



LANCHESTER E.P. (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



Weekly Bulletin 3 – Friday 27th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a wonderful week in school, watching the children have fun together, play together, share kind thoughts about each other and also, participate in yoga, board games and sports activities together. It has been really heart-warming to see! Let's hope these activities have some lasting impact on them all!

It was great to see so many of you at the Zoom meeting for the new Reception intake for September 2021. It remains so very strange not being able to show you round in person but I do hope that all your questions were answered. If you would like to talk about anything else or ask anything further, please just drop me an email or give me a ring. Please just do not forget the deadline of 15th January 2021 for all applications!

It is going to be another tough few weeks as the North-East enters Tier 3 next week – it is hard for our children with so much of their 'normal' lives being so different. However, let me reassure you that we have some wonderful treats planned for them over the next 3 weeks and their time in school and the build up to Christmas will be truly special. We just have to hope and pray that we don't have any bubbles go into isolation between now and the end of term!

Saturday 28th November at 5.50pm - Lanchester Village Virtual Christmas Lights Switch On

We are absolutely thrilled that we are able to be part of the wonderful switch on of the Christmas lights again this year – even though this will be virtual. Some of our parents, who are members of Lanchester Partnership read in our newsletter how disappointed the Year 6 children were and have organised a very special switching on of the lights which will feature two of our wonderful Year 6 children. Eden and Toby were the two Year 6 children selected by the staff to do this exceptionally special job in an exceptionally different year!

Monday 30th November 2020 – Christmas Dinner Deadline

Please remember this is the last date to get your choice in for the Christmas Dinner on December 15th. If your child usually brings a packed lunch and would like to have a school meal on this day, or your child would like the vegetarian option, please follow the link below and select your child's choice. If your child is usually on school dinners and would like the meat option, please don't send the form back.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=nQP32h_HBU2bplIJ4QL0zqlc1nsZ-ijtJlwJv4jHiabNUQUMwRU1FTEUyQzVZWTdOM1pQVTFEwU0zNi4u

Week Beginning Monday 30th November – Classroom Refurbishment

Work begins on Monday to extend the top room into a new classroom. The original room is being knocked through into a small group room and corridor to create a large, new classroom for Mr Stoker's class. They have managed to cope for a term in a rather confined space due to the work being delayed – for obvious reasons!

The work is scheduled to take three weeks to finish and should be completed by the end of this term. As a result, there will be some minor disruption however to the normal running of the school.

The usual entrance and exit via the hall cannot be used during this time. This means that Year 5 will have to use the doors opposite their classrooms. On a morning, parents will need to follow the one-way system and drop the children at the doors near the main entrance before following the one-way system back out of school. At home time, parents need to wait on the pathway, as normal, the children will come out of the different doors and then be sent along to meet you as you are seen. This should work well – especially after we have experienced the first day of it!

Week Beginning Monday 30th November - Enterprise Week

We are all looking forward to our annual enterprise week when each class is given the task of 'making their money grow.' Each class will be making some products that will then be sold at their Fair on Friday afternoon. There is always some very healthy competition between each of the classes to see who can make the most money too! I am sure you will hear all about what they are making and then hopefully see the finished product this time next week!

Monday 30th November – Forest Schools for Mrs Startup’s Class

Mrs Startup’s class will be enjoying some lessons in the woodland on Monday – whatever the weather! This means that all children will need some strong, outdoor footwear (wellingtons will be ideal) and a warm, waterproof coat. I am sure they will enjoy their learning outdoors for a change!

Monday 30th November – Shoeboxes for the Homeless

We really have been overwhelmed with just how much has been sent in to support the homeless. Year 6 have covered all the shoeboxes with wrapping paper and will help deliver them all on Monday afternoon. Thank you so much for your wonderful support with this!

Tuesday 1st December – Zoom Meeting for January Nursery New Starters at 4.30pm

We are looking forward to meeting all parents and carers of our new starters in Nursery on Tuesday at 4.30pm, even though it will just be virtually! We hope to tell you all a little more about the routines of their school day as well as the starting arrangements. The link for the meeting is below – just click on the link and it will let you enter the meeting on Tuesday at 4.30pm:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74656438216?pwd=N1NiNXVxZTBvMFpQOGFvSzZEWtgdz09>

Wednesday 2nd December – Forest Schools for Mrs Sant’s Class

Mrs Sant’s class will be enjoying some lessons in the woodland on Wednesday – whatever the weather! This means that all children will need some strong, outdoor footwear (wellingtons will be ideal) and a warm, waterproof coat. I am sure they will enjoy their learning outdoors for a change!

