



LANCHESTER E.P. (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



Weekly Bulletin 1 – Friday 28th February 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I do hope your children all enjoyed their half term holiday and you all managed to have some family time. Monday's snow was rather unexpected and I do apologise for any inconvenience caused due to the school closing. It is always a very difficult decision to make to close a school, especially in such tricky circumstances. However, the most important factor in the decision to close is the safety of the children. We always just ask ourselves whether the children will be safe in school if we were to open. On Monday, the answer to this was no, because staff were stuck in the snow all over the county, just unable to make it into Lanchester. We will always try to make the decision as early as possible but please remember we would not tweet or text that we are open. No news is good news! We will, however, send a text and also tweet when forced to close the school.

Our Bake Off for KS1 children and families was a huge success on the final day of last half-term. Thank you to everyone who participated. The entries were just amazing, but more importantly was the fact that the children really seemed to enjoy baking them – thanks for your help as usual! Thanks also to the Friends of the School for organising it all.

Twitter and Social Media

This is just to remind you that any posts or photographs from our school twitter account can be re-tweeted and shared very easily. Our school twitter page is held in high regard by many professionals, organisations and schools across the whole country. Every photograph and tweet can be re-tweeted by other twitter users and shared via other platforms and could be seen across the other side of the world within seconds. Obviously we need your consent to post your child's photograph on twitter and many of you choose to share your own photographs willingly on our twitter account when completing any holiday homework as well. This is one of the reasons why we always ask you NEVER to include your child's name in any of the photographs posted. If you have any questions about this, please do not hesitate to ask.

Smartwatch

Unfortunately, we have had to make the decision that no child will be allowed to wear a smartwatch in school. I realise this may be disappointing to those who use it as a fitness tool. However, it is impossible to 'police' these watches in school and therefore, in order to keep all children safe in school, we feel there is no alternative than to ban any type of smartwatch. An ordinary wristwatch is perfectly acceptable although many children choose just to use the numerous clocks that are around school to tell the time. As usual, I am happy to answer any questions you may have about this.

Sunday 1st March 2020 – Erasmus+ Visit to Hungary

Joseph, Tom, Charlie and Owen from Year 5 are heading off to our partner school in Ajka, Hungary on Sunday with Mr Bailey and Mr Gill. I know they are all really looking forward to visiting our partner school as well as having the opportunity to explore the capital city of Budapest. I am sure they will tell us all about it on their return! Mr Knighton and myself also fly out towards the end of the week to join them all, as we are needed at the transnational meeting on Thursday where we will complete the final paperwork for this project and also finalise our application for a new project.

School Crossing Patrol on the Bypass

We have been informed by the local authority that there continues to be no crossing patrol on the bypass. They are unable to inform us when this will be sorted, therefore please either accompany your children or encourage them to take extra care whilst crossing this very busy road. Thank you.

Monday 2nd March – Mrs Sant's Class at Forest School

We are delighted that our Forest School sessions are starting again this week. It is the turn of Mrs Sant's class on Monday afternoon so outdoor footwear and clothing will be essential.

Tuesday 3rd March – Friday 6th March- Book Fair in School

Next week, we are celebrating reading with a number of different reading activities across school all week. We have another book fair coming to school and this will be open for purchases on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 3.15pm until 4pm and on Friday from 2.30pm until 4pm. Please enjoy perusing the shelves with your child and remember that school receives 65% commission on all books purchased. Thank you.

Tuesday 3rd March – Year 2 – Year 5 at the Gala Theatre

All children in Years 2 – 5 will be enjoying a wonderful trip to the Gala Theatre on Tuesday afternoon. They will be enjoying a live theatrical performance of acting, song and dance from the Performing Arts students from New College. Last year, they all thoroughly enjoyed a superb performance and I am sure this year will be no different. The children will have an early lunch and be back in time for the end of the school day.

Tuesday 3rd March – Year 6 at the Safety Carousel

Year 6 are going to the Work Place at Newton Aycliffe for the annual Safety Carousel. At this event, they will learn about how to keep themselves safe from a number of potential hazards. This is a superb event and one which all Year 6 children from the Local Authority have the opportunity of attending. All children should be in normal school uniform and will need a packed lunch for the day.

Tuesday 3rd March – Book Fair Open

The Book Fair will be open for book sales from 3.15pm until 4pm on Tuesday. This will take place in the Junior Hall. We look forward to seeing you there.

Wednesday 4th March – Mr Stoker's Class at Forest School

Wednesday afternoon is the turn of Mr Stoker's class for a forest school session. Again, outdoor clothing and footwear is essential. Thank you.

