



LANCHESTER E.P. (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



Friday 8th October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week has been quite an amazing week for so many different reasons. It has been quite an uplifting week for Mr Keeton, Mrs Moran and myself being able to visit our partner school in Bialystock, in Eastern Poland along with teachers from Spain, Denmark and Sweden. We have spent the week in staff training events for our Learning Outdoors Erasmus+ Project. Flying to Poland and being in the same company as ten other teachers from four other countries has just been so special. It is almost 2 years since our last visit took place and it has just been such a really fabulous experience.

We have met some of the staff before, but others we met for the first time. Naturally, some of the conversations were around Covid and how it has affected each of our countries and schools. It has been so interesting to hear about the different approaches to education during these unprecedented times.

Sadly, Mr Innes was also supposed to be with us on this visit, but just prior to him travelling last Sunday, he tested positive on a lateral flow test and subsequently a PCR test. Therefore, he has been self-isolating all week and will not return to school until Thursday next week. Mrs Riddell will continue to teach his class in his absence.

Technology has certainly proved its worth again this week too. It has been wonderful to be able to follow daily school life through Twitter (as well as hundreds of emails each day!) but it has also meant that we were able to join in our first Achievement Assembly with the rest of the school from Warsaw over Zoom which of course was rather special and different!

Pyjama Day

This was another really uplifting day for everyone, and following a very enjoyable day, we have managed to collect an amazing number of pyjamas so far – over 130 pairs and over £70 to donate to Hayley's Pyjama Appeal. Thank you so much to everyone who has donated so far - this will make a massive difference to those children who are unexpectedly admitted to hospital. We will still be accepting donations on Hayley's behalf until Wednesday 20th October so if anyone would like to add to the collection, please feel free to drop new, unworn pyjamas into the School Office or to your child's teacher. Alternatively, if you would prefer to make a donation, this will be passed on as well.

Monday 11th to Tuesday 12th October - Year 5 Overnight Residential

I am sure our Year 5 children are all looking forward to their overnight visit to our partner school in Birchwood, as well as their visits to Cadbury World and the National Space Centre. The bus departs at 7am on Monday morning so it would be good if the children could arrive in school for around 6.50am please. We will keep in touch over Twitter so watch out for all the updates.

Tuesday 12th October – Happy Birthday Revd Lesley!

Revd Lesley Sutherland is a great support to our school and has been wonderful all during the pandemic, supporting the children and staff in many different ways. I know she celebrates a very special birthday on Tuesday so would just like to wish her a very happy birthday and send much love to her from us all at the E.P. School.

Wednesday 13th October – KS1 Phonics Workshops

We will be holding our parental workshops for parents of Year 1 and Year 2 children on Wednesday at 8.45am and again at 2.30pm in the Junior Hall. We have started a new approach to teaching phonics and are now using the Sounds Write scheme and felt it was important that parents and carers know how to

support their children at home. Please come along to the Junior Hall door to gain entrance to the hall. The powerpoint will be uploaded to the website after the workshop for any parents who are unable to attend.

Thursday 14th October – Reception Phonics Workshops

Workshops for Reception parents and carers will be held on Thursday 14th October at 8.45am and 2.30pm. This workshop will be slightly different to the KS1 Workshop due to the children in Reception being at the start of their phonics journey. Please come along to the Junior Hall to gain entrance to the hall where the workshops will be held. The powerpoint will be uploaded to the website after the workshop for any parents who are unable to attend.

Year 5 & 6 Visit to India

Please remember that the deadline to complete the form to express firm interest in the trip is midnight tonight. Here is the link to the form. [India Trip](#)

Christmas Fundraiser – Mugs

This year, we have decided to sell mugs for our School Christmas Fundraiser. All the children in school have created a colourful, individual design which will be printed onto a mug! The mugs are £5.00 each, with any profit going straight back into the school funds, to help fund some brilliant experiences for your children. To purchase these mugs (which make great Christmas presents!), please log onto ParentPay to make your payment – we have set this up so you can buy a maximum of 10 mugs, so don't be alarmed if the cost says £50 – this will adjust depending on the number of mugs you order. If you want to buy more than 10, get in touch with the school office. Your child's design will be sent home and you will need to write the quantity required on the back of the design and send it back into school **no later** than Monday 18th October. Please be careful with the designs as these are the original artworks which are being used for the mugs. Any designs that are torn or sullied may not be able to be used by the printers. Orders after 18th October date cannot be made, as we have to send them off to be printed.

