



Weekly Bulletin 2 – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I just wanted to thank you all for your continued support in helping to ensure everyone remains as safe as possible. The drop off times for each class are flexible and the children can be dropped off at any time during their 15-minute slot to avoid congestion around the gates and footpaths. There is no need to arrive exactly at the beginning of time slot. However, I would just ask you again not to arrive in school too early to drop off or collect your child (unless you have more than one child to collect). This is when we are starting to have congestion issues that could impact upon social distancing. If you are slightly later than your allocated time – please don't worry – we will look after your child!

### **Parking and Congestion**

The road and pavement by the Field Gate and the Infant Car Park entrances are becoming rather congested at key pick-up and drop-off times. Please remember that you are also able to park in the Social Club and Kings Head car parks with just a short walk to school. It is also important not to congregate on the pavements as it is essential that we try to maintain social distancing in these areas as well. Thank you for your help with this.

### **Year 1 Parents**

There has been congestion around the Infant Car Park, particularly at home time, which is simply due to Year 1 being our biggest year group with 60 children in total - 30 children in each class. This, combined with a small car park, makes it a bit of a challenge! So, from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September we would like Mrs Burke's class to be collected at 3.10pm and Mr McLoughlin's class to be collected at 3.20pm. This way, we can bring one class out at a time and it also means that there are not as many adults around at the same time. I am sorry if this causes an inconvenience to anyone but I think we have to try it in an attempt to ease congestion on the pavement, increase social distancing and keep everyone as safe as possible.

### **Morning Snacks and Cool Milk**

Children in Early Years and KS1 (Years 1 & 2) receive a piece of fruit in the morning – this is a national fruit scheme which is free of charge for all of our youngest children. KS2 children can also bring in a piece of fruit for their morning snack.

Children under the age of 5 receive milk free of charge and after the age of 5 this has to be paid for. If your child is over 5 and you would like them to receive milk, you must register them on [www.coolmilk.com](http://www.coolmilk.com). They will then send you an invoice. It is subsidised and again, the children receive this in a morning. We had recently started to become a plastic free school and ordered the milk in large cartons which was given to the children in individual cups. However, due to the current restrictions, we will be reverting back to individual cartons for each child. This should be starting next week as well.

### **Water Bottles**

Thank you to those parents who have remembered to send water bottles in with their children. It is really important that these are cleaned at home and are sent in every day please! Thank you.

### **Birthday Cakes and Food**

We have had a few people ask us if they can bring a birthday cake in to school for children to celebrate with their friends. Due to the current climate and the number of children we have suffering from various allergies, we have decided that it is safer for us to say no to cakes and treats coming in from home. We will, however, still celebrate your child's birthday and make sure that they feel special when it is their big day.

## **Meet the Teacher**

In last week's letter I said that we would have our Meet the Teacher session over Zoom on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September at 4pm and 4.30pm. However, we have decided to change the format of this and instead, each class teacher will be recording a video and posting it on the website for you to peruse at your leisure. These will be available for you to access from Tuesday and can be found in the 'Parent Information' section on our website and also on your child's eSchools class page. Your child's class teacher and the teaching assistant will introduce themselves, give you a tour of the classroom, explain the routines and timetable and just give you a glimpse into what a typical day for your child looks like. We hope you find these useful. If you have any questions at all after watching the video, please just email your child's class teacher.

## **Early Years News (Nursery and Reception)**

Children in Reception will be bringing home a book to share by the end of next week. Initially, these will be picture books with no words. Please help your child to be excited about sharing these books. They may at first be disappointed that they are not 'reading' as in decoding letters and words, but they will be practising vital skills which will promote their literacy and language skills. Your enthusiasm will help them to get the most out of these books.

For a good explanation of why these books can be so useful, have a look at this article, which we have posted on our Facebook page (Lanchester EP Early Years) <https://childrenslibrarylady.com/why-are-wordless-picture-books-important/> Please ensure that your child has a named book bag in school next week so that they are ready for their first book. They will also have a reading diary in their bag. When you share a book with your child, please add a quick comment to let us know how you and your child got on with the book so we know how to guide them in their next choice.

Thank you for your contributions to Evidence Me so far. We have loved finding out a little bit about what your child enjoys doing out of school. The more we know about your child, the better we can craft the curriculum to match their interests and enthusiasms! Please remember to check your child's Evidence Me account regularly as we do try to respond to your uploads and we will use the platform to send you updates and information about activities you might like to try at home.

We are always on the lookout for items which we can use in our outdoor areas to enhance the children's learning. We always need pans and utensils for our mud kitchen/water areas so think of us before you throw yours away! The children are currently enjoying using pipes and guttering in the water areas, so if anyone knows someone who could source offcuts of these for us, we would be hugely grateful.

## **What to do if your child presents with COVID symptoms**

If your child develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus (COVID-19), they should **STAY AT HOME**. Call school at once and notify us. However, if they develop symptoms at school, they will be sent home.

Anyone with symptoms should stay at home for at least 7 days and book a test. This can be done by calling 119 or through the NHS website: [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus). The rest of the household needs to stay at home for 14 days to self-isolate.

All children attending school will have access to a test if they display symptoms of COVID-19 and are **encouraged to get tested**.

The symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- the loss or change of their sense of taste or smell

Any pupil who develops any of the above symptoms should be tested. There is no need for their households to have a test, unless they are also symptomatic.

Children may feel unwell with a common cold, sore throat, headache or upset stomach. These are not symptoms and therefore a test is not required and self-isolation is not required.

Once the test has been taken, if the test is negative, all isolation ends and the child and the household can return to school and work. Please inform us and send confirmation of the negative test.

If the test is positive, the child remains in isolation alongside their family and the latest government guidance will need to be followed. The social group for that child or staff member will be contacted and we will engage with PHE and Test and Trace.

### **Positive Thinking**

We are all living through some of the toughest times we have had to face. It is essential that we remember to make time to ensure both your well-being and your child's well-being is nurtured effectively. I do feel that Aristotle's words (which we have on display in our meeting room) epitomise our school perfectly:

***Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.***

Keep positive. Keep safe. Keep smiling.

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