



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



Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I cannot believe that this is the final weekly letter of the strangest school year ever. I feel quite emotional sitting writing this as, like you all, I have never experienced anything like the last few months and certainly hope we never have to go through anything like it again!

When I stood on the yard on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March, saying goodbye to all the children, watching them walk out of the school grounds, there were a few things going through my mind. The first was simply the sad thought that our children's lives were going to change quite significantly for the near future and I wondered how many of them would have to face the reality of death for the first time... The second was simply wondering when we would see them all again. The confusion, anticipation, anxiety and uncertainty we were all facing at that point in time was tough. I am a fairly positive person but I never imagined for one moment that we would not see them as a whole school again before the summer.

I am disappointed that we have not been able to welcome all year groups back before the summer break. I am sorry for those families and children who have found it so tough being at home for such an extended period of time. I can only hope that the children start to appreciate the joys of school once more in September!

It has been wonderful to be able to welcome back so many children from Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. This time of year is of particular importance for Year 6 and I am just thrilled that almost all children of the cohort will be in school for their final week. They are going to have a wonderful week with their teachers and even though their send-off will be different, it will be every bit as special and memorable for them.

## **Thank You**

I would just like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your amazing support during these last few months. I am sincere when I say that I think this time has helped to bring the school community even closer together and make it even stronger. Your communication with us has been first class and you have all worked miracles in supporting your children so well with their home-learning. I know many of you have found it incredibly tough, more or less impossible and very challenging – many of our staff have had the same issues! Yet I also hope, that there are elements of it that you have found to be very rewarding. Hopefully, the unexpected and additional time with your children and families – time you will never get back again – has meant that you have been able to enjoy some special activities and moments that will remain in your memory banks for years to come.

## **School Report for Parents**

I felt it was only appropriate this year to write a school report for all you wonderful parents. I hope you can see something of yourself in some of the comments!

## **Twitter Challenges and Daily Davis Updates**

The final posts to Twitter will be made on the last day of term – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July. When I started these daily updates, it was just prior to lockdown when there was so much uncertainty and worry. These became more regular and it was then suggested to me that they were really Daily Davis Updates – hence the tradition and name was born. I hope these have been of interest, help, reassurance and a pick-me-up during the lockdown. You have certainly shared and been part of my own family's journey during the lockdown too!!

Again, I never dreamt that I would be setting daily twitter challenges for over 4 months! You have engaged with these so well – I hope you have enjoyed some of them at least!

### **Birthday Calls**

I have managed to phone all children on their birthdays during this strange time and it has been a delight to talk to them – or in most cases – listen to them! However, I am afraid I feel that I cannot continue this during the summer break and I would hate to miss anyone. Instead, there will be a little something in the post for them so please look out for this!

### **Staff News**

I am delighted to inform you that Miss Bainbridge is getting married in the summer. It obviously is not going to be the wedding she planned and hoped for, but as she said, she and her fiancé are the important ones, so she is going ahead with the ceremony, albeit on a much smaller scale. When we return in September, Miss Bainbridge will be Mrs Chambers. I am sure you will all join with me in wishing her all the very best for her future happiness and in hoping that she has the most wonderful day possible.

### **Zoom 'Meet the Teacher' Calls**

I am pleased to hear the transition calls went so well this week even though we had a few issues with passwords and IDs being required! We are having a 'Meet the Teacher' Zoom call next week in place of our usual 'Meet the Teacher' morning. These calls will be no longer than half an hour but just give the children and their new teacher the opportunity to spend some time together! As usual, an email will be sent 30 minutes prior to the call taking place with the link. The times for the calls are below:

<b><u>New Year Group</u></b>	<b><u>New Teacher</u></b>	<b><u>Day of Call</u></b>	<b><u>Time of Call</u></b>
Year 5	Mrs Coyle	Tuesday	10am
Year 5	Mr Keeton	Tuesday	11am
Year 6	Mrs Tate/Mr Knighton	Tuesday	12pm
Year 6	Mr Taylor	Tuesday	1pm
Year 3	Mr Stephenson	Wednesday	10am
Year 3	Mrs Grayson	Wednesday	11am
Year 4	Miss Jackson	Wednesday	12pm
Year 4	Mr Stoker	Wednesday	1pm
Reception	Miss Martin	Thursday	10am
Reception	Mr Osmond	Thursday	11am
Year 1	Mrs Burke	Thursday	10am
Year 1	Mr McLoughlin	Thursday	11am
Year 2	Mrs Startup	Thursday	12pm
Year 2	Mrs Sant	Thursday	1pm

