



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



Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

For me personally, this has been a very long two weeks. After testing positive for Covid a week past Tuesday, I have been stuck at home trying to work, but also fighting this virus which has really taken its toll on me. All I can say is, thank goodness that I have had both vaccinations! Today is my first day back in school and it is just so lovely to see everyone again!

We continue to have some positive cases across school in both children and staff, but thankfully, they do seem to have slowed down slightly this week. I am sensible enough to know that it probably will not stay that way for long, but we continue to do what we can in school to minimise the spread in the whole school community.

We have had staff out on phonics training again this week and myself and four more staff are in Birmingham next week for our final training too. It has been very intensive – every member of staff having had 4 whole days - but we do hope that it is going to make a difference to our children.

## **Staff News**

I am very sorry to tell you that Mrs Laura Peters will be leaving us at October half-term. Mrs Peters has been working at the school for almost 14 years and has been a huge asset to us during her time here. She has decided that, even though she loves her job, children and school, she really wants to spend more time with her family - and who can blame her for that?! Mrs Peters will be a huge miss to us all but we do hope that she will return and do the occasional day's work for us – especially around Winter Wonderland time! We will be advertising for her replacement and hope that they will be able to start after half term.

Mr Richard Junemann, our groundsman, has decided that it is time for him to retire for the final time! He retired as Head of English at Blackfyne Comprehensive, then came to work for us as a teacher of our more able and talented children before branching out and becoming our groundsman.

Mr Junemann has worked with us for over 12 years after his first retirement, but he has now decided that he really should hang up his boots for good. He has taken great pride in the work he has done, developing the garden areas and keeping on top of our wonderful woodland area. He too will be a huge miss to the school but I know he wants to keep up the links with us and may well volunteer his services from time to time! I am sure you join with me in wishing him a very long, happy and healthy retirement.

Ms Becky Bailey has joined us and is working every morning in the Nursery at the moment. She is a familiar face to many parents and children already as previously, she has been on placement in our Nursery. I know she will be a great addition to our team.

## **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> September – School Walk for Years 2-6**

I hope your child is looking forward to our annual school walk. The weather, at the moment, looks variable, so please look at the forecast nearer the time as they may need both sunhats and raincoats! The buses will leave as shortly after 9am as possible and we aim to return to school for 5.30pm. The children do not need wear uniform for the day – instead, sensible clothing suitable for the weather will be required. All children need a packed lunch, plenty of fluids and can bring buckets and spades for use on the beach. Look out for twitter that day – I am sure there will be plenty of photographs for you to share in our fun!

## **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> September at 6.30pm – Meeting for Year 5 & 6 Parents about India**

We are looking forward to meeting with any interested Year 5 & 6 parents on Wednesday at 6.30pm when more information will be shared about the visit to our partner school in Rajkot, India. Veen Soni will be

leading this meeting along with myself when more information will be shared about the visit. This will be held over Zoom and the link is below – just click on the link to take you to the meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/98370332101?pwd=U1dXSFRuRG4reVJxQjA4Z1hsLzZGUT09>

### **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September – Accelerated Reader Workshops at 8.45am and 2.30pm**

We will be holding our parental workshops on Accelerated Reader on Thursday next week in the Junior Hall at 8.45am and again at 2.30pm. These will be recorded and uploaded to the class pages on eSchools for any parent who is unable to attend. We hope you will find the workshops useful and give you more of an insight into how this scheme works across school from Years 2 – 6. Please come to the Junior Hall door and you will be let in.

### **Head Lice**

It is a while since we have had any outbreaks of head lice in school, but it appears that they are also back to normal and out of isolation as well as us! We have had a report of head lice in school but please remember that the key to keeping on top of this is regular checking of your child's hair with the special nit comb that can be purchased very reasonably from any chemists. The School Nurse recommends checking your child's hair at least once a week.

The School Nurse also recommends that we do not report to parents when we have an outbreak in school as checking your child's hair should be done at least weekly regardless of whether we have an outbreak in school or not.

### **Overnight Residential to Birchwood for Year 5**

Please remember that the deadline for the deposits to be paid for this trip is today as we need to confirm numbers at both Cadbury World and the National Space Centre. Thank you.

### **Parking**

As you will be aware from an email earlier in the week, this continues to be an issue. I have been following this up as best I can from home and the police will be having more of a presence in the village. However, I do think this needs to be a complete change in mind set for us rather than reacting when the police do make an appearance.

