

# Lanchester E.P. (Cont.) Primary School

*A Caring Community Where All Can Flourish*



Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I know I posted a tweet last night but I felt that I wanted to write to you all tonight as well.

As news of the second lockdown sinks in, I am sure many of you will have very mixed emotions. At the very time we felt like we were starting to emerge from the pandemic and have some small snippets of normality, we seem to be, instead, heading deeper into it.

As a school, we are pleased to remain open. I do think it is the right thing for our children and I feel as though we owe it to them all to retain our own little wonderful bubble inside our school walls. As I have previously said, when we are in school, it is almost as though nothing is happening in the real world! We are surrounded by laughter, chatter, disagreements, talking and giggling – it is wonderfully normal!

However, there is a 'real world' out there and as adults, we are all too aware of the dangers that still exist. I would therefore like to reassure you all as best I can that we will continue to implement our risk assessments and safeguard the pupils to the very best of our ability. We desperately want them to be in school rather than learning from home – and I am sure you do too.

We will continue to do what we do best – offering your children the routine, security, love and support that is always there.

However, we do need your help in order to ensure our school remains open and to achieve this, I ask that you continue to adhere strictly to social distancing when bringing children to and from school and that you wear face masks. This way, hopefully, we can help to alleviate any potential risks both at the school gates and on the school premises.

Attendance at school continues to be mandatory – our attendance is currently at 97% which says it all! This figure does exclude any absences due to the closure of bubbles.

We have had three bubbles needing to self-isolate during the first half-term – all three cases were due to children testing positive after their parents had tested positive. I think this needs to be remembered and hopefully will help to reassure you all. We have robust cleaning procedures in place, robust risk assessments and robust rules in order to keep children and adults as safe as possible. However, we also have robust learning and fun taking place too - it really is win, win for us all at the current point in time!

However, it is likely that over the next half term, we will have more bubbles needing to self-isolate. We will text you in the first instance to send the children home before carrying out a thorough risk assessment to assess which children need to self-isolate. PHE (Public Health England) are constantly changing their guidelines so it does take a little time to liaise with them and receive the most up-to-date guidance.

We have managed to get through, what has probably been, the most challenging 6 months of our lives together. We will continue to do so with positivity and a smile on our faces. We will get there. We can do this. We will see better, happier days.

Take care and warmest love and best wishes to you all,

*Jane Davis*

Mrs Jane Davis  
Head Teacher