### **School Uniform**

Please do not forget that all uniform is to be ordered from Moette, our suppliers who are based in Langley Park. To make any orders, just click on the following link: [www.moette.co.uk/oc1/Lanchester-EP-School](http://www.moette.co.uk/oc1/Lanchester-EP-School). Alternatively, you can pop into their shop: Moette Ltd., The Old Chapel, Quebec Street, Langley Park. DH7 9XA. They are usually very quick and efficient, but please do not leave your orders too late – they do suggest you order prior to the summer holidays beginning. Current Reception children will need a PE t-shirt in their team colour for the beginning of Year 1. Please remember to include this in your order. They will need this for the beginning of the new year.

### **School Meals from September**

From September, School Meals for pupils in Nursery, Year 3, 4, 5 & 6 will be increasing in price to £2.10 per day, which means a week's dinners will now cost £10.50. Meals for those in Reception, Year 1 & 2 will still be free. \*Pupils moving from Year 2 into Year 3 will need to pay for their dinners in September unless they are entitled to Free School Meals.\*

If you think you may be entitled to Free School Meals and haven't applied, or your circumstances have changed, please email the School Office for a form for us to do a check with Durham County Council.

If your child is moving from School Meals to Packed Lunches in September, please email the School Office, or you may be charged. Likewise, if your child is moving to School Meals, please email the School Office, and fill in the menu on the link that was sent out at the beginning of this week. Please fill in the menu as soon as possible so we can prepare what we need to order for when the children return in September.

### **Arrangements for September**

I am sure many of you are wondering what the arrangements will be for our return in September. All children must return to school as the government have made it quite clear that there is not a choice for the new academic year. However, obviously there are many considerations when we have over 400 children arriving and leaving the school site within a very short period of time. On Monday, we will send you a letter detailing our plans. These are still being discussed and finalised in line with a new risk assessment.

### **PGL Refunds for Year 6 Parents**

All Year 6 parents will have had their refund paid back into their ParentPay account. Please check this has been credited to your account. The residential has been deferred for the Year 5 children and Year 4 parents will also be given the opportunity in the new academic year to sign their children up for this trip too.

### **Ski Residential Refunds**

These refunds should be credited to our account during the first week of August. However, as our account is a two-signatory account, it may be the middle of August before the refunds can be returned to your accounts. I will email you for your bank details so this can be transferred as soon as possible.

We have made a provisional booking for next year's ski trip: 6th – 13th March 2021. We will be discussing this with the company on our return in September and if this trip goes ahead, it will be open for any parents/carers and children in Years 4-6.

### **School Holidays and Term Dates 2020 - 2021**

I am sure that many of you will have had holidays cancelled or postponed and will be considering when these can be re-booked for next year. It is really important to remember that holidays during term times can only be authorised in very exceptional circumstances. Very few holidays are ever authorised and this is likely to be even lower next year. It is going to be essential for ALL children to be in school as much as possible due to the extended closure of schools during the latter half of this year. Please also bear in mind that if you do decide to take a holiday during term time which has not been authorised, if your child is out of school for more than 7 consecutive days you can be fined - £60 per parent for each child.

<b>Holiday</b>	<b>Closing Date</b>	<b>Date re-open for teaching purposes</b>
Summer Holiday	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2020	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2020 (Y1 – 6 only)
October Half Term	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2020	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2020
Christmas Holiday	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2020	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2021
February Half Term	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2021
Easter Holiday	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> April 2021
May Day	Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2021	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2021
Summer Half Term	Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> June 2021
Summer Holiday	Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> July 2021	Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2021

### **End of Term**

Please do not forget that for **Reception and Year 1 children, Wednesday** is their final day in school. Key worker children will attend until Friday lunchtime as usual.

