



LANCHESTER E.P. (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



Weekly Bulletin 2: Friday 15th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been quite a week again. Who could have predicted issues with our heating on top of everything else we are currently dealing with?! However, it was quite fortunate that it was also the same day that we had our heaviest snowfall for some time... I am sorry for the inconvenience caused but obviously it is just too cold for any child to sit in a school building with no heating.

After two weeks of home schooling, I hope the Zoom lessons and timetables are supporting both you and your child to have a typical school day routine. I try to sit in on as many lessons as possible during the week and it was a real privilege to be part of 7 lessons yesterday whilst the school was closed! I have to say that I felt exceptionally proud of both the children, yourselves and the staff. I do think the staff are doing a superb job, given the challenging circumstances. However, I was also super-impressed with the enthusiasm and concentration of the children on their Zoom calls. With around 90% attendance on these calls, it does make such a difference to the work they produce. I cannot thank you enough for the support given to your children too – the younger the child, the more support they inevitably need and I know you are all doing your utmost to be able to do this.

Nursery Provision

We have been waiting for more guidelines and advice about provision for our Nursery children and finally received this yesterday. We have reviewed and updated our risk assessment again and our Nursery will remain open for key worker and vulnerable children only, in line with the rest of the school. For the remainder of the children, remote activities will still be uploaded to Evidence Me on a daily basis for the children to complete.

Key Worker and Vulnerable Children Places

I am sure that many of you will have seen the news about the increased uptake for places in school nationally and issues with schools and parents coming head-to-head over the allocation of places. I just wanted to say how much I really appreciate your wonderfully sensible and level-headed approach to this. Whilst I realise how tough you are finding it working from home whilst supporting your children, I also know that if you can keep your child at home, you are doing just that and I do not feel that we have any parents who are 'stretching' the rules in order to be given a place. I really do appreciate this as it is helping to keep the whole school community safe – the children, staff, parents and local community. Thank you each and every one of you for playing your part.

Staffing

I am delighted to tell you that (at the time of writing!), all of our staff have now either come out of isolation or recovered from coronavirus. Since the start of term we have had a number of cases amongst our staff causing a few challenges for us all. However, most importantly, they have all now totally recovered and are really looking forward to getting back to work and some normality.

I also know that there are a number of parents who are currently isolating or who have tested positive. Our thoughts are with you all and we are here to support you and your children in whatever way we can.

Uploading Children's Work to eSchools

Can I remind parents that the best way to send the children's work to the class teacher is via the homework section on eSchools. Once the children have finished their tasks, we would be extremely grateful if you (or your child) could take a photograph of it using a mobile phone. This photograph can then be easily uploaded directly in your child's homework area. Uploading work this way helps the staff mark the work and provide feedback. Thank you.

Early Years News

Thank you for your feedback about Evidence Me. It really helps us to know what works for you and the children. We are now trying to release our observations all together as close to 9am as possible so that you can plan when to do activities to fit in with your home life.

For Reception, our Monday-Thursday Zoom sessions are now on a recurring Zoom link to make it easier for your child to access. We have had some issues with people uploading and playing back videos and will continue to look for solutions to these problems. If you have any further comments or suggestions, please do feel that you can email us to let us know.

Please let us know if there are activities your child enjoys or if they have any difficulties with the tasks we are setting. We understand that this is a challenging situation and it is far from ideal, but we want to try to give your child the best possible experience that we can do in the circumstances.

Positive Thinking

Please take the time to read this – when I saw it, I just thought of all parents at home, struggling with home-schooling. It is definitely worth a careful read...

I went for a walk in the snow the other day and behind me I pulled a sledge. My children were insistent they could walk, that they didn't need the sled, however I pulled it anyway.

And initially, they had boundless energy. They ran through the snow, laughed and chased each other and their laughter was musical.

And even though they didn't seem to need it, I still pulled the sledge. It felt light and it wasn't that hard to pull.

After we walked a bit longer, one of my girls tripped and fell. She didn't hurt herself, but she was upset. She climbed in the sledge for a minute and I kept pulling.

But she didn't need it for long, and she hopped back out. I was happy I'd brought the sledge to help her when she needed a break.

By the later part of our walk, they grew tired. With the fatigue came the emotions and the meltdowns began.

Do you want to climb in the sledge? I asked. They both did. And I pulled them.

And sometimes we went downhill and it felt easy.

And sometimes we went up hills and it was heavy and hard, and I was sweating and feeling tired.

And when I was sweating and feeling tired, almost resentful about the weight of them, I would stop, pause and breathe.

And sometimes they climbed out, feeling that they didn't need the sledge again, and would walk a little bit more, explore a bit further.

But they always returned to the sledge. And I always kept pulling it.

This is what parenthood is. *We keep pulling the sledge of support.*

Even when they don't need it, we are there to help them keep going. When they do need it, we pull them through.

There are some days it feels light and all downhill, and pulling them, supporting them feels easy.

There are days it is all uphill and pulling them is so hard, and so exhausting. When we're tired from their weight and from our own fatigue, we pull them.

So Mum and Dad, if your sledge feels heavy today, pause and breathe.

You are working hard. This job isn't easy.

There will be days when they won't need you to pull them, and it will get easier.

You just have to keep pulling the sledge. ♥



As usual, if there is anything at all that you would like to talk about, or that is concerning you, please do not hesitate to contact me at school. We are here to help and will get back to you as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Jane Davis
Head Teacher