Wednesday 2nd December – Wednesday Waves at Lynwood House

The Wednesday Wave aims to reach care home residents and anyone who feels isolated during the current pandemic, connecting people through the simple act of waving. We are participating in this super project from next week and will take a different group of children to Lynwood House every week where we will stand outside and wave, sing and ‘meet’ the residents and hopefully just help to cheer them up a little during these dark days.

We will be taking a group of Reception children for the first ‘wave’ to take place. Watch out for some happy, excited little bodies walking through the village on Wednesday!

Friday 4th December – Christmas Fair

On the afternoon of Friday 4th December, each year group will be holding a mini Christmas Fair in their bubbles. During the fair, the children will take part in some games (name the teddy, treasure map, guess the number of sweets), tombolas, buy juice and hotdogs and also purchase their gift they make during our Enterprise Week.

We have decided that it would be good for the children to bring in their own money for the fair as it is important that they still have the opportunity to handle coins. So, please place a donation in an envelope with your child’s name on the front. The staff will collect them in at the start of the school day and give it back to them in the afternoon so that the children can choose what they would like to spend it on. As we have no change in school, please give your child coins and we would suggest anything from £1 but no more than £5 – this would be more than enough for them to have to spend during the afternoon.

Please note – Nursery children will not take part in the fair as we feel it would be too much for them. Instead, they will have a number of fun, Christmas activities which they will be doing throughout the week. If parents would like to make a donation, please feel free to buy the raffle tickets. Thank you so much!

Emails to Teaching Staff

Obviously, we are all using electronic communication more regularly now due to the current constraints on our daily lives. It is really useful being able to email your child’s class teacher, but please remember, that during the day, they will not be able to read or answer any emails as they are teaching the full day. They will read and reply to any emails at the start or end of the school day but it may take a little time for them to get back to you. If you have an urgent message, it is essential that you email the school office on: school.office@lanchesterep.net or just ring the school – 01207 520436. This way, any message can get passed onto the relevant staff.

eTwinning Award

I am delighted to inform you that we are one of only a few schools nationally, who have been awarded the 2020 – 2021 eTwinning Award. This is a great achievement and is in recognition of all the work we have done with our European partners and Erasmus+ projects over the recent years. Thanks must go to Mr McLoughlin for all of his hard work towards this. I do find it quite ironic that we have been awarded it during the year when we are in a world pandemic and travel is just impossible!

Thanks and Hopes Form

The staff were supposed to be oblivious to this request but I wanted to send a reminder to you all in this letter. An email was sent to all parents and carers on Wednesday morning and the link has been copied below as well. Thank you to those who have completed this already – it would be really appreciated if you could take the time out to complete this before Wednesday next week.

Times are tough at the moment and although there does finally appear to be a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel, life is still a bit of a challenge for us all. This week is our well-being week and whilst we have concentrated on the well-being of the children, I do think it is also important to consider the well-being of the wider school community.

Our community spirit all year has been phenomenal and is what has kept so many of us going, kept us cheerful and keeps us smiling.

I would like to ask you all to write on the online form (link is below) two messages of support, hope or thanks - one to the staff in school and one to the parents and community. It could be a message to a particular person, group of people, or to the staff or parents as a whole. It could be a message of thanks, hope, solidarity, a poem, a line from a scripture or a quote - anything at all you would like to say.

I suggest we will leave the form open for a week - until Wednesday next week and then I will create two displays in school:

One will be a board of thanks which I will put in a communal area which will hopefully just brighten up the staff's day when things get tricky or challenging. The staff are always so cheerful, go the extra mile for our children but are human with lots of emotions and all sorts going on in their personal lives at the moment. Yet they all come to school and just do a wonderful job.

The other will be a wall of hope and solidarity for parents and the community - I have not decided where this will go yet - but it will go somewhere so that you can all see it and hopefully it will help to cheer you up as well when the going gets tough for you all. I also intend to tweet one of the messages to parents and the community every morning over the next few weeks.

I hope you are able to find time to be part of this very special project which will be another lasting memory from a very strange and surreal year.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=nQP32h_HBU2bplIJ4QL0zspgHwMT8S9HoKOJAHDz6ThUNE80UDJIQ0M0SziINTRYT05KUKFFMUFZQj4u

Thank you!

Thanks so much to all of you who have kindly offered to make clothes for our dolls in Early Years. We are very lucky to have such a great bunch of talented families supporting us.

If anyone is looking to clear out toys ahead of Christmas, our Early Years children would be especially grateful of toy tools. We have some budding engineers who are desperate to use something to enhance their role play outside!

