do a lateral flow test either the evening before or the morning of the bike ride and email the school office with the result. Also, please note, the same parent will not be able to accompany both the Year 5 and the Year 6 bike rides. This is simply so that we continue to keep the bubbles separate. If you would like to come on either of these trips, please fill in the [online form here](#) so that we know how many helpers are coming. Thank you.

Please spend some time during the next couple of weeks taking a little time out to check your child's bikes!

Wednesday 26th May - Reception Walk to Malton

On Wednesday 26th May, Reception will be doing a sponsored walk to Malton, in aid of Barnardo's as part of their big toddle – they will be bringing their sponsor forms home with them today. More information will come home with the children at the end of next week, but again we are asking if parents/family members would like to accompany their child. This is not compulsory, but we know some parents do enjoy accompanying their children on trips. Once again, if you would like to come along you will have to agree to take a lateral flow test and to email the school office with your negative result. Please fill in this [online form](#) if you would like to accompany your child on that day.

Wednesday 26th May - Nursery Sponsored Toddle in aid of Barnardo's

Our Nursery children will also be taking part in the sponsored toddle on Wednesday 26th May but this will take place in the school grounds and woodland. The children will be given their sponsor forms today and at the start of next week for this very worthy charity.

COVID-19 Information

Please remember that if your child displays any of the key symptoms of COVID-19 whilst they are in school (a high temperature/raised from what it usually is, a new and persistent cough, a loss or change in the sense of taste or smell) you will be contacted to come and collect them and they will not be able to come back into school until they have a negative PCR test result or have completed their period of isolation (if they get a positive result). If your child has siblings, they will also need to be collected at the same time.

Whilst we understand this may be frustrating, please remember that we are only doing our job and trying to keep the community safe. We are not medical professionals; we can only stick to the guidelines we have been given.

If your child has COVID-19 symptoms or needs to isolate, please make sure you let the school office know either via email or on the absence line – this information is important as whilst most of the time it is a false alarm, it enables us to be prepared if there ever was a case in school and we had to send other children or staff home. Likewise, if a child tests positive on an evening or during a weekend, please email Mrs Davis on j.davis@lanchesterep.net with the email subject 'COVID-19 Positive Result' and include your child's name and class group in the email text.

Please also remember that LFT tests can be ordered for all adults to take at home. Just click on [this link](#) for more information about this.

Positive Thinking

***Your mind is a powerful thing.
When you fill it with positive thoughts,
your life will start to change.***

As usual, if there is anything at all that you would like to talk about, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Davis

Mrs Jane Davis
(Head Teacher)