



LANCHESTER E.P. (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



Friday 3rd September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I do hope your child is feeling a little happier now that they have actually set foot in the school building again. We can never under-estimate the range of emotions they must all go through at the start of the new academic year, especially considering everything they have had to cope with over the last 18 months. Hopefully though, it will not take them long to get back in the routine!

It has been lovely to be able to welcome some of our new Nursery and Reception children too – I am really looking forward to getting to know our new families, parents, carers and children over the next few weeks. It will be good to have those conversations that we would normally have had during the summer term!

Drop Off and Pick Up Times

This has been rather problematic after just a day and has not worked as well as we hoped. New routines are always tricky but we have the additional issues of insufficient parking in the village combined with people not being used to being in large groups for so long.

We have thought about how to improve this and are making some slight changes from next week. Apologies about this but we need to be flexible in order to get the best solution to a tricky issue.

Year 4 Classes (Miss Jackson’s and Mr Keeton’s Classes)

Year 4 children are to enter and leave through the Junior Hall doors. We would like to suggest that parents come down the diagonal path from the main entrance (not through the car park) to drop them off at the Junior Hall Door and then wait for their children on the diagonal path at home time and once their child comes out, leave through the car park.

Field Gates to Open at 8.25am

There has been a lot of congestion on the path around the field gate. To help alleviate this, we will open the field gates at around 8.25am so parents can come onto the bottom yard with their children. This should help to ease congestion on the path outside school. However, it is essential that as soon as the school doors open at 8.30am, you allow your child to enter school on their own, with school staff guiding them to their classrooms.

It will be important that you do not congregate near the building itself. Please allow your child to enter school from the yard and then leave the school grounds promptly.

Please note that parents and carers are not allowed into the school building under any circumstances. School staff will be on the doors and gates to help this run smoothly. However, you are obviously more than welcome to leave your child at the gates as usual.

Please remember that the area around the school often tends to be quieter towards the end of the flexible drop off time. In addition, once our after school clubs all start, this will also help the congestion at the end of the school day too.

Pick up Time

This too was rather chaotic yesterday. We hope that with a whole year group using a different entrance, this should help. However, what we would also like to introduce is areas where parents and carers wait for different year groups.

Year Group	Waiting Area
Year 1 Parents	Wait by the PE Shed
Year 2 Parents	Wait near the whiteboard opposite the Penguin bin
Year 3 Parents	Wait by the white mural on the wall
Year 6 Parents	Wait next to the ball shooter

Hopefully, this will work slightly better. Please be mindful however, that many of us have not been in large crowds for quite some time and therefore we all need to be aware of keeping some personal space around us – however hard that is now there are no rules or regulations.

Thank you for your patience with this – we will get there, even though it may take us a little time!

Parking

Please remember that there are a number of car parks that can be used in the village.

- Social Club Car Park can be used by all parents.
- Parents can also use the Community Centre Car Park for a small charge per year. This is an organisation that does rely on making money to exist but for £25 per year, you are given a car pass and can use the car park at any time. We have bought these for some of our staff to help ease congestion on the surrounding roads.
- Kings Head Car Park. There was an understanding with the previous owners that our parents could use this car park. I would presume parents can continue to park there until further notice.

Healthy Snacks

Children in Early Years and Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2) all receive fresh fruit for a morning snack which is funded by the government. Unfortunately, this scheme finishes when the children join Year 3. Therefore, all children in Key Stage 2 (Years 3 – 6) can bring their own piece of fruit to enjoy on a morning playtime if they wish. Please do not put this in their packed lunch box though as they are stored separately – instead, just pop it in their book bags. Thank you.

PE Uniform

As mentioned earlier this week, Year 5 and Year 6 children are to come to school in their P.E. days, dressed in their P.E. kit with their school jumper. Year 5 have P.E. every Monday and Thursday and Year 6 have P.E. every Tuesday and Thursday.

Years 1 – 4 should bring their P.E. kit in on Monday and leave it in school every week.

Swimming

This half term we are pleased to say that we are once again able to send some of the children swimming. This is something that is really important for the children and we know many of them look forward to it. This half term it will be the turn of Miss Jackson's Year 4 class to swim – they will be swimming on a Thursday morning so will need to come into school with their swimming kits each week. This will change at half term when another class will be having their turn.

Twitter

As we start a new academic year, it is worth remembering that all class teachers will tweet daily about what their class have been learning during the day. This is a great way of you finding out more about what your child has been up to during the day. We have all experienced the frustration of wanting to know all about their school day and hearing the same response when we ask our children what they have been doing today.... 'nothing!' So follow us on Twitter: @LanchesterEP

Weekly Davis Updates on Twitter

It was during the very first lockdown that I started to tweet Daily Davis Updates which then became Weekly Davis Updates once we returned to school. A few parents did ask me last term whether these would continue this year and requested that I continue to post them at the end of a week. Therefore, I will continue to tweet Weekly Davis Updates at the end of every week which will be a mixture of quotes, summaries of school events or something more personal to staff in school.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

These will be starting on Monday 13th September – information will be sent out about these next week.

Meet the Teacher

On Tuesday 14th September we will be holding our Meet the Teacher sessions. These will be over Zoom again, but we do hope to be able to welcome parents into school later in the half term for parents' evenings. Your child's teacher will hold a Zoom meeting at 4.15pm on Tuesday 14th September to introduce themselves and explain your child's classes and routines. Following this meeting, a video welcome will be uploaded to eSchools which will be available for parents and carers to watch at your leisure.

New Covid Guidance and Regulations

Your child MUST attend school unless they are ill.

From 16th August 2021, children under 18 (or double-vaccinated adults) do not need to self-isolate or miss school if a member of their household or a contact, has Covid. Instead, they will need to book a PCR test but can continue coming to school until they get the test result, as long as they have no symptoms.

When should your child not attend school?

If your child develops Covid symptoms at home, they should stay at home and book a PCR test (not a Lateral Flow Test). If your child develops Covid symptoms at school, they will be sent home and you should book them a PCR test. If your child tests positive for Covid they will need to self-isolate. The rest of the household does not need to self-isolate if they are under 18 or fully vaccinated, but they should book a PCR test.

As above, anyone who has no symptoms but has taken a PCR test CAN still attend school whilst waiting for the result. It is not a requirement for children to take a Lateral Flow Test.

Communication with School

It continues to be important that if your child has to go for a PCR test, please inform the school office of this: school.office@lanchesterep.net and it is also essential that you let us know the result when you have this too. Although schools are no longer required to 'Track and Trace' we are still expected to have this information and may be contacted by Public Health to assist them. Thank you.

Positive Thinking

I appreciated all the positive thoughts from you as a community last year so will continue to add my own short quotes at the end of every week. I hope you find them uplifting and thought-provoking.

***Every second brings a fresh beginning.
Every hour holds a new promise.
Every night our dreams can bring hope and
Every day is what you choose to make it.***

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!

Best Wishes,

Jane Davis
Head Teacher