

# Lanchester E.P. (Cont.) Primary School

*A Caring Community Where All Can Flourish*



Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is a very strange world we are living in at the moment. World events of this week and month will be History lessons when our children from school have their own children.

It is at times like this that it is going to be even more important than ever to ensure that our wonderful school community continues to thrive. Whilst social contact is limited, social media contact will increase. We will continue to communicate with you daily through Twitter – please follow us: @LanchesterEP

We have been preparing all week for the inevitable fact that the school will be closing and the staff have been busy preparing work and resources for the children to access at home.

**Children of Key Workers** – we are still awaiting information and guidance around this and will be in touch as soon as we know more. However, all work set by class teachers will be the same for those children staying at home and for those children who will still be accessing school.

**Children who are currently Absent from School** – the work packs and books can be collected from school from 12.30pm on Friday. However, if you are unable to do this, please email myself or the school office.

## Early Years Children

Children in EYFS will receive daily video messages via Evidence Me from the staff with ideas for activities they could do and learning challenges. We intend to offer a daily story session and, for Reception children, daily Phonics and Maths sessions. Again, the main vehicle for these will be Evidence Me, to which all parents have access. If possible, we would love you to upload photos or notes to let us know how your child is doing with the activities we set for them. Look out for tips on our Facebook page (Lanchester EP Early Years) and Twitter to support you with uploading evidence to the system.

In addition to the above, we will be giving pointers to activities and resources your child can use to support their learning across the curriculum. We will have ideas for outdoor learning, physical activities, creative activities etc, to encourage your child to experience a rich curriculum as close as possible to the one they receive in school.

All Reception children will be receiving login details for Purple Mash (cross curricular activities) and Oxford Owl (reading activities) plus a pack of handwriting practice sheets and a Tales Toolkit template to support their writing. We will also flag up other useful websites which will allow your child to practise key skills.

### **Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 Children**

We have decided to take a two-pronged approach to this! Obviously, as a school, we are very rich in the digital and on-line resources we have. However, we realise that many households may all be working from home and there may well be more than one child or adult needing to use the iPad or laptop during the day.

All pupils will have a work pack sent home with them tomorrow. If your child is absent from school, please either collect the pack from school from 12.30pm on Friday or contact us if this is an issue. These physical resources are vital in ensuring that ALL children have work which they can access.

In your child's pack there will be a wide range of worksheets, activities and resources that you can use with your children in the coming days and weeks. An exercise book has been provided so that children can complete any of the work that they have been set.

There are also a number of login cards for digital resources and we are busy preparing content that can be shared digitally for pupils to access. We appreciate that not every single child will be able to access all of this, but we have well established digital communication links between school and home and we believe that we have the infrastructure to offer continuous provision for as long as is necessary for the vast majority of our pupils.

At these challenging and unprecedented times we believe that this is an appropriate route to go down, even though we fully appreciate that a small minority of our pupils may not be able to access content in this way. We have chosen platforms and resources that are 'device neutral' so work will be able to be accessed on ANY device with Internet access.

### **eSchools**

From next Monday (23<sup>rd</sup> March) work will be shared using eSchools by all KS1 and KS2 class teachers. This will be accessed using the login button on the homepage of our school website. Children have had this demonstrated to them in class. We will also share instructional videos and crib sheets via Twitter and on the school website in the coming days guiding you through the process of how to access this work.

Work will be uploaded twice each week during normal school term times (by a Sunday evening for the start of the week and by a Tuesday evening for the end of the week). We have suggested a timetable that children can follow each day, but completely understand that with more than one child in many households and with adults working from home that there is a great need for flexibility.

There will be 5 Maths and 5 English activities added each week, along with different topic work and activities that can be accessed throughout the week. Some families may choose and be able to do this over five days each week at regular times, but for others, things may have to be accessed in blocks during the week and at times that are convenient to the family.

There will be no need to print any of this work and all work and resources will be shared in PDF format. This will ensure that everything is fully accessible on any device and that no additional software will be required.

eSchools will give you and your children access to instructions, slideshows, videos, images, questions etc and your children will then complete their work in their exercise books.

When first accessing eSchools your child will see their teachers' 'Class Page'. Each teacher will update this daily with a little message and is a way of maintaining a sense of community within each class. There will still be communication with the school via Twitter and eMail and so any photos etc that are sent may be added (where permission is given) to the Class Page by your child's teacher.

We hope that whenever possible you will view the Class Page with your child on a daily basis. This will give you guidance from the class teacher as to what has been added and as to what is expected from the pupils. We may not be able to physically be together at the moment, but digitally we can still be a class and a school community.

eSchools also has a secure messaging capability. Your child can message their class teacher directly should they need any assistance with their work. Again, we will provide videos and crib sheets as to how to use this facility in the coming days. Please note that your child's class teacher will aim to respond as soon as possible, but this will not be instant and will not be outside of 9am – 4pm Monday – Friday. In these unprecedented times some of our teachers will still be in school and others will be doing the very best for your children in amongst challenging family circumstances of their own. It may therefore even be a day or two before the teacher responds. We do our utmost, but flexibility has and understanding has to be paramount.

There is also a 'Class Discussion' feature on eSchools and this will allow all members of the class (along with the class teacher) to talk together in a group. This feature is again something that we see as being important in creating a sense of togetherness. Please note that all conversations on eSchools are recorded (for the protection of both children and adults).

### **Websites**

In addition to the daily work that is provided on eSchools, we have also given children access to a wide range of other digital resources (all login cards provided). Pupils will have access to Purple Mash, Times Table Rockstars, Busythings and Oxford Owl. For most of these resources it is for you and your children to independently access and explore the wide range of great content available, but sometimes we may direct them to a particular 'topic' activity in Purple Mash for example. Links to login to all of these sites are available on the 'Class Page' for each class. User names and passwords are in the front of the exercise book that all children will be given tomorrow.

