



# LANCHESTER E.P. (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

The generosity, love and compassion which was shown last Friday was totally overwhelming. Our non-uniform day to provide emergency hygiene kits for the families in Ukraine raised a phenomenal £2,573.97. This means that we will be able to provide 55 families with the kits which is just amazing. Thank you all, each and every one of you for every single penny and pound which was sent into school. We were really staggered at how much one small community like ours could raise in a single day. I know you will all realise how much these are needed at the moment.

It has also felt quite unreal to spend the week in Dubai with some wonderful children this week, especially considering what is happening in the world at the moment. These children have been the most superb ambassadors for our school. They have totally thrown themselves into all the experiences, asking so many questions, being engrossed in the information shared with them, whilst coping with temperatures in the high 30s.

We flew overnight on Sunday and have been enjoying a very busy week experiencing the Emirati culture and traditions (visiting the mosque and the cultural centre for a traditional Emirati meal) whilst also spending two days in Hartland International School. The school has 82 different nationalities and is a combined primary and secondary school. During our time there, the children joined in the Arabic lessons and made some amazing friends – we hope that we have made some life-long links with the school too!

The children were also able to enjoy some of the sights of Dubai and went up the Burj Khalifa (tallest building in the world) – overcoming some great fears in doing so – and also visited the Palm, Atlantis Hotel, the Water Park and the Beach! All 16 children have made the most of every single minute of every day and have just not stopped smiling for the whole week. I have a feeling there will be some very tired children (and adults) in school next week though!

## **European Visitors in School**

Next week we continue the international theme when we welcome 17 teachers from Portugal, Latvia, Greece and Turkey to our school and village. These are our partner schools from the European Tunes project and they are coming to our school to learn more about music and how we use music to promote the children's self-esteem and independence.

Our partners all fly into Manchester Airport on Sunday and will be staying in Durham for the week. We have planned a very busy schedule for them and have tried to involve as many children as possible from our school. We also have our ceilidh on Thursday evening too between 6-9pm. We still have some tickets available at a cost of £5 each. Please note that children will need to be accompanied by an adult.

## **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022 – Welcome Assembly**

Year 5 will be leading a special welcome assembly for our European Partners. They will be spending time in all the KS1 classrooms during the day as well as undertaking some musical Forest School Activities. We know they will have an amazing day!

## **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022 – Parent Meeting for Children Travelling to the Bett Show – 3.15pm**

We will be meeting with all parents and carers of children travelling to the Bett Show at 3.15pm in school. At the meeting, the itinerary and organisation of the weekend will be shared with you and we will be able to answer any questions you may have about the weekend too.

### **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2022 – Tiny Tweeties in School**

Tiny Tweeties will be running some training in school for our European Visitors whilst also working with our Reception children. We know how much the children enjoy these sessions and are looking forward to welcoming them back into school again.

### **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022 – Paul Whittaker in School**

Paul Whittaker, an inspirational deaf musician, will be leading some workshops and training in school on Wednesday. There will be a whole school assembly to launch the day and this will be followed by workshops with our Year 3 and Year 6 children.

### **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March – Ceilidh from 6-9pm**

Please look on ParentPay or contact the School Office to purchase tickets for this event. They are £5 each and include the cost of the buffet too. This will be a super event and will be the climax of the week's visit. They will be exhausted by the end of this as I am sure none of us has been dancing for quite some time! Please note that all children need to be accompanied by a paying adult.

### **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March – Red Nose Day**

It is Red Nose Day again already! The theme is Super Heroes so children are invited to come into school dressed either as a superhero or in non-uniform. We ask for £1 donation (or whatever you can afford) for this good cause.

### **Year 5 visit to Madrid**

Please make sure you complete the form with the online link by midday on Monday if your child is interested in going to Madrid as we will be making the draw next week in order to book the flights as soon as possible. The link was on the letter sent to all Year 5 parents.

### **Easter Menu**

All parents and carers should have received an email yesterday with a copy of the new school menu for after the Easter holidays, along with the link to fill in your child's menu choices. The form needs to be completed by **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March**. If your child wants to change from School Meals to Packed Lunch or vice versa, please email the School Office (school.office@lanchesterep.net). This is imperative as otherwise you may be charged for meals your child has not taken and we will not be able to refund any charges if we have not been informed of the change in advance as the kitchen will have still made an extra meal.

If we do not receive a response to the form and your child is down for school meals, your child will be given the default vegetarian option. Meals are free for pupils in Reception – Year 2. Meals for those in Nursery & Year 3 – 6 are £2.15 per day (£10.75 per week) unless entitled to Free School Meals. Please note this goes up to £2.20 from 1<sup>st</sup> April. Meals must be paid a week in advance via ParentPay. If your child has any dietary requirements that we are not aware of, please contact the School Office and menu adaptations can be made. If you have any queries, please contact the School Office. The link for the menu is [here](#). Please also remember that if you want to change your child from packed lunch to school meal, you need to give notice of two weeks. Thank you.

### **Wrap Around Care Booking**

Please note that sessions for Wrap Around Care need to be booked either on ParentPay or by email or phone to the School Office (school.office@lanchesterep.net or 01207520436). *Please remember that when booking sessions on ParentPay, if these are not paid for at the time of booking, or if there is no credit on your account, these sessions automatically cancel on ParentPay.* This means that when we look at the ParentPay registers, your child will not be down as attending as the booking will cancel if there is no payment made. This is why if you pay by childcare vouchers, or you like to book ahead without paying the full amount in one go, we ask that you email the dates you want to the school office to book your child in on your behalf.

### **Early Years News**

On Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March, we will have a meeting for all parents of our new Nursery starters. This meeting will be over Zoom and we will send the link to the relevant families nearer the time. All information regarding start dates has been emailed to you already.

**Save The Date: Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May – Lanchester EP Jubilee Garden Party**

This summer we have decided to host a very special Garden Party to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We are hoping that we will be lucky enough to have a dry sunny day as we have lots of exciting things planned on our school field. Tickets for this event will be coming soon and there will be more information about this in the next termly newsletter.

**Positive Thinking**

***Impossible is a word used by some people who fear to dream big.***

As usual, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or the school office. We are here to help you all!

Yours sincerely,

*Jane Davis*

Mrs Jane Davis  
Head Teacher