



LANCHESTER E.P. (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



Weekly Bulletin 5 – Friday 11th December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

This year has certainly been an exceptional one - 2020 will go down in history for being the year the world stood still. However, I do feel that for our school community, 'when the world stayed apart, we stayed together.' We have become stronger, more creative and achieved more than I would have ever thought humanly possible back in March. That is thanks to each and every one of you – staff, parents, children, governors, church members and the local community – you have just been exceptional throughout these long 8 months and we have proven that nothing is impossible!

The staff are all exhausted but very happy today! We do hope your children have all enjoyed their time in our Winter Wonderland this week. I have to say that it has been a real privilege to be able to see their little faces each day – their anticipation, amazement, excitement and pure innocence have been plain to see.

I need to say the biggest thank you to each and every single member of staff for making this week possible – the teamwork that has been shown has, as usual, been immense. From the smallest of ideas in a Senior Leadership Meeting, grew this huge project because the staff took the idea on board, ran away with it and allowed it to grow....and grow....and grow! I am sure you can all imagine the hours of planning that has gone into making the dream become a reality. But it has been worth every minute.

I know some parents have commented that they would have loved to have visited this week – believe me – we have talked about this possibility but under the current circumstances, we just felt it was not possible this year. But, I have lost count the number of times I have heard staff say the words 'next year we will....' so they are obviously planning to go bigger and better in 2021! We also have plans to open it up to parents and the local community – watch this space!

Special thanks must go to Eagle International Enterprises for providing their wonderful birds of prey and Adventure Valley for their beautiful reindeer and also to Eden Event Hire from Brampton for their wonderful lighting. They put all the lights up, tree wraps, light canopies and spent hours being asked to do more and more by our Teaching Assistants who want perfection!

Next week, we are welcoming our friends from All Saints Primary School at the start of the week for a visit to the Winter Wonderland. It is lovely to be working more closely with them and we are really looking forward to them joining in the fun!

Then, in true E.P. style, we aim to send out the children with the real meaning of Christmas and Santa's Grotto will magically become a stable and we will enjoy more visits with carol singing around the manger in the stable. A perfect way to finish a very imperfect year!

Final Week of Term

Please remember that during the final week of term we will be attempting to keep all classes as separate as possible to minimise the chance of having to self-isolate over the Christmas period. Parties will be in classes and whilst playtimes and dinnertime will be together, we will be asking children to only play with children from their own classes.

Visit from Tyne Tees Television

We had a visit from Tyne Tees Television this week who are interviewing teachers and fathers about what and how they say to boys about periods, puberty and the menstrual cycle. Mr McLoughlin talked about our approach with our older children and this should be televised next week. We will let you know when it is being shown.

Parking

I have received another complaint about irresponsible parking on the grass verges, especially, alongside Victoria Terrace. All ground is very muddy and soggy at the moment so please avoid parking on any grassed areas as tyre marks are ruining them. Please park considerately and carefully. Thank you.

Government Announcement about Training Day

You will no doubt have read about the government announcement this week stating that schools could have a training day on Friday 18th December so that school leaders do not have to be available for the track and trace system on Christmas Eve. We **will not** be changing our training days for this year and will be closing for the Christmas break on Friday 18th December as planned. Our training days are very carefully planned for specific training needs and it would be inappropriate to change this at the last minute. It would also be unfair to leave working parents without childcare with just over a weeks' notice.

Scholastic Books Online

One of our parents has recently started to work for Scholastic Books and she has set up an online shop so that parents can order online and the school will benefit from commission. The link below will take you to the school's unique online shop where you can browse and pay online. When you choose group delivery at the checkout, your order will be delivered to the organiser for distribution. Please include your child's name on the order page. The end date has been set for 16th December to allow time for delivery before Christmas.

<https://book-parties.scholastic.co.uk/party/lanchester-ep-primary-school>

Congregating on the Footpaths

I know it is really tricky when waiting for the gates to open but can I please ask parents not to arrive too early for your allocated time to come into school. If your time is between 8.45am – 9am, please do not arrive at 8.30am. This just clogs up the pavements. In addition, when you are waiting, please stand to the edge of the footpaths so other parents can still walk up and down the paths and so that they can still maintain social distancing. Thank you very much for your support with this matter.

Friends of the School Shopping

I would like to say a huge thank you to the Friends of the School for all their hard work that went into organising the shopping event for the children. I am sure you will all agree that this is a wonderful experience for our children and I know single parents in particular, really appreciate it. The children love choosing their gifts and have been so excited to take them home! It takes hours of planning, preparation, organising and time so thank you to all the Friends of the School who were responsible for this event.

Christmas Parties

Next week is party week and I know the children look forward to their traditional parties. We are asking all children to come to school in the morning, dressed in their party clothes because we are unable to permit the children to change at lunchtime this year.

Nursery and Reception children have been given a bag and we ask them to fill the bag with some treats they enjoy and they will eat these treats during their party. Children in Year 1 – Year 6 will be provided with food from the school. All parties will finish in time for the end of the school day.

Monday 14th December 2020 – Year 3 Christmas Parties

All Year 3 children are to come to school on Monday, dressed in their party clothes. The parties will take place during the afternoon.

