



LANCHESTER E.P. (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



Friday 24th April 2020

Dear Parents,

It has been the strangest first week back of the summer term. We seem to have found a 'new normal' which both children and adults can find quite tricky at times.

I think some children have found this week particularly challenging. The novelty of the first two weeks before Easter has worn off and the Easter holidays are now over and they have realised that this is the new reality for them for the time being. I also think some of the adults have found it tough too!

I will say it again though – please do not be too hard on yourselves. You are all balancing so much and trying to do the impossible. Whatever you do or don't do, your child won't be behind in their work when they return to school. Your child won't be at a disadvantage if you feel you have not been able to give them as much time as you would like.

We will continue to set work and will continue to interact with you all as much as possible. But the most important thing for your children is their emotional well-being.

*Children are not going to walk up to you and say,
'I'm really struggling with some tough emotions right now
and I'm not sure how to cope.'*

They are going to act out and behave in challenging ways.

It means the same thing.

It is important that our children know 'It is OK not to be OK' – I think it is important that adults realise this as well. If your child is feeling uncertain and not themselves, please feel free to get in touch with their teacher or myself and we will always do what we can to help and support them and you. And the same applies to you as parents and carers – we will do what we can to help you as a family and signpost you to other agencies and professionals if needed.

The following websites might be of some help to you as well:

<https://youngminds.org.uk/>

gonoodle.com

<https://www.annafreud.org/what-we-do/anna-freud-learning-network/coronavirus/>

Cosmic Kids Yoga on YouTube

<https://www.headspace.com/meditation/kids>

<http://www.durham.gov.uk/covid19mentalhealth>

Communication

Please look out for an email from your child's class teacher next week if they are in Years 1 – 6. We are very conscious that Early Years staff are in regular contact with parents but for children further up the school, whilst the teachers are in contact with the children daily, this is not always the case for our parents. So the class teachers will be emailing you – please tell us what is going well, what is not working so well and just how you all are. We would really appreciate this – thank you!

Reception Intake for September 2020

Parents and carers will have found out which school they have been given for their child to start Reception this September. Please accept or decline your place online as soon as possible as once again, we are at capacity and do have a waiting list so it is really important that you secure your place. Thank you. We will be in touch later this term about transition arrangements – which may well be slightly different this year to others.

ParentPay

We will be sending out ParentPay balances next week for any outstanding dinner money or wrap around care - these balances are up to March 20th only. This is really just to keep you updated about your account.

We would appreciate, if possible, that any payments for outstanding amounts are made. We understand that we are in unprecedented times with many of you facing challenges and changes to your personal circumstances so please do not take any update as a demand for money. It is not – but we do have a duty of care to ensure that you know what is still outstanding on your accounts. Can I also please encourage you to check your accounts for any charges for March that you disagree with? This is especially any bookings for wrap around care which were not used due to your child being off school. We have removed all future bookings for the time being.

If you have any questions at all about any ParentPay issues, please email the school office and we will get back to you: school.office@lanchesterep.net

School Residentials

We are still waiting to hear back from PGL about what their expectation is regarding this trip and the final deposit – we will let you know as soon as we have had that clarified.

Unfortunately, English Heritage are not re-opening their properties in June so the Year 3 trip to Birdoswald will now have to be cancelled. I realise this will disappoint many children but please reassure them that there will be another overnight residential organised for them next year. At the moment, the Year 4 trip to Seahouses is still in the calendar but obviously we just do not know what the next few weeks and months will bring. However, we will keep you informed about this.

Learning By Questions Live Lessons

As a school, we have begun to roll out use of Learning by Questions as part of our Home Learning. We have had a tremendous response both from pupils and parents. During both live sessions, there were over 100 pupils actively engaged in the activities that were set which was a fantastic number. Thank you to everyone who took part.

We will be running sessions again next week, on Tuesday and Thursday once again. All codes will be on class homepages on the morning of the session. Unfortunately, we cannot post on Twitter as copyright and user licensing does not permit us to do that.

Thank you to those who also got in touch with queries. Just to clarify, the children are not able to ask or send help requests to staff. The app is designed for the children to work at their own pace. If they do get a question incorrect, a hint box will appear. If they again get the question incorrect, a second hint appears and guides them towards getting the answer correct. Questions do progressively become harder as well as they move on.

Sometimes errors in spelling, missing a unit of measure (e.g. p or cm) will cause the answer to be deemed incorrect. Within class when we use the app, we always talk about reading questions carefully to ensure we understand.

Mr Stephenson, Mr Stoker and Mr Bailey follow these live sessions and step in to offer help when necessary. If you have any questions at all about Learning by Questions, please feel free to contact Mr Stephenson or Mr Bailey.

Early Years Parents

I know I mentioned this on Twitter earlier in the week, but I do think our Early Years Parents have been absolutely terrific at all the comments and photos that are being uploaded to Evidence Me. Thank you all so much for your amazing support with your children – it is wonderful to see and there are some very special things taking place too!

Please let us know if there is anything your child has enjoyed and if there is any way in which we can support them further. In the event you have any problems or queries, please email a member of staff rather than adding a note on to Evidence Me as sometimes the system can have problems syncing between devices and we may miss your comments. If you need to add another email address to Evidence Me, please let Miss Butler know by email (s.butler@lanchesterep.net).

Thank you for your suggestions about live sessions via Zoom – however this is not something which we intend to do as there are numerous safeguarding reasons around this. I am sure you will also agree that there is a lot already taking place that we do not want to dilute either.

Finally, I am sure I will continue to say it many times as we go through this new experience together – you are all amazing! Our school community is very special and thanks to Twitter, we are able to keep in touch and still feel part of such a great community.

*Speak to your child as if they are the wisest, kindest,
most beautiful and magical humans on the Earth;
for what they believe is what they will become!*

Take care, keep safe, keep in touch and have a lovely weekend in the beautiful sunshine!

Best Wishes to you all,

Jane Davis

Mrs Jane Davis
Head Teacher