



LANCHESTER E.P. (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



Friday 12th June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you all remain safe and well and are looking after yourselves. I would like to begin by thanking you all for your kindness, care, co-operation, positivity and support since the school closed to the majority of children 12 weeks ago. I know that it continues to be a very difficult time for you all juggling family responsibilities, home-learning and home-working and yet you continue to do it all with remarkable perseverance and commitment!

Nearly every week during this lockdown, I have written the weekly letter and then an announcement has been made and I have to change what I have written to you. This week is no different!

I would like to be able to give some reassurance to parents of children in Years 2 – 5 who must feel that they are just not important – as well as our Nursery parents as we were just not able to accommodate Nursery children back in school under the present guidelines.

As time is progressing (I don't think I ever anticipated things going on for this length of time), I think we are all becoming concerned about just how long it is since some children have been into school. We had a plan in place (prior to the government direction about particular year groups) about how we could have welcomed back all children, albeit on a part-time basis. But this was not to be. We also knew there was no way, under the current guidelines, that all primary children would be able to have a month back at school.

However, we are hopeful that we might be able to have some contact with more children at some point before the summer break. Obviously we will have to wait to see what guidance is issued, but if there is a remote possibility of having some contact with the children – we will make it happen. We are too aware of the huge need for children just to see each other, be with other children and talk... this is just as important for them, if not more now, as providing academic work.

Zoom Calls

These have just been wonderful this week. We have met up virtually with Year 2, 3 & 4 and it was so lovely to see them all. It certainly makes you realise how much you miss that human contact with each other. Next week we will be having Zoom calls with Year 1, Early Years and Year 6. Year 1 will be on Tuesday, Early Years on Wednesday and Year 6 on Thursday. Watch out for your emails a couple of days before they take place with all the information and the policy attached.

Home-Schooling

We realise that this is becoming more of a challenge as an increasing number of parents are returning to work and enthusiasm wanes a little. With this in mind, we are looking to change the work on offer for the last four weeks of the year. Next week will remain exactly the same but following that, we will be altering the work set for the children in the hope that it will re-ignite their enthusiasm! Learning By Questions will still take place, but we just recognise that some children are ready for something a little different which we think they will enjoy even more. Watch this space!!!

Twitter Challenge

We are asking all children to get involved in a very special twitter challenge. Please look on Twitter or your child's class page or Evidence Me for more information. We would like to create a very special piece of Rainbow Artwork in school with photographs of your children in the colours of the rainbow. This will be a piece of history that will last forever!

Key Worker and Vulnerable Children Bubble

Key Worker and vulnerable children are still attending school for childcare. However, this is childcare and most children continue to attend on a part-time basis. For this reason, these children will continue to attend school in clean, casual clothes and will not be expected to wear school uniform. In addition, due to increasing numbers in this group, we will be forming three different groups from the one large bubble for these children – this will be based on their age so that we have a young, middle and older group.

However, these groups may change throughout the week due to different children attending on different days. Mostly, these groups will remain the same – but please prepare your children for the fact that things will be a little different from next week.

The most important thing to remember is that ALL keyworker and vulnerable children should now follow **the new one-way system** and come through the pedestrian gate and go to the JUNIOR HALL DOOR as the keyworker children will now be based in what were the Year 5 classrooms. Then, you need to follow the one-way system and exit through the car park gates. Staff will be on hand to guide you next week though – we have a week to get used to it before the wider opening to Reception children begins.

Wider Re-Opening of School

On Monday and Tuesday we welcome back our Year 6 children and on Wednesday and Thursday we welcome back our Year 1 children. Reception children return from Monday 22nd June. There is a wide range of documentation and communication which you **MUST** read if your child is returning to school next week.

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 done prior to your child returning to school. They will not be able to join us unless this is completed.

It is important to note that if you are choosing to send your child back to school in Year 6, Year 1 and Reception, you realise that this is now a complete, full-time return to school. This is full-time and therefore all children are expected to attend full-time unless they are poorly.

Please make sure that you read the following documentation very carefully before your child returns 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

This documentation has been emailed to all parents and carers and can also be found on the school website in the Parent Information section. Leaflets will also be sent out to parents and carers of Year 1 and Year 6 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 by the end of today. Please watch this with your children as it will also help to prepare them for next week.

Finally – the school closes at lunchtime on a Friday. What I did not put on last week's correspondence was the staggered finishing times for a Friday – apologies about this. All children will be given dinner before leaving school on a Friday so if they have a packed lunch, then this still needs to be brought to school on a Friday.

The times for finishing on a Friday are as follows:

Key Worker and vulnerable Children	12.30pm
Year 6 Bubble A	12.15pm
Year 6 Bubble B	12.30pm

Year 1 & Reception Bubble A	12pm
Year 1 & Reception Bubble B	12.10pm
Year 1 & Reception Bubble C	12.20pm
Year 1 & Reception Bubble D	12.30pm

Please note, there is no school crossing patrol at this time.

Communication

Please get in touch with us if there is anything at all we can do to help you or your children. We realise that many of you continue to go through some really tough times. Life remains far from easy and whilst things are changing, that in itself can often bring about more worry and anxieties. We are here to help and support you all in whatever way we can.

Strength grows in the moments when you think you can't go on, but you keep going anyway.

With warmest wishes to you and your families,

Jane Davis

Mrs Jane Davis
Head Teacher