



LANCHESTER E.P. (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



Weekly Bulletin 1: Friday 26th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It feels an awful long time since I have been able to write such a positive letter to you all! You may have realised how excited I was on Monday night by the typos in my Daily Davis Update Tweet! I really had no idea what to expect in the Prime Minister's announcement but am just so pleased and relieved that we are opening to all children – I hope you are too! I do think that they are so ready for socialising again, playing with their friends, having a good routine and just being back to some kind of normal. I think we can only hope and pray that none of us ever have to experience another lockdown!

Having said all that, I am sure many of you still have some anxieties about your children returning. Whilst we are all still living with coronavirus in our midst, we do have to be prepared for the fact that there may be a child or adult who tests positive in school, resulting in a bubble having to isolate for a period of time. This, whilst the likelihood is lessening all the time, is still a real possibility. We will be updating our risk assessments next week, deep cleaning the school in preparation for a full return and reverting back to all the systems we had in place during the Autumn term. This includes increased cleaning during the school day, the use of staggered starts and pick-ups and no mixing of bubbles. I will send out detailed reminders of all timings and the organisation in next week's letter though once I have had chance to find, read, internalize and action all the new guidelines.

Please also be reassured that on their return, we will be focusing on your children's emotional well-being and initially just ensuring that they are happy, settled and confident. We realise that some children will be feeling very anxious whilst others will just skip through the doors. We will be ready for them all!

We have a lovely, final week of remote learning planned for the children with both World Maths Day, World Book Day and a non-screen day on Friday to complete what we hope is the final week of remote learning!

I just cannot wait for a week on Monday and I can't stop smiling picturing all those happy, smiling faces racing through those gates! It has been so hard for everyone after finishing last term on such a real high of the Winter Wonderland and Christmas to return to this term of uncertainty and challenge. For the first time in almost a year, there is positivity, real hope and a sense of life returning to some kind of normality.

Wrap Around Care

The link to an online form can be found below as we will be starting our wrap around care from 7.30am until 5.30pm when we fully re-open on Monday 8th March. Please complete this form to book your child into Breakfast Club and After School Club as required. Please remember that the price of After School Club has changed to £4.00 for those staying until 4.30pm and £6.00 for any pupils staying until 5.30pm - all the information about the new timings and pricing is on the link:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=nQP32h_HBU2bplIJ4QL0zqIc1nsZ-itJlwJv4jHiabNUQ0NOVUNCTjU4WkJDMEEzN1I4U0tXTjZXMi4u

Promethean Panels

All classrooms from Years 1 – 6 have now been fitted with Promethean panels over half term. They really do make a big difference to the image for the children and really enhances the teaching and learning. They are a huge, but important investment.

Appointment of Assistant Head Teacher

I am delighted to tell you that Mr Gordon Innes has been appointed as Assistant Head Teacher and he will be joining us after Easter. Mr Innes is currently a senior leader in a First School in Northumberland and I know he will be a great addition to the school leadership team (although Abba doesn't have 5 members does it?!).

We had an exceptionally strong field for this position and interviewed all candidates over two days this week. These interviews should have taken place at the end of March last year but we had to postpone them due to the lockdown so it really is good to have finally been able to make the appointment and have someone in place.

World Maths Day – Wednesday 3rd March

Wednesday is World Maths Day and the children will all be enjoying some additional Maths activities on Wednesday – watch out on your child's eSchools class page and Evidence Me for a wealth of mathematical activities and tasks!

World Book Day – Thursday 4th March

Thursday is World Book Day which we also intend to celebrate again this year. As with World Maths Day, further information can be found on your child's eSchools class page and on Evidence Me. I have every confidence that the children will thoroughly enjoy the activities planned for the day!

Friday 5th March – Non-Screen Day and School Closing at 1pm

Just a reminder that there are no live Zoom lessons on Friday and instead, all work will be non-screen based activities for the children to complete during the day. In addition, the school will close at 1pm to vulnerable and key worker children to allow the school to be deep cleaned and re-organised in preparation for everyone returning to school on the Monday morning.

Remote Learning Feedback

Thank you all very much for your comments and feedback that you completed prior to half term. We really appreciate you taking the time to respond. I think what was obvious from the comments, is that you all have completely differing circumstances with different needs and it is an impossible task to be able to meet the needs of each and every family. However, we are currently trying to further fine tune our remote learning offer in the case of any bubbles needing to isolate in future.

Our governing body carried out some monitoring of our remote learning during the final week of the half term and were very impressed with the children, commenting on their engagement, ability and enjoyment of the lessons which was very good to hear!

New Website

You may have noticed that we have a new homepage for our school website. In order to access eSchools, you still login via this homepage. However, the login button has now moved from the bottom left-hand side of the old website to being positioned at the top of the screen on the new website. You can scan the QR code if you need a short video demonstration of how to access eSchools via our new school website.



Early Years News

In anticipation of welcoming back our EYFS children to Nursery and Reception, in the next few days we will be sending out a form via Evidence Me for you to complete to let us know about your child's current interests and any other information which might help us to settle them back in with us quickly. If there is anything you feel is especially important, then please email your child's teacher directly. Otherwise, you can send the completed form back into school when they return.

We are trying to build up our collection of imaginative play resources as we feel it is vital that the children engage in creative play with their friends after such a long time away from school. We would love you to look in your cupboards to see if you have anything which might add to our dressing up box or home corner equipment. We are looking for resources which will spark the imagination such as scarves, hats, bags, adult shoes, costume jewellery, small jackets, waistcoats etc. We are keen to make a move away from commercial dressing up costumes which can be stereotypical and may not encourage children to use their imagination as freely as possible. We are also always looking out for useful household items to enhance our domestic role play areas too, so if you have pots and pans, kitchen utensils or anything that you think could be useful, (we can make use of most things!) then please let us know.

Nursery Lunches

As it has been such a long time since we had all of our Nursery children in school, we will be sending out the menu link to all Nursery children again – please fill this in for the days that your child stays for lunches. Ideally if you could fill this in by Tuesday evening that would be really helpful. Thank you.

Positive Thinking

***Sometimes, you just have to turn the page to realise
there's more to your book of life than the page you're stuck on.
Don't try to fix what's been broken in the past, let your future create something better.***

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,

Jane Davis

Mrs Jane Davis
Head Teacher