### **Learning by Questions**

We will also be utilising the fantastic Learning by Questions (a resource that all KS1 and KS2 children have used in school). This will enable us to deliver 'live lessons' at certain times during week. Learning by Questions can be accessed on any web browser or there is a FREE Learning by Questions app that can be downloaded on Apple and Android devices. When lessons are taking place a 3-digit code will be provided on the 'Class Page' of your child's class. To access the lesson your child will need to do nothing more than simply input this code. Again further information as to how to fully access this content will be shared in the coming days.

You will possibly (probably) be daunted by all of what we are talking about and sharing. You will find though that most pupils will very quickly become confident and independent in using these resources.

Mr Bailey (our Digital Enrichment Leader) is on hand to answer any of your technical queries (please email him at [m.bailey@lanchesterep.net](mailto:m.bailey@lanchesterep.net)) and he will get back to you as soon as possible. We will be utilising our school website and Twitter account to share instructions and to guide you as much as we possibly can.

### **Timetable**

There are some children who need some kind of routine in their lives. A suggested daily timetable is given below – this is only a suggestion so please do not feel obliged to follow it!

<b>Suggested Daily Timetable for Families</b>		
<b>TIME</b>	<b>EVENT</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>
Before 9am	Wake Up!	Eat breakfast, make your bed and get dressed.
9 – 10am	Morning Walk	Family Walk with the dog or Yoga/Steps in the house if it is raining!
10 – 11am	‘Academic’ Time	Complete Maths and English activities set by your teacher in your work pack.
11 – 12pm	‘Creative’ Time	Board Games, Lego, Drawing, Baking, Cooking
12 – 12.30pm	Lunch Time	
12.30 - 1pm	Daily Chores	Clean Kitchen Table and Chairs, all door handles, light switches & desk tops. Clean bathroom, sink and toilet!
1 – 2pm	Quiet Time	Reading, Daily Twitter Challenge, Puzzles
2 – 3.30pm	‘Academic’ Time	Digital Learning Time – access websites & activities set by your teachers
3.30 – 4.30pm	Fresh Air	Bikes, Walk the Dog, Play in the Garden

### **Email Addresses**

Whilst teachers will be in daily contact with their classes through eSchools and can be emailed at any time, please understand that they may not be able to answer immediately and that they may themselves be poorly, caring for relatives, or just completing other work. Email addresses of staff are all below. If you have any technical or log in issues with websites, please contact Mr Bailey: [m.bailey@lanchesterep.net](mailto:m.bailey@lanchesterep.net)

Foundation Stage:

[s.butler@lanchesterep.net](mailto:s.butler@lanchesterep.net)   [s.mcloughlin@lanchesterep.net](mailto:s.mcloughlin@lanchesterep.net)   [g.osmond@lanchesterep.net](mailto:g.osmond@lanchesterep.net)

Year 1:      [i.burke@lanchesterep.net](mailto:i.burke@lanchesterep.net)                      [c.martin@lanchesterep.net](mailto:c.martin@lanchesterep.net)

Year 2:      [h.startup@lanchesterep.net](mailto:h.startup@lanchesterep.net)                      [s.jackson@lanchesterep.net](mailto:s.jackson@lanchesterep.net)

Year 3:      [m.stephenson@lanchesterep.net](mailto:m.stephenson@lanchesterep.net)                      [k.grayson@lanchesterep.net](mailto:k.grayson@lanchesterep.net)

Year 4:      [a.stoker@lanchesterep.net](mailto:a.stoker@lanchesterep.net)                      [c.sant@lanchesterep.net](mailto:c.sant@lanchesterep.net)

Year 5:      [a.knighton@lanchesterep.net](mailto:a.knighton@lanchesterep.net)                      [s.coyle@lanchesterep.net](mailto:s.coyle@lanchesterep.net)

Year 6:      [p.taylor@lanchesterep.net](mailto:p.taylor@lanchesterep.net)                      [t.tate@lanchesterep.net](mailto:t.tate@lanchesterep.net)

Head Teacher:                                      [j.davis@lanchesterep.net](mailto:j.davis@lanchesterep.net)

School Office:                                      [school.office@lanchesterep.net](mailto:school.office@lanchesterep.net)

Business Manager:                                      [j.marklew@lanchesterep.net](mailto:j.marklew@lanchesterep.net)

Never before have all schools in England been closed. These are new and uncharted times for all of us. We have established systems and created what we consider to be the very best possible offer to our pupils at this time. Like anything new though, things will evolve and we will need your feedback.

Things will not be perfect straight away, but we will keep acting on feedback and will be constantly improving. There will be frustrations and uncertainties, but please work 'with us' as you always have done to ensure that the children of Lanchester EP receive the best possible education and range of experiences that are humanly possible at this time.

I do hope that you find all of this work and support helpful. We are all in this together and as a school and village community, we will do whatever we can to help and support you all during these difficult times ahead.

I will continue to communicate with you all with the Daily Davis Update on Twitter! I will also be setting the children daily twitter challenges. These interactions are going to be so crucial as we try to maintain as much normality for our children.

### **Team Work**

I would just like to add my personal thanks to the brilliant staff team we have in school. I constantly tell them how very proud I am of the wonderful team work that is so evident in our school. This has never been quite as obvious as it has been this week. Every single one of them has pulled together, as usual, in a really sterling manner and have not only been there for our children, but also for each other. Special staff for special children.

Please listen to the advice, keep positive, do not lose your sense of humour and just look after yourselves and your loved ones during this very difficult time.

My very best wishes go to you all,

*Jane Davis*

Mrs Jane Davis  
Head Teacher