I have been in touch with the new owner of the Kings Head. He is more than happy for parents to continue to use the car park which is great news. I know parents who park there and say it is so stress free! No rushing around trying to find a space, no irate parents around and then a lovely 5 minute walk with their child too. Please consider this as a serious option.

In addition, one parent has suggested that we have a group of volunteer parents who act as parking marshals at key times. This is something I will have to look into with the police, but if you would be interested in helping with this, please email the school office and we will be in touch.

You may have seen the news recently where a child has been seriously hurt after being hit by a vehicle outside school. I do not want this to be any of our children and we all need to work together to make sure it isn't!

### **After School Club**

Acting on comments in the end of year parental questionnaire, we have reviewed our provision at our after school club. We are going to have a focus for each night at after school club, offering children a range of activities. The themes for each of the nights are:

**Monday:** Movement Monday

**Tuesday:** Board Games and Jigsaws

**Wednesday:** Art and Crafts

**Thursday:** Construction

**Friday:** Film Friday

## **Secondary School Open Evenings for Year 6 Families**

A number of schools have been in touch with us recently asking us to advertise their open evenings. Consett Academy, which is our feeder school was this week and on last weeks' newsletter.

Please find below the other local ones that we are aware of:

### **Tanfield School:**

Small Group Tours - Evening tours on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September and Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October 5-7pm and Day Tours: Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October and Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October. Please book your place on the form – the link is below:  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeCqSghR1iuKRRqOnSRfAWY5d5CIOV4iwEWiLxqWpGNo6SPgQ/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeCqSghR1iuKRRqOnSRfAWY5d5CIOV4iwEWiLxqWpGNo6SPgQ/viewform?usp=sf_link)

### **St Bede's School:**

Theirs is a virtual open evening which takes place on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October from 5.30 – 7.30pm.

## **Open The Book Volunteers**

There is a great organisation called 'Open the Book' who go into schools telling and acting out different Bible Stories. We have had them in school prior to Covid and they are looking to start up again. However, they need more volunteers and asked that we send out a plea in our weekly letter. If this interests any of our parents or grandparents, please contact Kath Jones on: 07704160449 or by email on: [kathfamiliesnwdc@gmail.com](mailto:kathfamiliesnwdc@gmail.com) Thank you.

## **Open Morning for Reception 2022 Starters – Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> November between 10am and 12 noon. Please come along, meet some of the keys 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!

## **Dogs on School Site**

Please remember that Lanchester EP Primary School has a no dogs on school grounds policy, in line with Durham County Council. The only dogs that are allowed on school grounds are assistance dogs, or dogs who are visiting for educational purposes. This policy covers all council spaces. This is to protect all people on school grounds.

Please do not bring your dog onto school grounds, whether they are well-behaved, on a lead or being carried in your arms. If you do need to bring your dog and tie it up outside the school grounds that you don't tie them up directly by an entrance or exit point, as this can be quite intimidating for those who are scared of dogs, or who may have allergies. We just want our school to be as safe as possible for all our pupils. Thank you for your understanding.

## **Early Years News**

### **Nursery**

Wellingtons - please provide wellies for the children in Nursery. This is really important as the children are outdoors every day and the weather is starting to change.

If anyone has any small world toys they no longer want or use, we would really appreciate them. Dinosaurs, bugs, farm objects, cars, animals, fire/police stations – we would love them all! We would also appreciate any old curtains or blankets for den building. Thank you!

We would also like to thank you all for being so patient during the first few weeks of visits. As a result, the children have all settled brilliantly and we really do have a lovely, happy Nursery full of wonderful children!

### **Reception**

Reception children will be bringing home a book this week. Initially, children will be having wordless books. Please read the accompanying note with the book to explain why we are sending wordless books to share. We would love you to let us know via Evidence Me if your child has engaged with the book. We are making great progress with phonics and will very soon be sending home a phonic reader in addition to the wordless books. Your child is reading every day in their phonics lesson and throughout the school day, so we would like them just to enjoy sharing a book with you in these early stages of their reading journey. Thank you for your support.

We still have a number of children who do not have wellies in school. Please supply a named pair for them to keep in school. Alternatively, choose some from the Nursery fence for them to use and let a member of staff know so they can be stored where your child can easily access them.

All children in Nursery and Reception should now have a copy of our sponsored Treasure Hunt sheet. Please ask your child's teacher if you have not received one.

### **Positive Thinking**

***Never regret a day in your life...  
Good days give happiness, Bad days give experience,  
Worst days give lessons, and best days give memories.***

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