



LANCHESTER E.P. (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



Weekly Bulletin 1: Friday 16th April 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been so refreshing to be back in school this week at the start of the summer term and be able to let the children play on the school field in the sunshine, even though it has still been rather cold!

It has also been refreshing to be able to begin organising the school trips and residential this week. I really feel as though we have our spark back with a real buzz amongst the children about their work, their trips and the fact that they sense that life is feeling just a little bit more normal – even though it is just ever so slightly!

It is great to see the diary become fuller than it has been for over a year now. We have some wonderful learning planned for the children combined with some exciting trips, extra-curricular activities and residential.

I do find it rather amusing how excited the children have been about having their hair cut too. I have lost count of the number of children who have so excitedly shown us their new hair cut! It is those little things that mean so much to us all, isn't it?! Let's hope we never forget that again!

Staffing Arrangements

Mrs Coyle and Mrs Sant have both been working full-time since Mr Mordue left last year and until we recruited an Assistant Head Teacher. Mr Innes will take up his post of Assistant Head Teacher on Tuesday 4th May and from this date, he will teach in Year 2 and take over responsibility for Mrs Sant's class. Mrs Sant and Mrs Coyle will be sharing responsibility for Mrs Coyle's Year 5 class. Parents and carers of Mrs Sant's and Mrs Coyle's classes have been emailed with further details about this arrangement.

Mrs Burke still remains absent from school so Miss Butler will continue to teach her Year 1 class until further notice. Miss Brown will remain the Nursery teacher for the foreseeable future.

We will shortly be advertising for a 10-hour cleaner. If you are interested in this position, please keep a look out on our website where the post will be advertised.

If you have any questions at all about these staffing arrangements, please just contact me at school.

Reception 2021 New Starters

All of our Reception 2021 new starters should have found out today if they have been successful in gaining a place in the school of their choice. For those children and families starting their school journey with us, we will be in touch shortly with further dates and information about open evenings. We hope you all gained the school of your choice. If you didn't, please just give me a ring and I will happily talk you through your different options. It can be a very stressful time and we want to help you if possible.

Free Fundraising for School – Please Sign Up!

Fundraising for schools has been a lot more difficult over the last couple of years, with a multitude of events having to be cancelled or scaled back due to Covid-19. In order to help combat that, we have registered with easyfundraising. Over 4,000 shops and sites will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself! All you need to do is sign up and remember to use easyfundraising whenever you shop online. It's easy and completely free! These donations really mount up, so please sign up to support us at: https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/lanchestereprimary/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_content=en-n1.

We are also in the process of signing up to other free fundraising sites, so please look out for any information about this in the coming weeks – all the money raised goes straight back in to funding extra-curricular activities for the children.

Tuesday 20th April 2021

Mr Gordon Innes, Assistant Head Teacher, will be in school and will work with his Year 2 class in the afternoon.

Tuesday 20th April 2021 - Above and Beyond

Durham County Council is celebrating World Creativity and Innovation Week next week and we are thrilled that our school is involved in one of the showcase events! Our school will be featuring in the 'Community Spirit' film at 2pm on Tuesday 20th April, 2021 with some of our Winter Wonderland. Click on the link below to access the film and it will also be available on Durham County Council's YouTube page thereafter:

https://durhamcommercialservices.co.uk/education-support/training-and-events/networking-and-conference-events/above-and-beyond/?utm_source=mailpoet&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=above-and-beyond

Wednesday 21st April 2021 – Captain Chemistry with Year 1

Year 1 will enjoy a wonderful Science Day with Captain Chemistry on Wednesday. During the day, the children will learn all about Materials which is their Science topic this half term. I am sure they will enjoy a fabulous day and get a lot out of Captain Chemistry's visit.

Wednesday 21st April 2021 – Robots Day with Year 4

Mr Bailey will be working with both Year 4 classes on Wednesday when they will be enjoying a Robots Day. I am sure they will all enjoy a great day of technology, all based around robots!

Thursday 22nd April 2021 – Captain Chemistry with Reception

I know how much our Reception children will enjoy their session with Captain Chemistry as he demonstrates a wide range of fun experiments and investigations.

