



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



Weekly Bulletin 5: Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am sure I am not the only one who is constantly thinking back to this time last year and finding it hard to contemplate everything that was happening around us. There is so much talk about how much the children need to catch up academically after the year's turmoil, but I do believe that this last year has taught us all of the importance of so many other skills our children need. I think that this generation of children will become the most resilient, kind, caring and independent young adults. They have been taught the true value of health, family and friends.

We believe though that our children do need to catch up, so next term, our plan is for the children to 'catch up' on making memories. The staff have so much planned for the whole school and we hope that some of our usual summer traditions will be able to take place.

We have booked the buses for the school walk for children from Reception to Year 6. We will drive to Seahouses, walk along to Bamburgh before having fun on the beach and in the sand dunes. We have booked buses so that every bubble can travel separately and can be together in their bubble for the whole day. The only thing that will be different is that we have not booked a bus for parents. If parents want to join us, then unfortunately, we feel the only way that this will be possible is to drive their yourselves. This is planned to take place on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> July. We thought the later the better this year... fingers crossed it will happen!

We still hope for the Year 5 & 6 PGL residential to Dalguise, Scotland will be able to take place at the end of June and we hope to have lots of our usual, traditional summer term activities taking place in school, although it is likely to be without the presence of parents.

I hope you are all looking forward to the Easter break – although we have only been back together as a whole school for three weeks I think we are all ready for a break to give us time to recharge our batteries; we have really enjoyed having all your children back with us and we are so impressed with the resilience they have shown.

However, for many children it has been difficult re-learning how to navigate friendships and even just being in their large class groups, which is completely understandable due to the fact that some children will not have seen anyone apart from their immediate family since January. Please rest assured that we are always here for you and your children and we will navigate through these difficult waters together – we will get to the other side, but it may take time.

With that in mind, I need to start with some important updates about Covid. It is still with us, even though cases in our region have dropped significantly. Obviously, it is still important that school are informed if any children test positive over the next week so please read the information below.

## **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 off 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.

### **COVID-19 Over the Easter Holiday**

Whilst children will not be in school over the Easter break it is important that you still let us know if your child tests positive for COVID-19 during the holiday. If your child receives a positive COVID-19 test after Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March please contact me immediately: [j.davis@lanchesterep.net](mailto:j.davis@lanchesterep.net) and you will need to provide the following information:

- Name of child
- Class/year group
- Date of the COVID-19 test
- Does your child have symptoms?
- The date your child's symptoms started
- The date your child was last in school
- Information about any other siblings who attend Lanchester EP

It is very important that you provide this information so that the school can identify any close contacts that your child may have had in school during their infectious period. The school will then follow up close contacts and request that they isolate for 10 days to prevent further transmission of COVID-19. Please note that you should also report any close contacts that your child has had outside the school setting through NHS Test and Trace.

### **Easter Raffle**

A big thank you to everyone who bought raffle tickets – we will let you know how much money was raised after the break. It has been particularly good to see so many of you donating on ParentPay as well. We have a huge collection of Easter Eggs which have been kindly donated by the staff and governors. The raffle will be drawn during our Achievement Assembly on Friday afternoon.

### **Parents' Evenings**

Thank you all for making appointments to talk to your child's class teacher this week. The staff all commented how lovely it was to talk to you and share notes on your children! We do hope it was useful for you all as well.

### **Ski Trip – January 2022**

We have been quite astounded by the interest in this trip for next year. It is going to be essential that the deadline of Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April is adhered to as it is unlikely that we will be able to allow any latecomers to add their name after that date. Please feel free to get in touch with myself if you are unsure or if you have any questions at all about the trip. But please note that the first deposit of £100 has to be paid by Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April in order to secure a place on this trip.

### **Ice Cream Van**

Our children are having a lovely treat to finish the term and have the ice cream van on site this afternoon! Our Nursery beginning of the week and afternoon children really enjoyed this surprise on Wednesday too. This, combined with an Easter Egg hunt, is just a nice way of both welcoming the children back and saying goodbye for their Easter break! Thanks to the Friends of the School who have also put some money towards this treat for all our children!

### **Here Comes the Sun Video**

I am writing this letter, late Thursday evening and Mr Bailey has just sent the video over to me. I have to say, I have had a smile on my face the whole time with tears rolling down my cheeks whilst watching it! This last year has been a fairly traumatic year for our children (and us!) and yet the smiles, positivity, hope and pure joy represented by them all is just so special and helps us remember that a brighter future is not too far away again. If you want an injection of this positivity, just watch it for yourselves! Thank you all for your great participation too. It is so wonderful to see so many families taking part and the children enjoying so many different activities. Just brilliant and thank you to Mr Bailey for organising it all and putting it all together! Either scan the QR code or click on the link below to watch it – it is also on our website along with all the other videos we have made this last year: <https://app.trilbytv.co.uk/public/view/83d5f547-0e0f-47bf-afa9-a3843c09e90e>



### **Positive Thinking**

*I greet the morning sun knowing that wonderful opportunities lie ahead of me.*

Thank you again for all your wonderful support this term. We look forward to welcoming all your children back into our school on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April.

Your sincerely,

*Jane Davis*

Mrs Jane Davis  
Head teacher