



LANCHESTER E.P. (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



Weekly Bulletin 1 – Friday 7th September 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to welcome you all back again to school after the long summer break. I hope you have all enjoyed some quality family time and that your children are pleased to be back with us. This first week has gone so quickly! All the children have made a fantastic start to the new school year, especially those who are joining us for the first time, creating such a lovely atmosphere in school. I would like to extend a particularly warm welcome to all our new families in Nursery, Reception and throughout the school. I am sure this is the start of a long, happy and successful journey together.

Please remember that weekly letters will be given to the children every Friday. However, if your child is absent or the letter does not reach you at home, do not worry as all letters are put on our website the day they are given out so please just go to: www.lanchesterep.durham.sch.uk. Copies are also available from outside the Main Office. If we have your email address, letters are also emailed out via the eSchools app each Friday.

Meet the Teacher – Tuesday 11th September at 3.45 pm and 4.30 pm

This has become a regular event and one which is welcomed by many parents. On Tuesday, straight after school, you will have the opportunity to get to know your child's new class teacher a little better as we invite to you to our 'Meet the Teacher' sessions after school. The meetings will last for about 15-20 minutes and take place in the classrooms. The teachers will be sharing information about the timetable and topics for their class, as well as giving you the chance to see your child's classroom and ask any questions you might have. The meetings take place at 3.45 pm and 4.30 pm – that way, if you have children in different classes, you will still be able to meet both of their teachers. We look forward to welcoming you all in school on Tuesday.

Friends of the School Meeting – Tuesday 11th September at 6 pm

Our Friends of the School are an active group of parents who are keen to support the school in many different ways. Last year, they organised a number of different events including a film night for the children, an overnight camp in the school field, ice creams/ice lollies at the end of the school day, refreshments at Sports Day and a second hand uniform stall. This year, they have already held a coffee morning on the very first day back to welcome new parents. They are keen to both raise money to benefit the children in our school as well as support events held in school.

We hope to welcome some new parents to the group with new ideas and suggestions for further activities and events. The meeting is held in school and lasts no longer than an hour. We look forward to seeing you there!

School Twitter Account

We have a very active Twitter account which we use both to send out reminders and messages to parents, but mainly to let you know what your child has been doing during the day. We know how keen you are to know what your child has been doing during the school day and when you ask them, they invariably say, 'nothing!' Now, you can have a very small insight into what is taking place in the classroom on a daily basis and will know exactly what your child does as all teachers will be regularly tweeting! Please follow us at: **@LanchesterEP**

Sickness/Diarrhoea Policy

I would just like to take this opportunity of reminding parents of our policy when children have vomited or had diarrhoea. If your child has had either of these, you **MUST** keep your child away from school for 48 hours. This is for the benefit of all, as I am sure you are aware just how quickly bugs can spread in establishments such as schools. It is also possible that if you send your child back to school too quickly, they can come down with the bug a second time. Please respect this policy which is in place for the benefit of all children and families. I realise that it can be awkward for working parents, but the last thing we want is for a bug to spread across the whole class simply because one child has been sent back to school too early. Thank you for your help in this matter.

Safeguarding in School

Our new 'Safeguarding our Children' policy can be found on our website in the Safeguarding tab in the Parents information section. Keeping our children safe is of paramount importance in school and if we have any concerns at all about a child, it is our duty to make a referral to First Contact. However, if at any time, you or a member of the public have any concerns that a child is being harmed or neglected, you can contact First Contact on 03000 267979. It is important that we work together to ensure the safety of all our children.

PE Kits in School

Part of our uniform policy states that all children need a t-shirt in their team colour. These t-shirts are available from our uniform suppliers. We also request that PE kits are kept in school during the week. Whilst PE lessons are timetabled for certain days, it is possible that this can change and therefore the children need to be prepared for PE every day of the week. Please support us in sending in a PE kit at the beginning of every week. Thank you.

Mobile Phones for Years 5 & 6 and Walking Home Alone

We realise that some children, once they reach Upper KS2 (Years 5&6) do start to walk home alone and bring mobile phones to school with them. Whilst we actively discourage children bringing mobile phones, we do realise that they are useful if they are walking home on their own after school. Any mobile phones must be left at the school office where the children hand them in at the beginning of the school day.

Equally, if you would like your child to walk home on their own, please complete a form stating you are happy for them to do this. Forms are available from the school office or the website. Thank you.

Holidays during Term Time

Following local and national policy, we do not permit holidays during the school term unless it is for exceptional circumstances. Please support us in giving your children the very best education possible by sending your child to school during term time. There are 13 weeks of the year when the children are on holiday from school and can be taken away. Again, thank you very much for your support with this.

Revd Kalus' Departure

I am sure many of you will be aware that Revd Rupert Kalus left the parish during the summer holidays. Revd Kalus worked tirelessly for our school during his time here, leading weekly Worship, holding FROG Club, supporting Y5 children through Holy Communion and he was also a highly valued and respected member of our governing body. He helped shape our school as a church school and was an integral part of our very successful SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspection last December. I will always be very grateful for his valued input into our school.

