



LANCHESTER E.P. (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



Weekly Bulletin 2 – Friday 20th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to welcome back Mr Stoker's class today – it seems to have been a long two weeks for them. Sadly, it does seem as though some schools and local areas have been hit quite badly recently. We will just continue to take things a day at a time!

Please remember, if your child does test positive, it is important that you let me know as soon as possible. I will pick up emails at weekends too and it would be very useful if you could put the words 'Positive Covid Test' in the subject title so I know it needs to be dealt with immediately.

I am sure many of you will have seen the Channel 4 Dispatches Documentary this week – it surprised us as much as yourselves when they said our school was in Northumbria! After spending a lot of the weekend ensuring they had everything in place and finalising all the small details, it was surprising that they didn't realise we are actually in County Durham! The day of filming was certainly an experience for us all and it has been very interesting to gain a small glimpse into their world but we are quite happy to just get on with the job in hand now and get through the next few weeks!

If there are issues that adversely affect our school, I will always be prepared to stand up and be counted. I will fight tooth and nail to ensure we can give the children in our school the very best education possible.

Fundraising Events & Collections

We would like to say a huge thank you for your amazing generosity to all of our recent fundraising events. The rainbow collage that we sold in aid of the NHS made a fantastic £789. This has now been paid to 'NHS Charities Together' and I am sure will be very appreciated in these difficult times.

I would like to say another thank you to Josh, who is now in Year 6, who suggested that we donate it to this worthy cause – he should be proud of himself for such a lovely, kind idea.

We made more than ever for our Poppy Appeal raising an incredible £502. This is almost double the amount we have raised in the past so thank you all so much. Obviously it is for an incredibly important cause.

Children in Need Day was enjoyed by us all last Friday – it was rather nice wearing our pyjamas for the day! Again, we raised £484 for this really worthy cause which is more than usual too. Thank you so much for your generosity during these very difficult times!

The final day for our homeless appeal is today and we have been totally blown away by the number of donations we have received. Our meeting room is almost inaccessible because of all the items you have brought in for us. It really is remarkable how our school community can always be counted on to rally together and support those less fortunate than ourselves and I think this is the best demonstration of our school values and the ethos that underpins everything we do in school. Thank you. Our Year 6 children will be sorting and delivering those next week.

Book Fair in School All Week

Next week we have our Travelling Book Fair in school for the week. Obviously, this year, it will operate very differently to how we have had it in the past. Attached to this letter is a brochure and order form – this is just an electronic version of the leaflet that has usually been sent home with the children.

This year, the children will not be able to visit the book fair in their classes or with parents. Instead, each teacher will take a selection of books to their classrooms which are age appropriate for that class and talk

about all the books which are available. All books are included on the brochure/order form which you have all been emailed for you to peruse at your leisure.

The order form then needs to be completed, placed in an envelope with the cash or cheque and brought into school with your child. This needs to be handed over to the teacher or into the school office and the books will then be given to your child. Payment can either be made by cheque or cash or there is also an option to pay over the phone – the school ID is on the order form. However, we would recommend NOT using the gift vouchers as there is no change available with those and you will end up losing money. **Please note we have no money in school since we have moved to being cashless, therefore you MUST send in correct money as we have NO change in school at all.**

School can gain up to 60% in commission from these book fairs so they are a really good way of raising valuable funds for school. We re-stock our class libraries every year with the commission made from these book fairs so thank you for supporting it!

Well-Being Week

We are very aware that the children have had a very strange and difficult few months this year and are conscious that we need to care for their well-being as much as their academic needs. With this in mind, we have decided to hold a creativity week next week when every afternoon, the curriculum will be collapsed and we will concentrate on the children's well-being.

Each year group and class have different activities organised but there will be a mixture of yoga activities, time for games, positivity and activities to help support their self-esteem. I am sure they will come home full of what they have been up to every day!

Monday 23rd November 2020 – Very Final Deadline for School Photographs

Any outstanding photo orders MUST be in by **9.00am** on Monday 23rd November, as this is our final collection for those children who were isolating when the first photographs were taken. Please make sure all orders are sealed securely. Thank you.

Tuesday 24th November at 6pm - Zoom Meeting for Reception 2021 New Starters

We are holding a virtual meeting on Tuesday at 6pm over Zoom. At the meeting you will have the opportunity to meet the key staff members, hear about a typical day in school, our approach to teaching and learning as well as ask any questions you have about our school. If you would like to talk individually, please feel free to ring or email me and we can organise a phone call. Choosing a school for your child is one of the most important decisions you will ever make for your child – we want to help you with that decision as much as we can.

There is a video on our website which gives you a glimpse into our Reception environment – we would recommend you watching that before attending the meeting.

The link for the zoom meeting is below. It will start at 6pm and we look forward to meeting you virtually then! Just copy the link and you will be admitted to the meeting.

