



LANCHESTER E.P. (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



Weekly Bulletin 4 – Friday 4th December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

It really is hard to believe that we just have two weeks left of the Autumn term. It is also hard to cast your minds back to the end of the summer holidays when we were preparing for the whole school to return - we seem to have come such a long way since then!

I would like to thank you all for your wonderful comments of hope, support and thanks. They really are truly inspirational to read. I am tweeting the comments for the parents and community daily and will continue to do this to help you all through the long month of January – we have enough of them to do that which is great! Every single one of them is worth a read. I cannot thank you enough for taking the time out to complete them – the form is still open if you want to add anymore!

Government Announcement for Year 2 and Year 6 Statutory SATs

I am sure many of you will have heard the news this week about Year 2 and Year 6 Statutory Tests. Year 2 tests will be cancelled in 2021 and whilst the Reading and Maths tests will take place for Year 6, the GAPS test (Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling) will be cancelled.

We do agree that this is absolutely the correct decision for our Year 2 children and had hoped the same decision might have been made for our Year 6 cohort. However, it makes no difference at all to our approach to teaching in any year group throughout this academic year.

Mrs Grieve's Final Week

I know that Mrs Grieve is feeling rather emotional as she faces her final week with us. She will certainly miss the children and I know how much we will all miss her. I do think she is looking forward to a quiet few weeks though – it will be the calm after the storm for her I think! We still hope that she will return occasionally next year when life resumes some kind of normality!

Final Week of Term

We have thought very carefully about the final week of term with particular consideration around the Christmas Parties. Obviously, we all need to be more careful than usual to avoid the need to self-isolate over Christmas. None of you want that for your children and none of the adults in school want that to happen to them or the families either! Whilst it is still a possibility that this may happen, I do feel that we need to try to minimise the risk for the whole school community.

So, we have made the decision that where possible (and certainly indoors), all classes will work/play on their own during this final week. Whilst they have to remain as year group bubbles and have lunch and playtimes together, when outside, the children will be encouraged to only play with children from their own classes. In addition, we have made the decision to have the children's parties in their classes rather than the whole year group bubble. This way, we can minimise contact with others as much as possible and minimise the possibility of anyone having to self-isolate.

I also need to ask you all to follow all rules and guidelines very strictly during this time. We want every member of the school community to enjoy their Christmas break and we need to help each other do this by taking extra special care of each other and following all the rules.

Tuesday 8th & Wednesday 9th December – 3.30-4.30pm – Nursery New Starters Visit

We are looking forward to welcoming our new starters to Nursery on Tuesday and Wednesday. Obviously these visits are slightly different to previous years but I know we will end up with the same issue – and that is the children won't want to leave!

Tuesday 8th – Friday 11th December - Winter Wonderland

We have a wonderful week of Winter Wonderland activities next week – the staff have been busy little elves for quite some time preparing everything for this extra special week. Watch out for some wonderful photos on Twitter and hopefully, your child will also tell you all about their special time in the Wonderland!

All children will be spending a considerable length of time outside at the Winter Wonderland Experience and need to be dressed accordingly – ideally in wellingtons for muddy paths, with warm, winter coats and hats and gloves. The timetable is below so that you can see when your child's class will be making their visit.

Tuesday 8th December – Year 3, Nursery & Reception (Mr Osmond's Class)

Wednesday 9th December – Year 4, Nursery & Reception (Miss Martin's Class)

Thursday 10th December – Year 5, Year 1 (Mr McLoughlin's Class) and Year 2 (Mrs Startup's Class)

Friday 11th December – Year 6, Year 1 (Mrs Burke's Class) and Year 2 (Mrs Sant's Class)

I would like to say a huge thank you to The Friends of the School who have helped to fund this event for the children – I am sure your children will all agree that it has been money well spent!

