



Weekly Bulletin 2: Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I think we have all enjoyed the wonderful weather this week – a little bit of sunshine really does make such a difference doesn't it? We have had a wonderful week in school. We have welcomed Captain Chemistry for our Reception and Year 1 children, our Year 4 children have enjoyed a Robots Day, some of our Year 2 children were taught by Mr Innes on his visit to school this week and I have managed to visit two outdoor adventure centres where our Year 4 children will be staying overnight and our Year 2 children visiting for the day. Dare I say it, that school has felt 'almost normal' this week! Hopefully it is the start of better times to come!

## **Parking**

I feel that a large part of my week has been spent dealing with parking issues and attempting to keep the peace with local residents. I have tried to ensure I have been outside of school as much as possible at the start and end of the day but this is not possible every day due to other commitments. Parking in the village is an issue – it is a nightmare to get parked at key times of the day and I totally understand your frustrations with this. But I also understand the frustration of local residents when they see their drives being blocked, drivers behaving aggressively and children being put at risk of harm.

However, I have been quite shocked at what I have witnessed. We have some parents parking quite blatantly on double yellow lines, others parking right across the path and blocking the pathway for all pedestrians (adults and children), some parking on the grass/junctions/bend whilst other drivers fight over parking spaces and openly and loudly swear and curse at each other. It is just horrific being out there seeing it all.

I am not a traffic warden. I am not a police officer. I am not a traffic enforcement officer. I am simply a head teacher who cares about the safety of our children, the upkeep of our village and the well-being of the local residents. I am still waiting to hear from The King's Head to see if we are able to park in their car park. As soon as I have an answer about this, I will obviously let you know.

Meanwhile, please just think twice before parking. Is it safe? Will it block the traffic? Can other drivers see past you? Will pedestrians be able to walk safely past? We are in this together. We are one caring community so let's prove it!

## **Above and Beyond – World Creativity and Innovation Week**

We were thrilled that our school was involved in one of the showcase events of this very special week! The film, 'Community Spirit' was shown on Tuesday afternoon and the link is below – it really is worth a watch. Our school features about half way through the film and it is great to see our special Winter Wonderland featured. Click on the link here and it will take you straight to it: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PG3fuAZwAQI&t=942s>

## **Tennis is Back!**

Lanchester Lawn Tennis Club is offering fun, action packed coaching for players of all ages. This takes place on Monday evenings and the times are below:

4-8 years: 4 – 4.45pm

9 – 10 years: 4.45 – 5.30pm

11 – 18 years:

6.15 – 7.15pm

Booking is essential, either via [their website](#) or by scanning this link.



## **Ski Trip**

I can confirm that we certainly have enough interest in our ski trip for it to go ahead next year. We have been amazed at the huge interest and will be taking a party of 90 children, adults and staff. This is quite a staggering number and more than most secondary schools! It does mean that it looks like we will have the hotel all to ourselves and most of the plane too! I can guarantee it will be a truly brilliant week! More information will be shared in the following weeks as soon as I have more information.

### **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April - Class Photographs**

We are thrilled that we will have our class photographs taken this year – something I know many of you missed last year. The photographers will be in school all day on Wednesday so please make sure your child comes to school in full uniform. Year 6 children also need to come to school in uniform for the day and will not need their PE kits at all for the day.

### **Activity Clubs - Collection**

Please remember that all activity clubs (sign up clubs that are not the usual wrap around care club) finish at 4.15pm. The children will be dismissed from their usual exit (the one they leave by at the end of every day), as was stated on the club information letter that was sent out. Thank you.

### **Application for Funding**

We are considering applying for funding through the Turing Scheme which has replaced the Comenius/ Erasmus+ funding from the British Council which we have been successful with for the last 10 years. We are currently establishing links with a school in Rajkot, Northern India. If we apply and are successful with the funding, then our aim would be to take a small group of children (10–12) to our partner school in India. However, we wanted to survey parents in our current Year 4 & 5 cohorts to see if this would be something which they would like their child to be part of.

It is obviously very different to a short flight to our European partner schools and it would not be able to happen until the Covid situation was stable. Equally, there would be no point in putting in the hours the application will take if parents would not be interested in their child having such an opportunity. A link to an online form has been emailed to all Year 4 & 5 parents to establish their interest in such a visit, or can be found here: <https://forms.office.com/r/wud974TLDW> - please fill this in by Monday.