**Year 6 children** will be with us all week until Friday lunchtime. We have a very special week of activities and fun planned for them – they are going to have a very memorable final few days with us! Please remember to send in a white shirt that can be signed. Their leavers’ service will be at 1.30pm on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July on the school yard and their leavers’ assembly will take place at 10am on Friday morning on the school yard. The links for the Zoom calls will be emailed to all Year 6 parents half an hour before the service and assembly start so that parents and family members can watch this live from the comfort of their own homes.

**Nursery children who will be attending a different school in September** are invited to come into school on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July between 10am and 11.30am so they can be presented with their leavers’ certificates from the staff. This will take place outside and will be very informal but we think it is important to mark the end of their time with us in some way.

### **End of Year Questionnaire**

This link is now live for the parent and carer questionnaire to be completed. This will not take long for you to complete. Please make the time to do this as your views and opinions are important to us. Just click on this link:

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=nQP32h\\_HBU2bpIJ4QL0zspgHwMT8S9HoKOJAHDz6ThUN09HUzRYUktZWfk1QzRQMTE1OEQ2S1JGM4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=nQP32h_HBU2bpIJ4QL0zspgHwMT8S9HoKOJAHDz6ThUN09HUzRYUktZWfk1QzRQMTE1OEQ2S1JGM4u)

### **Home-Schooling for Next Week**

As next week is our final week before the summer holidays, our online learning projects will focus on supporting your child with transitioning to their new class or school. We would normally carry out these activities during the transition day with their new teacher. However, this has obviously not been possible this year. The tasks will give the children the opportunity to reflect on their time in their current class, discuss their favourite memories and achievements whilst also considering their hopes and dreams for the next academic year. The activities should be fairly simple to carry out, using resources that you are likely to have at home. We are sure the children will enjoy completing this work as they come to the end of a very unique academic year!

### **Belongings, P.E. Kits and End of Year Reports**

Please do not forget that your child’s end of year school report and belongings can be collected at the following times next week. Please just make your way onto the top yard or infant car park where tables will be set out with everything laid out. The class teachers will also be there to greet you. If you would like to bring any of the work that your child has completed over the lockdown period, then we would love to have it from you. Please bring it and hand it into your child’s teacher at the same time.

Each class can collect their belongings at the following times:

		<b>Top Yard (outside Main Entrance)</b>	<b>Infant Car Park (old Main Entrance)</b>
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> July	10 –12 12-2	Reception Nursery	Yr 1 Miss Martin’s Class Yr 1 Mrs Burke’s Class
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	10 – 12 12 – 2	Yr 3 Mrs Grayson’s Class Yr 3 Mr Stephenson’s Class	Yr 2 Mrs Startup’s Class Yr 2 Miss Jackson’s Class
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> July	10 – 12 12 – 2	Yr 4 Mr Stoker’s Class Yr 5 Mrs Coyle’s Class	Yr 4 Mrs Sant’s Class Yr 5 Mr Knighton’s Class

If any parents would like to discuss the content of your child’s report, please just either email the school office to arrange a phone call, or email the class teacher by Thursday morning to allow them time to get back to you. Thank you.

### **Nursery New Starter Meeting – Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July**

We will be holding our meeting over Zoom on Monday 13th July at 4pm for the parents and carers of children joining our Nursery in September. Emails will be sent this week with further information about this.

### **Rainbow Twitter Challenge**

The prints will be ready to collect with your child's reports and belongings next week. Thank you all so much for your orders, and a huge thank you to Josh from Year 5 for his great suggestion of raising funds for the NHS. We will let you know in due course how much we manage to raise for such a wonderful cause.

### **Finally...**

School returns on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September for Years 1 – 6. Reception children will have visits on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September. They will come to school full time from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September. As mentioned previously, more detailed plans about how this will look will be shared with you next week. We are really looking forward to welcoming everyone back.

Please have a wonderful break, enjoy some family time with no home-schooling and keep safe.

Warmest Regards,

*Jane Davis*

Mrs Jane Davis  
Head Teacher