Christmas Cards

A few children have been asking recently about whether they can send Christmas cards to their friends. We have decided that each bubble will have a Christmas postbox and the children will be able to post their Christmas cards in these boxes. The cards will then stay in school and be distributed every Monday to allow them all to quarantine in the school building. If children want to send cards to children in other bubbles, the staff will post them in the relevant post boxes for them. We just felt that this year, it would be a positive thing for the children to do.

Letter to Santa

In order to help make Christmas as magical as ever during these turbulent times, we have been in touch with Santa's Elves who have agreed that pupils at our school can send letters to Santa via the School Office. If your child would like to write a letter to Santa for guaranteed delivery to the North Pole, the elves have given us an official template letter. If your child fills this in and returns it to school, we will make sure it is posted to the great man himself in time for Christmas. For a £1.00 payment on ParentPay, Santa has agreed to send a personalised response to your child.

If you would like your child to receive a letter from Santa, please make payment on ParentPay and make sure we receive their template letter back into our special Santa post box in the School Office by Friday 4th December. Letters will then be sent to the North Pole and your child should receive a reply from Santa by the end of term.

Reverse Advent Calendar

We are, once again, planning on supporting a cause closer to home. We are organising a 'Reverse Advent Calendar' again, when we ask families to send in an item of food throughout December that can be used in a hamper to support families in need. As a school, we hope to be able to make up a number of Hampers to support those families who are the most in need this Christmas. If you feel you are able to support this worthy cause, please just send in an item of food at any point during the next 3 weeks.

If you know of any family who would benefit from a food hamper this Christmas, please email me - we want these to go to families from our community who are struggling at this time of the year.

Once again, thank you so much for your great support for another very worthy cause.

All Saints Small Saints Christmas Activities

It has been lovely to welcome Revd Lesley Sutherland to lead Worship with us all via Zoom every Tuesday this half term. She continues to do some wonderful things for the community – two of which are advertised below. An Advent Activities pack is available for all children and families in the village – give the vicarage a ring or message Lesley if you would like a pack for your child.

In addition to this, she is organising a wonderful nativity treasure hunt. Posters are hidden in different parts of the village which tell the story of the birth of Jesus, each with a carol to play. If you find every poster, make a note of the carol and claim your treasure from the vicar by answering one final easy question.



Raffle Tickets

Your child should have brought home 5 raffle tickets with them today. The raffle prizes are: £20 Tesco Gift Voucher, Food Hamper, Toiletries Hamper, Toy Hamper, Chocolates, Alcohol and many more prizes. The tickets are £1 each – if you would like to purchase some or all of them, please return them (with your name on) and the cash in the envelope provided. For this, we are only accepting cash due to the issues around returning tickets. We hope you are able to support this raffle – all the proceeds raised will go directly back to supporting some wonderful events your child will be taking part in during the next three weeks.

Wrap Around Care from January 2021

It looks as though we have a lot of need for extended wrap around care from January. We will confirm the exact details of this next week but we will be extending our hours. We thought you would appreciate knowing this in plenty of time so that you can plan your wrap around care at the earliest opportunity.

Monday 21st – Wednesday 23rd December 2020 - LJG Christmas Holiday Club Booking

Reminder that if you require holiday club places for your child over the Christmas holidays, LJG Coaching is running clubs from Monday 21st until Wednesday 23rd December, giving you the perfect opportunity to get that last minute Christmas shopping or wrapping done without any distractions! Please follow the link and fill in the form if you would like a place for your child:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=nQP32h_HBU2bplIJ4QL0zqlc1nsZ-jtJlwJv4jHiabNUNUg1ODNLN0xRTkZWVDFSOVUzUFFJRVhKUS4u

Early Years News

We have had some beautifully decorated pegs coming in for our Christmas trees in EYFS. If your child mislaid their peg or did not bring one home, please ask a member of staff on the door for a replacement.

Thank you for your continued use of Evidence Me. It is great for us to see the learning the children are applying at home as well as in school. Can we ask that if you have a question about something we post, you email your child's teacher rather than asking on Evidence Me? We don't get an alert about your comments as you do when we post something, so sometimes we can miss your questions. We try our best but would hate to miss something important. Thank you.

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 result' in the subject if it is on a weekend, or phoning the school on 01207 520436 between 8.30am and 4.30pm during the school day. Thank you.

Positive Thinking

***Next time you're stressed, take a step back, inhale and laugh.
Remember who you are and why you're here.
You're never given anything in this world that you can't handle.
Be strong, be flexible, love yourself and love others.
Always remember, just keep moving forward.***

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