Friday 11th December - Christmas Jumper Day

We are holding our Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 11th December when we ask children to come to school in non-uniform and dressed in the festive spirit. Obviously, they do not necessarily need a Christmas-themed item of clothing – a sparkly hair bobble or piece of tinsel would be absolutely great too! We would appreciate a small donation of £1 which should be sent in with the children please. All money raised at this event will be used to purchase presents for The Salvation Army appeal which supports local families who are living in poverty and whose children would otherwise receive nothing for Christmas.

School Calendars

The last few calendars have now gone on sale. Please email the school office if you would like to order anymore on: school.office@lanchesterep.net They will all be sold on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Christmas Raffle Draw

We have decided to leave the Christmas Raffle Draw until the final Monday of term - Monday 14th December. We will draw the raffle live in our weekly assembly so the children are part of it all. The list of winners will then be emailed to you all for prizes to be collected from the school office (unless the children are able to carry them home!).

After School Club Pick Up

We would like to ask all parents to walk down to the hall door when collecting your children from After School Club. This is simply because it is becoming increasingly dark on an early evening and with parents wearing masks, it is really hard to see you and work out who you all are! Obviously this has safeguarding implications. To ensure we deliver the correct child to the correct parent, we would appreciate you walking all the way down to the hall door. Thank you.

Early Years News

Our EYFS Christmas parties are coming up very soon – 15th December for Reception and 16th December for Nursery. Next week, your child will bring home a bag for their party food. This should be brought back into school with them on their party day with a few party treats for them to enjoy. We find that the children prefer to have something they know that they will enjoy and they are usually very excited to have their party tea with their friends. Please do not send in lots of food as they will still be having their school lunch and snack as usual. We will provide drinks for your child. If your child would like to come into school in their party clothes then they can, but please make sure they are comfortable and that they can still manage to access the toilets/outside play.

We are finding the end of the day in Nursery is unsettling for some of the children as they wait to be collected and we are conscious that we are losing valuable learning time for them when they are collected individually. In order to get the most out of their time with us, we are going to start to prepare the children in groups for their home times at 2:45pm, 3:00pm and 3:30pm.

From next week, we will end each group's session with a story and aim to dismiss them all in groups. It is essential that we know which pickup time you will be arriving for and that this is kept consistent. Staff will not be able to answer the doorbell at different times as they are needed in Nursery to work with the remaining children. This will be especially important moving forward as our numbers will go up in January and we need to keep our correct staff: child ratios in the Nursery.

When you arrive at 2:45pm or 3:00pm, please bypass the queue for the Reception class and queue down the Nursery path until our door is opened. If you have other family members collecting children, please pass this message on as we do not wish to cause offence by not answering the doorbell out of allotted collection times. We hope you understand that we are not being difficult, but are trying to support the children to get the most out of their day with us. Thank you for your support.

Santa is coming to Lanchester!

Santa has found time in his busy schedule to pay a visit to the children of Lanchester. He will be walking around the streets of our village on Saturday afternoon from 1pm with the Lanchester Partnership elves, giving out gifts to the children. Full details of the route and approximate timings are on the Facebook event, just search 'Santa is coming to Lanchester' on Facebook.

Unfortunately, Santa won't be able to talk to the children or stop for photos as he has a very busy schedule (and even Santa has to maintain social distancing!).

All gifts will be wrapped and quarantined before the day and the elves will wear masks and use hand sanitiser regularly. Please help by keeping children within your own garden or on your doorstep; the elves will take gifts to them.

If Santa isn't passing your house please walk to the nearest point on his route, stay in your family group or bubble and maintain social distancing.

The gifts have been provided by Lanchester Parish Council.

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 01207520436 between 8.30am and 4.30pm during the school day. Thank you.

Positive Thinking

When you start to feel like things should have been better this year,

Remember the mountains and valleys that got you here.

They are not accidents and those moments were not in vain.

You are not the same.

You have grown and you are growing.

You are breathing and you are living.

You are wrapped in endless, boundless grace.

And things WILL get better.

There's more to you than yesterday.

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