



LANCHESTER E.P. (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



Weekly Bulletin 7 – Friday 16th October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I believe that education is one of the most privileged professions at the moment. Every day we are able to come to work, enjoy seeing those we work with in person rather than virtually (a real luxury in the current climate!) and then welcome the most wonderful, happy and enthusiastic children into the building. I cannot tell you how therapeutic it is to be in our school environment every day and be part of such a wonderful community.

We have one final week before the half-term break. I am sure you can imagine how challenging the last 7 weeks have been but we have got there – almost – and just have one more week before the half term break. I am sure your children will all be ready for a rest, even though there isn't a great deal that they will be able to do! Perhaps you will be able to enjoy some quiet family time in the house, playing board games and reading some good books!

Monday 19th October - Forest Schools for Year 1 - Mr McLoughlin's Class

On Monday, Mr McLoughlin's class will be enjoying some time in our Forest School with Mrs Peters. Children will need warm, outdoor, waterproof clothing and wellingtons. If your child does not have waterproof clothing, please send in an old pair of warm trousers that they can wear and then change out of. They will be spending time outdoors whatever the weather!

Tuesday 20th October - Harvest Festival Worship

Revd Lesley Sutherland will be leading our Harvest Festival Worship on Tuesday morning via Zoom. The whole school will be able to share in this special service which would normally take place in All Saints Church. It will be lovely to see Revd Sutherland again and share Worship with her.

Tuesday 20th & Wednesday 21st October – Parent's Evening 3.45pm – 6pm

As you know, these meetings will take place via Zoom. The link for the meeting will be emailed to you all on Tuesday morning. However, please bear with us as obviously this is the first time we have held parents' evenings in this way.

Can we respectfully ask you not to log into the meeting until 2-3 minutes before your appointment. As Zoom names are often very different to your 'proper' name, it may take a little time to admit parents in the correct order. This is why it is very important not to log on too early! Please also remember that appointments are tightly scheduled so it will be important to try to keep to tight time-scales.

If you would like to speak to myself, please feel free to drop me an email: j.davis@lanchesterep.net and I will get in touch with you as soon as possible.

Wednesday 21st October – Individual Photograph Day

All children will have their photographs taken on this day. Please ensure your child comes to school in full uniform for this to take place. Year 5 & 6 children MUST also come to school in full uniform and bring their P.E. kit to school on this one occasion.

Friday 23rd October – Hallowe'en/Festival of Light Dress Up Day

As a Church of England Controlled School, we have never 'celebrated' Hallowe'en. However, we are very aware that this is a very different year for all of us and we empathise for the children and the lack of any kind of normality for them at the moment.

Therefore, after discussions with Revd Lesley Sutherland we have agreed that this year, we should allow our children to come dressed up on Friday for the day in anticipation of Hallowe'en the following week.

However, we would like to emphasise that this as a festival of light rather than a festival of darkness and all the frightening and disturbing images that are often associated with it.

So, please let your children come to school on Friday dressed either in Fancy Dress Hallowe'en costumes or in some bright, light clothing to help us remember that this is a Festival of Light and that Jesus is the Light of the World.

All Saints' Church – Small Saints Lanchester

All Saints Parish Church has launched a new Facebook page, Small Saints Lanchester, to keep in touch with those who usually come to our Messy Church and to offer a free bookable activity pack each month.

October's pack, which will be available from Sunday 25th October to those who have booked, features a pumpkin for each child and a number of templates for carving. The hope is that we can all put our carved pumpkins outside our homes (or in the windows if the weather is bad), forming a trail of light and hope through Lanchester. Participants will be encouraged to post pictures of their pumpkins on the Small Saints page so that we can all share in the creative imaginations of our children, as well as sharing the good news that Jesus is the light of the world, a light that can never go out.

There will be other family activities in the pack, too, including an indulgent sweet treat that everybody can enjoy and some suggestions about how we can use all of our pumpkins....

If you would like to be part of this, please follow Small Saints Lanchester on Facebook and request a pack for your child.

Year 6 Secondary Place Deadline – Friday 31st October 2020

A reminder for all parents and carers of Year 6 children that the deadline to apply for secondary school places is midnight on 31st October. It is imperative that this deadline is not missed otherwise you really are put at a disadvantage.

Parking

I have been out and about this week, especially near Victoria Terrace (opposite the field gate) and have been quite horrified at the mayhem with the traffic at key times. I have been quite shocked at the haphazard parking (some cars parked on the grass, others parked on the footpath etc) as well as the general lack of respect or care for pedestrians and other drivers. I watched cars having to reverse back onto the main road, the main road at a standstill, a double decker bus trying to get through and cars mounting the pavement, narrowly missing children walking up the footpath.

I feel we have an accident waiting to happen. Dangerous and inconsiderate driving does not help anyone at all.

Once again, I would like to remind all parents that they can park in the Social Club up Newbiggen Lane. I am going to pay for staff to have parking spaces at the local community centre, which will free up additional parking on the main road. Obviously, I realise that staff cars parked on the road during the day (due to the Infant Car Park being out of action) is making the situation worse. Perhaps other parents would like to help the Community Centre out during these tough times and pay £24 per year for membership at the Community Centre and therefore having permission to park there at key times?