Monday 14th December 2020 – Year 6 Pizza Lunch

Year 6 will enjoy a special day and lunch on Monday as usually they would have travelled to Newcastle to enjoy an Italian meal in a restaurant prior to the pantomime. So, they will be treated to a pizza lunch on Monday instead which I am sure they will enjoy!

Tuesday 15th December 2020 – Northern Stage Theatre Performance

We have signed up to the wonderful digital performance of The Emperor's New Clothes and all children will be watching this in school on Tuesday morning. This is a real treat for us all and I am sure the children will enjoy it!

Tuesday 15th December 2020 – Christmas Dinner

We will all be enjoying Christmas dinner on Tuesday in our bubbles. There will be a lovely party atmosphere in school and the children always enjoy this special lunch.

Tuesday 15th December 2020 – Reception and Year 4 Parties

All Reception and Year 4 children are to come to school on Tuesday, dressed in their party clothes. The parties will take place during the afternoon.

Tuesday 15th December 2020 – Nursery New Starters Visit

We have our new Nursery starters joining us after school on Tuesday 15th December for another visit. We look forward to seeing you all again!

Wednesday 16th December 2020 – Nursery, Year 1 and Year 5 Parties

All Nursery, Year 1 and Year 5 children are to come to school on Wednesday, dressed in their party clothes. The parties for Year 1 and Year 5 will take place during the afternoon and children in Nursery will take part in a variety of games and activities throughout the day.

Wednesday 16th December 2020 – Nursery New Starters Visit

We have our new Nursery starters joining us after school on Wednesday 16th December for another visit. We look forward to seeing you all again!

Wednesday 16th December 2020 – Carols Round the Manger – Reception, Year 2, Year 3 & Year 6

Reception, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 6 will all be visiting the woodland area again to enjoy some Christmas carols and songs around the nativity scene. All children will need wellingtons for the day. Thank you.

Thursday 17th December 2020 – Year 2 and Year 6 Parties

All Year 2 and Year 6 children are to come to school on Wednesday, dressed in their party clothes. The parties for Year 2 and Year 6 will take place during the afternoon.

Thursday 17th December 2020 – Carols Round the Manger – Year 1, Year 4 & Year 5

Year 1, Year 4 and Year 5 will all be visiting the woodland to enjoy Christmas carols and songs around the nativity scene. All children will need wellingtons for the day. Thank you.

Friday 18th December 2020 – Christmas Celebration

All children will enjoy a Zoom Christmas Celebration when our Bethlehem FM interview will be heard! Year 6 and Year 2 are currently recording this very clever rendition of the Christmas story!

LJG Holiday Club

This is taking place on Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday 21st – 23rd December. There are still a few places available for any parents requiring the childcare. Please click on the link below to register:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=nQP32h_HBU2bplIJ4QL0zqlc1nsZ-ijtJlwJv4jHiabNUNUg1ODNLN0xRTkZWVDFSOVUzUFFJRVhKUS4u

Hampers for Families in Need

We are busy putting together some hampers of food for needy families in our school community. If you know of anyone who would benefit from one of these, or feel that you would benefit from one, please email me. I shall keep this confidential – we just want to support any families who are going through a tricky time.

Free School Meals Vouchers – Family Fund Winter Voucher

An email will be sent to all parents who are eligible for free school meals. Please watch out for this email from Monday, as it will contain the information needed to access the vouchers. This email will be sent to the address we have registered on our system so please contact the office today (Friday) if you need to update it.

Messages of Thanks, Hope and Support

Thank you so much for all of your inspirational messages – both for staff and for parents. We have enough messages to continue to post a twitter update every day throughout January which is wonderful! The messages for all the staff are now up on display in school for them all to see – I cannot begin to tell you how much they are all appreciated.

COVID Reminder

If you or your child experiences any of the three following symptoms:

- a new, continuous cough
- loss of taste or smell
- high temperature

you must isolate all people in your household and book a COVID test. Your child will not be able to come into school until you have received a negative test result.

Please inform the office via email (school.office@lanchesterep.net) or via the absence reporting line if your child is going to be absent for this reason and inform us whether it is your child or another family member who has symptoms. It is important we have this information for our daily report to the Department for Education and to give us notice that we may need to prepare to isolate a group of students in the event that your child tests positive.

Again, if your child receives a positive COVID result you must inform school as soon as possible by emailing j.davis@lanchesterep.net with 'Positive COVID Test' in the subject if it is on a weekend, or phoning the school on 01207520436 between 8.30am and 4.30pm during the school day. Thank you.

COVID Symptoms in the Holidays

Whilst we finish for the Christmas break on Friday, it is still important that if your child has a test and tests positive anytime between Friday 18th December and Wednesday 23rd December, you inform me on: j.davis@lanchesterep.net putting Positive COVID Test in the subject line. This is so that we can still liaise with Public Health England and Track and Trace. It is also still important that all parents and carers check their emails up until Thursday 24th December. Thank you.

Positive Thinking

Goals.

There is no telling what you can do when you get inspired by them.

There's no telling what you can do when you believe in them.

And there's no telling what will happen when you act upon them.

Whilst this Christmas is going to be a very different one, I still hope you are all able to have some time to spend with your loved ones and just sit back and relax. On behalf of all the staff and governors at Lanchester E.P. School, I would like to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Very Peaceful and Positive New Year! We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 4th January 2021.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Davis

Mrs Jane Davis
Head Teacher