Extra-Curricular Activities

I would like to thank all the staff who are very kindly giving up their free time to host so many extra-curricular clubs. You will all receive an email today informing you whether or not your child has been successful in gaining a place. Please bear in mind that there will be a different range of clubs next half-term and any child who has been unsuccessful this half-term in gaining a place, will be prioritised next half-term. The list is below:

Year Group	Extra-Curricular Activity	Activity Leader	Day
Reception	Art & Mindfulness	Miss Martin	Monday
Year 1	Multi Sports	Mr Graham	Monday
Year 1	Music	Mrs Knighton	Wednesday
Year 2	Art	Miss Honan	Monday
Year 2	Multi Sports	Mr Graham	Tuesday
Year 3	Multi Sports	Mr Graham	Wednesday
Year 3	Crafts	Mrs Grayson	Thursday
Year 4	Art	Miss Jackson	Wednesday
Year 4	Netball	Mrs Smith (Netball Coach)	Thursday
Year 5	Eco Rangers	Mrs Startup	Monday
Year 5	School Magazine	Mr Knighton	Wednesday
Year 5	Harry Potter	Mr Keeton	Thursday
Year 6	Netball	Mrs Smith (Netball Coach)	Monday
Year 6	Multi Sports	Mr Taylor	Thursday

Sickness/diarrhoea – 48 Hour Rule

I would just like to remind you all that if your child is sick, for whatever reason, then we have to abide by the 48 hour rule and not allow your child to return to school for 48 hours after the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea. This rule is not ours – it is the guidance of the NHS and must be adhered to in order to avoid germs spreading.

Juice Fund

Once again, we are asking for a small contribution towards our Juice Fund. We will be continuing to enjoy a social time each week in the classroom when we enjoy some juice and healthy snack and some social time to share news. We are asking for £3.50 for this half term and hope that you will contribute on ParentPay. All funds raised through this are used to providing those little extras in each classroom whether it is resources for baking, additional resources for special topics or going towards subsidising visits out or even an ice cream at the end of the term!

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 absent 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.

Residential

Letters have gone out to all parents and carers in KS2 about the forthcoming residential. Please, do not forget the deadlines for deposits which are all listed below. At the moment, it appears to be an absolute bumper ski trip with almost as many going on that as they are to PGL – it is unheard of! It is wonderful that there is so much interest in these residential – the children have waited a long time for them all to happen:

Year 4 – 6 Ski Trip	Friday 16 th at 6pm 2021
Year 3 Overnight Residential to Birdoswald	Monday 26 th April 2021
Year 4 Overnight Residential to Dukeshouse Wood	Monday 26 th April 2021
Year 5 & 6 Residential to PGL, Dalguise	Monday 26 th April 2021

School Book Fair

Our school book party is now open and will run from today, Friday 16th April for 1 week until Friday 23rd April

The following link will take you to the school's unique online shop:

<https://book-parties.scholastic.co.uk/party/donna-godding>. Here you can choose from a great selection of books and crafts – from baby to young adult. All of the books are at a discounted price and many are more than 50% off the RRP. Even better, when you buy from the link above school receives free books too.

It's simple - shop from home, pay from home. Just add your choice to the basket, select group delivery at checkout your books will be delivered to your child at school. Don't forget to add your child's name to the order please! Thank you for your support.

Early Years News

It has been lovely to meet our new starters to Nursery this week. The settling-in process is sometimes a little tricky for our younger children, especially after such a strange year, so please have patience if we have a few wobbles before they are happy and settled with us. As always, please feel that you can talk to us if you have any worries about the process.

We are always looking to develop our outdoor areas and now that Spring is here, our thoughts are turning to developing opportunities for our children to learn about growth and change in the garden. If you have anything that might be of use to us, such as garden tools, plant pots, leftover compost, seeds, plant cuttings or unwanted plants, we would be very grateful of any donations.

Positive Thinking

'It is impossible' said pride.

'It's risky' said experience.

'It's pointless' said reason.

'Give it a try' said the heart.

As usual, if there is anything at all that you would like to talk about, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Davis

Mrs Jane Davis
(Head Teacher)