Whatever your decision, my plea to you all is to consider primarily, the safety of pedestrians and other drivers and passengers. Thank you in anticipation of your support with this.

Breakfast and After School Club booking after Half Term

Once again, we will be asking you to book in advance for our wrap around care. The link for a form will accompany this letter. Whilst we realise that things change and it is not always possible to know in advance when you need to use wrap around care it is imperative that we know expected numbers as early as possible, especially in the current climate.

Grass Boots Shoe Collection

Thank you for the shoe donations for 'Grass Boots' – it is always when we are involved in projects like this that we see the caring spirit and Christian Ethos that underpins the school community.

Food Bank Collection

Thank you all very much for your very generous donations for the Food Bank Collection. I am delighted to inform you that Lesley and All Saints' Church collected a magnificent total of 1,094 cans of which 142 came from our school.

Menu Choices

Thank you for being so prompt with your responses about the dinner choices for after half term. If you did not get in touch to complete the menu, please note that your child will be expected to bring a packed lunch after the half term holiday.

Early Years (Nursery and Reception) News

Over the past six weeks, we have spent a lot of time across EYFS collecting snapshots of your child's learning to post on Evidence Me. The purpose of Evidence Me in school is to back up our knowledge of where the children are in terms of their skills, knowledge and understanding to help us to plan their next steps in learning.

Now that we feel we know the children well and have built up a good picture of their interests and capabilities, we are going to start to concentrate on taking observations which are more focussed on how the children are moving on in their learning. This may mean that you see fewer observations being put on to the system than you have done in the first few weeks. Please do not worry if this is the case - we are simply prioritising time spent working with your child. We will still be posting regularly, but it may be that we are looking for the 'wow' moments when your child makes a leap in their learning, or making more detailed observations to support us in providing for the needs of your child.

We still welcome all your posts from home and we will continue to share your child's achievements and home learning stories in school.

Remote Learning Policy

Our Remote Learning Policy is now on our school website. This details how we will teach your children remotely if there is ever any need for self-isolation of any bubbles or if the school had to close at any point in the future. Please take some time to read this as it does clearly explain our provision for home learning.

PGL Outdoor Adventure Week for Year 5 & 6

Now is the time of year we normally ask parents and carers of our Year 5 & 6 children for deposits for our residential in the summer term. Many of our Year 6 parents have already signed up and paid most of the balance. However, we are aware that some of our Year 5 parents would also be interested in their child going on this wonderful week.

We go to the centre in Dalguise, Perthshire from Monday 28th June 2021 to Friday 2nd July 2021. During our time there, the children have a choice of a number of activities such as the giant swing, rock climbing, abseiling, canoeing, zip wire, raft building, challenge course, quad bikes and many other activities. The cost of this trip is £385.

We are asking for a deposit to secure a place on this residential but we will not be paying anything to PGL at the moment. However, we need to take deposits from yourselves in order to secure places for the week. This is open on ParentPay and we ask for the first £50 deposit to be paid by Monday 2nd November.

Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

Thank you to anyone who has already left their donations for our 'Homeless Christmas Shoe Box Appeal'. We are very blessed to be part of such a caring community and this shines through when you see just how much people have donated already to this worthwhile cause. For some, Christmas can be a time of isolation and sadness which can be so much worse at Christmas when you don't have a home.

Our Year 6 children are going to put these boxes together in school but we need your help. Instead of filling a whole shoe box, we are asking different year groups to donate different items for us to put in the shoe boxes – please choose one or more of the following items.

Nursery:	Hats, Scarves, Gloves, Socks, Belts, Waterproofs
Reception:	Hats, Scarves, Gloves, Socks, Belts, Waterproofs
Year 1:	Toiletries: Toothbrush, toothpaste, shower gel, shampoo, deodorant, face wipes
Year 2:	Toiletries: Toothbrush, toothpaste, shower gel, shampoo, deodorant, face wipes
Year 3:	Food Items: packet soups, drinks sachets, sweets, chocolate, biscuits, ring-pulled tins
Year 4:	Food Items: packet soups, drinks sachets, sweets, chocolate, biscuits, ring-pulled tins
Year 5:	Cutlery, mugs, flasks, torches, note pads and pens
Year 6:	Cutlery, mugs, flasks, torches, note pads and pens

We obviously also need lots of shoe boxes to fill so please send in any empty shoe boxes. Thank you! The deadline for bringing these items into school is Friday 20th November. Thank you so much for your help for this very worthwhile cause.

Half Term Holiday Club – Monday 26th – Thursday 29th October

Please make sure that any bookings for this club are made by the midday on Friday 23rd October. Places are limited. Thank you.

Karate Club

Please remember that the karate club is taking place in the Community Centre from 4.15pm to 5.15pm every Friday afternoon. The cost for each session is £5.00, with the first session free of charge. Feel free to just turn up on the day – Mr Rayner will be pleased to welcome you. It is currently unable to take place in school so this is the alternative venue until further notice.

Positive Thinking

If you look at what you have in life, you will always have more.

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