School Dinners After Half Term

If your child is on school dinners or you would like them to move onto school dinners after half term, please fill in the [new menu choices](#) by Monday 11th October. If your child is currently on school dinners but would like to move to packed lunch after half term, please make sure you contact the school office so we can change your child's meal pattern. This ensures that we are making the right number of meals and that those who pay for dinners are not charged for meals that aren't taken. If your child is on school meals and we are not informed they are moving to packed lunch but you don't fill in a school menu, your child will be given the default vegetarian option each day.

2022 Ski Trip

A separate letter has been emailed to parents of all children who had signed up for the ski trip in January 2022. Very disappointing news but I do hope that we will be able to arrange something else by the end of the year. Please read the letter carefully as it contains a lot of important information.

Parents' Evenings

These are scheduled to take place on Tuesday 19th October and Thursday 21st October between 3.30pm and 6pm. We had hoped to be able to hold these meetings in person, but due to the high number of positive cases in the village and surrounding areas at the minute, we just do not feel that this is appropriate. Therefore, these will, once again, be held over Zoom with the links emailed out to you prior to the meetings being held. To book your appointment, please log onto **your** eSchools account (not your child's account: if you have not received your log in or unsure of the details, please contact the school office) and click on the Parents Evening tab – this will show you all the times available for each child you have parental consent for. Once you have chosen your slot that will be booked in. If you have any problems, please feel free to contact the school office and we can do this for you. You will be able to book an appointment from 6pm this evening.

Nursery Parents' Meetings are over slightly different times and days due to the large number of meetings that need to be held. Please see the information below for the dates and times of these.

- The children who have returned from last year will have a Zoom call on Thursday 21st October - these will all be with Miss Brown throughout the day and then until 6pm.

We are then going to have meetings for a key worker group each week after half term:

- Miss Brown's group will be on the 4th November - again all day and then until 6pm.
- Mrs Nash's group will be on Tuesday 9th November until 5pm.
- Mrs Bailey's group will be on the 10th and 11th of November - mornings only.
- Then the new member of staff will be on Monday 22nd of November all day. This gives them the opportunity to get to know the children before talking to parents about them.

All appointments for Nursery children will also need to be booked through eSchools. Please remember that if you are unable to make the proposed dates for your child's group, then just email Miss Brown: h.brown@lanchesterep.net and she will arrange a phone call at a mutually convenient time.

Non-Uniform Day – Friday 22nd October

Rotakids are organising a non- uniform day on Friday 22nd October in exchange for toiletries e.g. toothpaste, soap, shaving cream etc. These essential everyday items will be given to a charity in Newcastle supporting refugees entering our country without anything. We hope that you will support us in this worthwhile cause. Thank you, from the Rotakids.

Open Morning for Reception 2022 Starters – Saturday 13th November

We know that many Nursery parents are starting to think about which primary school to apply to for their child for September 2022. To help them make this crucial decision, we will be holding an Open Morning on Saturday 13th November between 10am and 12 noon. Please come along, meet some of the key staff, have a look at the environment in Reception and Key Stage One and ask as many questions as you would like!

However, if you would like to come and have a look round during the school day, we are also more than happy to show you round. Just email the school office and we will get back to you with some suggested dates. Choosing the right school for your child is probably one of the biggest decisions you will make for your child, therefore it has to be the right one!

Covid

We are once again seeing a rise in the number of children and adults testing positive for Covid, both in school and in the wider community. As a school I want to assure you that we are monitoring the situation very carefully, and our Covid outbreak plan will be attached with this letter.

We know there are lots of (non-covid) things going around in the community at the moment, but please be vigilant to the symptoms of Covid-19 (higher temperature than normal/hot to touch; new, continuous cough; loss or change in sense of smell or taste) and make sure if your child displays any one of those symptoms, you book a PCR test and keep your child off school and in isolation until a negative result comes back. Please note **a negative lateral flow test result is not enough if your child has symptoms.**

If your child is negative, they can immediately come back to school. If your child is positive you will need to follow the NHS guidance, which is 10 days of isolation. You will also need to inform the school, as we need to monitor all cases in school and to provide online learning for children who are isolating. Other children

in the household and all vaccinated adults will not need to isolate if they are not displaying symptoms, but you should book a PCR test for them as well.

If your child displays any of the symptoms at school then the school office will be in touch for you to collect them and they will not be allowed back into school until they have a negative PCR result. The last thing we want to do is send your child home unnecessarily, but we have a duty of care to everyone in the school community and can't take any risks.

Positive Thinking

***Every single thing that has ever happened in your life,
is preparing you for a moment that is yet to come.***

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