



LANCHESTER E.P. (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



Weekly Bulletin 4: Friday 19th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is a year ago this weekend since all schools closed to the majority of children and we entered into lockdown. It was at this time that words like pandemic, furlough, lockdown, social distancing began to drift into regular conversation. Our children have lived through a year of fear, isolation, bereavement and uncertainty and yet a year on, they appear (on the surface) relatively unscathed. Their resilience never ceases to amaze me but that is thanks to parents and carers who have kept them safe, sheltered from some fairly scary news and showered them with love and care.

I also think it is important to remember that our children have also lived through a year of immense positivity. The power of love has shone through so much this year and I think our children have learnt so much about kindness and care more than ever.

After two weeks back at school, it is clear that children thrive from being in school and being with each other. However, we are also re-teaching them respect, tolerance and patience as we are definitely dealing with an increased number of children falling out with each other as they learn how to socialise and just play and be with each other again!

We now seem to have a summer to look forward to and an element of normality beginning to creep back into our lives. I expect all the same systems to remain in place after the Easter break, but will communicate with you towards the end of the Easter holidays to confirm this. Please don't forget that we break up next Friday on 26th March for 2 weeks and return to school on Monday 12th April. Lots of local authorities have different Easter holidays this year so it is important to remember when ours are!

Parents' Evenings – Tuesday 23rd March and Wednesday 24th March - 3.40 – 6pm

I hope you have managed to make your appointment to talk to your child's class teacher next week. Please remember that we will be talking less about the academic progress of your child and more about how well they have settled back into their school routine and their emotional well-being. You will also be able to share with us how they managed being home-schooled!

Nursery New Starters Visit – Thursday 25th March - 3.30pm – 4.30pm

Our new starters for Nursery will be visiting on Thursday between 3.30 and 4.30pm in preparation for them starting after the Easter break. Please come to the Nursery entrance where staff will greet you. We are sure your children will thoroughly enjoy exploring the area!

Scholastic Book Fair Cancelled

Unfortunately, this has been cancelled for next week and re-arranged for later in the year. Whilst the previous book fair did take place in the Autumn term, the company were unable to deliver this one due to the current restrictions still in place. I am sorry about this as I know all children have their world book day vouchers to spend. I can only suggest you use them at the supermarkets against the cost of a book – there is nowhere else open to use them this year!

Children congregating in the park

We have had reports this week of a large number of our older children meeting in large groups in the park after school. We would appreciate it if parents and carers could remind their children that this is actually breaking the guidelines at the moment and puts our community at increased risk of Covid. We have also spoken to the children about this in school. It really is important that we all continue to follow the rules and this includes our children. Thank you.

Parking opposite Victoria Terrace

Unfortunately, I have received complaints from residents living opposite the green at Victoria Terrace. I am asking you once again to park considerately and not to park on the grass verge. The grass verge is becoming ruined by vehicles pulling up on the edge of it. Can I also ask you just to think carefully about where you do park and be considerate to others? Thank you.

Collection of Year 3 Children

At the end of the school day, can I please ask parents of Mr Stephenson's class to wait at the bottom of the KS2 yard and parents of Mrs Grayson's class to wait at the bottom of the KS1 yard. We just have some slight congestion which we are trying to eradicate! Thank you.

Prince Bishops Bank Savings Club

A number of our children and older siblings started saving with Prince Bishops Bank Savings Club in school some time ago, who are now part of the NE Credit Union. I thought it was worth reminding you all of money you may still have saved with this Bank. If and when you would like to withdraw the money, they can be contacted by email: info@nefirstcu.co.uk or by phoning: 0330 055 3666.

PGL Residential for Years 5 & 6

We still do not know whether this residential will be able to go ahead. As it is booked for 28th June, there is a possibility that it may still take place. I believe there is a government announcement due on Monday 22nd March about school residentials. As soon as we hear anything at all, we will let you all know.

Ski Trip - January 2022

There has been a lot of interest in this trip already. Please remember that the deadline for expressing an interest in this trip and to pay the first deposit is Friday 16th April (the first Friday back after Easter). Due to the increased number of interested children and parents this year, it will be essential to keep to that deadline as I doubt we will be able to add any additional places later in the year as we have sometimes been able to in the past. This is open to current Year 3, 4 & 5 children and the letter is on the website.