### **Collecting from/Dropping off at Wrap Around Care**

Please remember if you are dropping your child into Breakfast Club or collecting them from After School Club, please do not go past the sign board at the top of the steps by the Junior Hall door. Please also try to keep to the collection times of 4pm, 4.15pm (we are aware that some parents will be picking up siblings of those who have attended activity clubs), 4.30pm, 5.00pm and 5.30pm. This allows the members of staff supervising the after school club to be able to focus on looking after the children without having to keep getting up to let children out and worry about potentially keeping parents/carers waiting. Thank you.

### **Uniform**

As the warm weather is approaching, the problem of mislaid jumpers and cardigans is once again coming to the fore. It is imperative that your child's school uniform is clearly labelled with their name or initials (Moette embroiders all jumpers & cardigans free of charge). In a school of over 400 pupils it is only too easy for children to lose their jumpers or cardigans and whilst we do our best to make sure all uniform found is returned to its rightful owners, this is simply not possible if the item is not named. Please help to make it easier for us and for your children, by double checking that their name is clearly written on any item of clothing that they are likely to remove when they are in school. Thank you.

### **Easyfundraising**

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to our cause on easyfundraising: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/lanchestereprimary/> So far, four of our supporters have managed to raise £0.96, completely free of charge. Whilst this seems like a tiny amount of money, the more supporters we get, the more donations we are likely to receive. It takes minutes to set up and is totally free for you – if you remember to go through easyfundraising when you shop online, lots of companies will donate a percentage of the cost of your item absolutely free. Please spread the word – if you shop online, why not check if the place you are ordering from is part of the scheme.

### **School Book Fair**

Thanks to one of our parents, Mrs Godding, for sorting such a fabulous book shop this week and thank you all for your orders. The link will expire at midnight on Friday so if you want to order any last minute books, get

ordering now! The following link will take you to the school's unique online shop: <https://book-parties.scholastic.co.uk/party/donna-godding>. Here you can choose from a great selection of books and crafts-from age 0 to young adult- from the Scholastic brand! All of the books are at a discounted price and many are more than 50% off the RRP AND when you buy the school will receive free books too!

It's simple- shop from home, pay from home. Just add your choice to the basket, select group delivery at checkout and the book will be delivered to you. Don't forget to add your child's name to the order please! Thank you for your support.

### **Early Years News**

Now that the good weather looks like it is here for a while, please be aware that our EYFS children will spend a lot of time outdoors and need sun protection. Please remember to apply sunscreen before they come to school and if you have not consented to us applying our Nivea Factor 30 sun cream during the day, please ensure that you bring in a named bottle of sun cream for your child. Children also need a sun hat clearly marked with their name. As our weather is still changeable, please send children to school with a coat. If you have any questions, please speak to a member of staff.

Can we politely remind you that if you are collecting your child from Nursery early, you should not allow them to play in the Nursery garden after collection. Our play equipment should only be used under the supervision of our staff. Thank you for your co-operation.

### **COVID-19 Information**

Please remember that if your child develops any of the three key symptoms of COVID-19, you must keep them off school and book them a PCR test and you need to inform the school that they are absent due to suspected COVID-19. Whilst a lot of the time these tests end up being negative, every potential case of COVID-19 has implications for school – if we are aware that pupils are going for tests, we can begin planning for a potential bubble closure sooner. If we only find out once they have received a positive result, this understandably causes extra strain and stress which could be eased if we were aware of the possibility.

In addition to this, we are required to report to the DfE on a daily basis whether we have pupils absent for reasons relating to COVID-19, so it is imperative that we know if that is why your child is off so our information can be as accurate as possible.

### **COVID-19 Symptoms & Testing**

It is also important to remember that if you, or your child, develop symptoms of COVID-19, it is not enough to have a lateral flow test, which many of you will be taking on a regular basis. Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms must isolate and book a PCR test whether or not you have had a negative lateral flow test.

### **Positive Thinking**

***Never regret a day in your life.  
Good days give you happiness.  
Bad days give you experience.  
Worst days give you lessons.  
Best days give you memories.***

As usual, if there is anything at all that you would like to talk about, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

*Jane Davis*

Mrs Jane Davis  
(Head Teacher)