<https://zoom.us/j/97863984540?pwd=dnpqWWpqUzBoWVpSalkxUTlxS2oxZz09>

Meeting ID: 978 6398 4540

Passcode: D9XkRv

Thursday 26th November 2020 – Flu Nasal Spray

We will have NHS staff on site on Thursday to deliver the flu vaccine to all families who have signed up for it. Please note – this is all organised by the NHS who hold the list of children receiving the vaccine – we are not privy to this information.

Thursday 26th November 2020 – Deadline to Order Christmas Gifts

The Friends of the School are working very hard to ensure your children have this wonderful opportunity to purchase gifts for their family. Their Christmas Shop has gifts which cost £2 each – just follow the link below to order and pay for them. Once the orders have been placed, the children will be shown the various gifts in school and they can choose which ones they would like for their loved ones. The Friends of the School will then wrap them up and deliver them to school for the children to bring home.

This is so heart-warming to be part of in school. The pure joy and delight in the children's faces as they are choosing their gifts really does show that giving is often far nicer than receiving at this time of the year.

A huge thank you must go to all the Friends of the School who put hours of hard work into organising all of this for our children. Please do not miss the deadline. The link to the form is below:

<https://form.jotform.com/FoLEP/christmas-shop>

Friday 27th November 2020 – Non-Uniform Day for the Christmas Fair

We are asking children to come to school in non-uniform on Friday 27th November in exchange for a gift for the Christmas Fair. This can be anything at all that can be used in the raffle or tombolas. In the past, children have brought in a mixture of gifts such as children's stationery, toiletries, chocolates, children's toys or games, bottles of alcohol or gift sets. Alcohol must be brought to the Office or given to an adult on the gate. We will then quarantine everything over the weekend before sorting it out for the different year group fairs the following week.

Friday 27th November 2020 – Deadline to Order 2021 School Calendars

Our school calendars have proven to be very popular again this year. At a cost of £5 each, they are a lovely keepsake throughout the year of our school. All children have drawn their self-portrait which will be displayed on the month of their birthday. Please log into ParentPay to order one.

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 is usually on 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, please don't send the form back.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=nQP32h_HBU2bplIJ4QL0zqlc1nsZ-ijtJlwJv4jHiabNUQUMwRU1FTEUyQzVZWTdOM1pQVTFEWU0zNi4u

Monday 21st – Wednesday 23rd December 2020 - LIG Holiday Club

If you would like your child to attend Mr Graham's holiday club, please follow the link below for more information and to book.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=nQP32h_HBU2bplIJ4QL0zqlc1nsZ-ijtJlwJv4jHiabNUNUG1ODNLN0xRTkZWVDFSOVUzUFFJRVhKUS4u

Wrap Around Care from January 2021

We are starting to think about what wrap around care will be needed from January. The link below will take you to an online form. Please take the time to complete this form so that we know what your needs are for before and after school care from next term. Thank you.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=nQP32h_HBU2bplIJ4QL0zqlc1nsZ-ijtJlwJv4jHiabNUQ0NOVUNCTjU4WkJDMEEzN1I4U0tXTjZXM4u

Missing Reading Books

We have a few Bug Club Reading Books which are missing. These are books we use for guided reading so it is really important that we have them all in school. Could we ask you all to just check your bookshelves at home in case there are any miscellaneous school books there? Thank you.

Catch Up Premium Funding

I am sure you will have heard that schools have been given some additional funding this year to support children who have 'fallen behind' academically during the lockdown. We are using the additional funding to employ Mrs Riddell to work three mornings across KS1 and Mrs Tate to work three afternoons across KS2 to work with many of our children. We do hope that all children will be able to benefit from this over the course of the year.

Clothes for Dolls Clothes Needed

Our EYFS children are very much enjoying caring for the dolls in our home corner areas. Sadly, we are very short on warm clothing for the poor dolls! If anyone in your family might like to knit or crochet some simple clothes for us, we would be very happy to supply the wool. Please let Miss Butler in Nursery know if you might be able to help.

Early Years News

Your child should have brought home their peg ready to decorate for our Christmas Tree. It would be great if these could come back into school by the beginning of December so that the children can put them on the tree in school. If you are unsure what to do with the peg there are a few ideas on Evidence Me.

Can we please remind parents that your child's clothing and shoes need to be clearly labelled with their name? This includes coats, hats and gloves. We try very hard to help the children look after their clothing, but it is very difficult if we cannot clearly identify to whom it belongs.

We play outside in all weathers so children should come with warm coats now that the weather is turning colder. If you are in doubt about sending extra layers, please do. It is lovely to be outside but there is nothing worse than feeling chilly!

Could we also ask that you spend a little time with your child encouraging them to put on and fasten their own coats and shoes? We are teaching them to be as independent as they can be, so your support with this is valued!

Positive Thinking

Bearing in mind the wonderful generosity and love shown to so many from our school community in recent weeks and months, I felt this was a very fitting quote to remember:

***Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word,
a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring,
all of which have the potential to turn a life around.***

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