Wednesday 4th March – Book Fair Open

The Book Fair will be open for book sales from 3.15pm until 4pm on Wednesday. This will take place in the Junior Hall. We look forward to seeing you there.

Thursday 5th March – World Book Day

Thursday is a day which is celebrated the whole world over – World Book Day. This year, we are coming off timetable for the whole day to allow all children and classes simply to enjoy reading! We are asking any children who would like to, to come to school as their favourite book character. Please just keep this as simple as possible – we don't want any family to go out and spend money on a new costume. We would much prefer that you spend that money on a book for them to enjoy!

However, we realise that not all children enjoy dressing up and not all adults like trying to decide what they should wear. So, for any child who does not want to dress up, we are asking them to come to school wearing something colourful! Let's brighten up the school on Thursday between us all! Jeans and a bright t-shirt or top would be great.

The children will also be spending time with other class teachers, enjoying listening to a variety of stories with them. Each class will also be building in some 'Magic of Reading Time'. For this, we ask that your child brings in any book, magazine, football programme, comic – anything at all which they would like to read. The whole school, adults included, will be spending some quiet time during the day reading something of their choice. We will also be holding a 'book swap'. If your child has a book that they have finished reading, they are welcome to bring it to school and swap it for another one. Please only one book per child, thank you.

Thursday 5th March – Book Fair Open

The Book Fair will be open for book sales from 3.15pm until 4pm on Thursday. This will take place in the Junior Hall. We look forward to seeing you there.

Friday 6th March – Coffee Afternoon in aid of Dementia and Book Fair Open for Sales

On Friday, we will be holding a Coffee Afternoon in aid of Dementia sufferers. One of our Year 5 girls has been keen to do something to help people with dementia for a while so it would be lovely to see lots of you there to support such a good cause. The book fair will also be open from 2.30pm until 4pm on Friday.

Early Years News

We would welcome any parents or grandparents who would like to come in to read with Reception children. If you think you might be interested in coming in on an occasional or regular basis, please send an email to school.office@lanchesterep.net and the staff will send you a link to apply for DBS clearance.

Apologies for the delay in organising Nursery Parent Chats. We are busy trying to reorganise a time for these. In the meantime, please see your child's Key Worker or Family Group Teacher if you have any concerns about your child's progress or have any questions. We see many parents at drop off and pick up, so please feel that you can use our flexible drop off and pick up times to talk to us about any questions or concerns you may have.

We are planning a trip to Beamish for Reception on a Friday 24th April to take part in 'Once Upon a Time' traditional story workshops. We will need 13 helpers to accompany us on the day, so please look out for the letter, which is coming soon, and express your interest if you think you may be able to help out.

Can we please remind Reception parents to return their child's wellies to school as all children need a pair of named wellies in school for outdoor play, especially in wet and cold weather. Thank you.

Advance Diary Dates

Tuesday 10th March from 3.45pm until 4.45pm – Parents' Evening for Children with Additional Support Plans
Wednesday 11th March at 3.30pm – Meeting for Parents/Carers of Year 5 Girls going to Denmark
Wednesday 11th March at 6pm – SATs & Relationships & Sex Education Information Evening for Year 6 Parents
Thursday 12th March at 6pm – Friends of the School Meeting
Thursday 12th March – Visit from the Director of Education
Friday 13th March – Sport Relief Day
Friday 13th March – Choir Competing in Ryton Music Festival
Saturday 14th March – Year 4 – 6 Ski Trip to French Alps

Friday 20th March – Mothering Sunday Afternoon Tea

Monday 23rd March – Erasmus+ Trip to Denmark for Year 5 Girls
Tuesday 24th & Wednesday 25th March – Mr Stephenson's Class at Birdoswald
Wednesday 25th & Thursday 26th March – Mrs Grayson's Class at Birdoswald

Monday 30th & Tuesday 31st March – Mrs Sant's Class at Alnwick & Seahouses Residential
Tuesday 31st March & Wednesday 1st April – Mr Stoker's Class at Alnwick & Seahouses Residential
Wednesday 1st April – Foundation Stage Stay and Play Sessions
Thursday 2nd April – Easter Service at 2pm in All Saints Church
Friday 3rd April – Topsy Turvy Day
Friday 3rd April – Easter Egg Decorating Competition
Friday 3rd April at 2.30pm – Coffee Afternoon

As usual, if there is anything at all that you would like to talk about, or that is concerning you, please do not hesitate to contact me at school. We are here to help you and your child.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Davis

Mrs Jane Davis
Head Teacher