Photograph Consent Forms

As you are aware, due to new GDPR regulations, we issued new photographic consent forms at the end of last year. Many parents have still not completed the new form and therefore at the moment, your child's photograph cannot be included on twitter. These forms are being sent home with this letter and are also available on the website and from the School Office. If you filled one in before the holidays, you do not need to fill it in again. If you haven't filled one in, please do so, and hand it into school as soon as possible. Thank you.

Dinner Money

Dinner Money is £2.05 per day for all children in Nursery, Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 and this must be paid in advance. If an outstanding amount of £20 is accrued for any child, then you will receive a message stating that your child will have to bring packed lunches unless the debt is cleared. We do not like doing this, but I am sure you understand that we have no other choice.

Breakfast Club and After School Club

Places for these clubs need to be booked in on ParentPay or if that is problematic, please email school.office@lanchesterep.net or phone 01207 520436 to book a place. This must be done so teachers know who is going to after school club after school. These clubs must be paid for in advance. Again, if the debt for either club rises to £20, your child will not be able to attend until the debt is cleared. After School Club, Breakfast Club and Dinner Money can all be paid for via ParentPay - login details can be requested from the office if you have forgotten them or need an account.

After School Clubs

We are extremely fortunate to have a hugely dedicated team of staff who are so willing to give up their own time after school to hold extra-curricular activities for the children. We always review these clubs on a half-termly basis so that we have a wide variety of clubs for all children throughout the year. As always, we listen to parents and try to act upon their comments. We have forms for parents to complete so that we know who is going to which club and they are given to any interested children. Unfortunately, some clubs do have restricted numbers. If we receive more requests than we have places, then the names are just pulled out of a hat. All the clubs for this half term are listed in the table below. Please note that all our after school clubs finish at 4.30 pm and the children will be brought outside onto the top yard when they are finished. Thank you. If you want your child to go to the general after school club after their activity club, please make sure they are booked in via ParentPay so staff know not to take the children out to the top yard at 4.30pm.

	Lunchtime	After School	Year Groups	Adult
Monday	KS2 Choir	---	Years 3 - 6	Mrs Knighton
		Netball	Years 3 & 4	Mrs Grieve Mrs Smith
		Multi Skills	Year 1	Mr Graham
Tuesday	---	Football	Year 2	Mr Graham
Wednesday	Top Trumps	---	Year 5	Mrs Coyle
		Art Club	Year 2	Miss Honan
		Tennis	Year 3	Mr Graham
		Sunderland Football	Year 4	SAFC
Thursday		Digital Leaders	Years 2 -6	Mr Bailey (starting 27/09/18)
		Netball	Years 5&6	Mrs Grieve
Friday	Singing	---	Years 1 & 2	Mrs Knighton
	Eco Rangers	---	Years 2 - 6	Mrs Startup
		Football	Years 5 & 6	Mr Stoker
		Girls Football	Years 3 - 6	Mr Taylor
		Boys Football	Year 3	Mr Stephenson

Foundation Stage News (Nursery and Reception)

A warm welcome to all our new and returning families in Nursery and Reception! The first week back has been a pleasure. It has been wonderful to start to get to know all the little personalities in Foundation Stage. Many thanks to the families who have welcomed us on home visits, which we are sure you will agree, have been a great way to start to build a good home-school relationship.

Some of you have expressed an interest in coming in to Nursery and Reception as a parent helper on a regular or occasional basis. If anyone else thinks they might like to come in to help in a few weeks, once the children are all settled, please let Miss Butler know so we can begin to organise this.

Over the next few weeks, we will be working with the children to find out their strengths and capabilities. We are going to send home part of a document called "What to expect, when?" which can be downloaded in full from https://www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2015/03/4Children_ParentsGuide_2015_WEB.pdf. It would really help us if you could tick the statements which show what your child can do when they are at home. We will be able to use this information to support the assessments we make, which we base on what we see going on in school. If you could return the sheets as soon as possible, that would be very helpful.

Appointment of School Cook

We have a new school cook who has just started with us this week. Mrs Jayne Scott joins our team and I am sure the children will continue to enjoy some delicious home-cooked school dinners!

Post Box Outside Main Office

We now have a post box which is located directly outside the main office for parents to use if they have something to drop off and are in a rush. Please just make sure anything left there is correctly labelled with names and what it is for.

Juice Fund for Years 1 - 6

For a number of years, we have asked for 50p donation per child per week for our Juice Fund. This fund serves two purposes. The first is that it is a way for us to cover some of the additional and increasing costs that we face in order to provide your children with all the treats and 'extras' during the term. The second is that it provides the children with a relaxing 'chill out' session once a week with their class. We intend to provide all children with juice and a biscuit on a Friday afternoon whilst spending time 'chilling' with their peers. All classes will be enjoying some quality time with their peers on a Friday afternoon with a glass of juice and a biscuit. Thank you for supporting us in this way. Please see the attached form.

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 you and your child.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Jane Davis
Head Teacher