Here Comes the Sun Videos

A huge thank you to everyone who has already sent their 'Here Comes the Sun' videos in for our end of term film. You still have one more week to get these recorded but please make sure they are emailed to Mr Bailey no later than 6pm on Wednesday 24th March: m.bailey@lanchesterep.net This weekend will be an ideal time to record them!

Visit of Mr Innes, Assistant Head Teacher

Mr Innes, our new Assistant Head Teacher, visited school this week and met all the children – from a distance! His current school have been unable to release him straight after Easter so he will take up his post on 1st May 2021.

Water Bottles for Children in Years 1 - 6

Please remember to send your child to school with their water bottle every day. It is essential that all children have access to water regularly throughout the day. School water bottles can be purchased from the Office for £2 each – the charge can also be added to ParentPay if you would prefer to pay this way. Thank you.

Easter Worship

Sadly, we are unable to hold our traditional Easter Service in church again this year. However, Revd Sutherland is leading an Easter Service with the children and our Worship is all centred around Easter and the Easter story next week so the children will still have a good idea of the events that took place at Easter.

Easter Egg Decorating Competition – Friday 26th March

On Friday, we plan to finish the term in the traditional way and spend some time in the morning letting children decorate eggs. This year, due to all the issues around transmission of the virus, we are encouraging the children to be more streamlined in their ideas and designs. We would like the children to bring in two hard-boiled eggs on Friday to decorate but that is all. This year, we cannot let the children bring in all the paraphernalia of normal years! So, this year, we will be encouraging the children to paint or colour the eggs or use any resources we have in school already.

We will also have our usual parents competition – all decorated eggs by parents must be shared on Twitter by 2pm on Friday afternoon. The winners will be announced, also on Twitter, at the end of the day.

Easter Egg Hunt

Weather permitting, we will also have an Easter Egg hunt on Friday 26th March. The children have thoroughly enjoyed this in the past and whilst it will obviously take place in their bubbles, I am sure they will still have great fun finding all the eggs!

Easter Egg Raffle

Tickets for our Easter Egg Raffle have been sent home with your child today. If you would like to buy raffle tickets to win some Easter eggs, then please either send the ticket and cash back into school next week with your child, or if you would like to pay via ParentPay instead of sending them back with the cash, for every £1 you spend on Parentpay, we will add a ticket into the raffle for you.

We already have a wonderful array of eggs to raffle and have more coming in next week! All Easter eggs and prizes have been contributed by the school staff and governors. The raffle will be drawn on Friday afternoon in our Achievement Assembly!

Special Surprise

There will also be a special surprise for the children next Friday. The Friends of the School are helping to fund this as they too wanted to welcome the children back! I am sure the children will tell you what it is when they come home next week!

Early Years News

After the Easter holidays, we will be welcoming our Easter intake to Nursery. As Nursery will then be at full capacity, it is important that children are accessing their correct number of hours – either 15 hours or 30 hours. If you require additional wraparound hours, these must be paid for via ParentPay.

In the next few days, we will be sending out an online form for you to complete to confirm your drop-off time and your chosen collection time. This will also apply to children accessing a morning place who are dropped off early to fit in with siblings in school. It is important that you complete the form, even if you have already agreed your drop-off/pick-up times with Nursery staff, so that we have a complete list of times for our records. Thank you for your help with this.

LJG Coaching Holiday Club - Monday March 29th - Thursday April 1st.

As set out in the most recent government guidelines (COVID-19 Response – Spring 2021 guidance), LJG Coaching are allowed to offer:

- Outdoor provision to all children, without restrictions on the purpose for which they may attend
- Indoor provision to:
 - o Vulnerable children and young people
 - o Other children, where provision is considered reasonably necessary to enable their parents/carers to: work, search for work, undertake education or training, attend a medical appointment or address a medical need, attend a support group

As far as possible, all activities will take place outdoors, with as little time spent inside as possible. However, it may be necessary for some activities to take place in the Junior Hall in case of bad weather. For more information, or to book a place for your child, please click [here](#) to be taken to the booking form.

Positive Thinking

***The world is waking up after a long winter.
Easter is a time to celebrate life!***

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