



Dear Parents,

16th July 2020

This has certainly been a most unusual and unpredictable of school years, ranging from the wonderful and varied achievements in the Autumn and early Spring terms, to the challenges and often uncertainty of the late Spring and Summer terms. What a game of 2 halves!

However, what has remained constant, has been the sense of community and unwavering focus on meeting the needs of the children both in school and at home despite the challenges we have all faced. Earlier in the Year, the children enjoyed a wide range of extra-curricular activities including gardening, radio hub, netball, cross country, football, STEM and Art to name but a few. We had a huge commitment to supporting a range of charities and especially remember Children in Need with a visit from Pudsey himself! The children experienced a number of visits and visitors to enhance their curriculum experience such as the KS1 Beach clean on a windy Sunday morning, a trip Bidston Recycling Centre, a Tudor day, Quarry Bank Mil and let's not forget our annual whole-school Pantomime trip to the Floral Pavilion. Whilst we may not have been able to hold our annual Sports Day, PTA Summer Fair or sadly the Year 6 PGL residential, we can be thankful for the memories and experiences that our children did have earlier in the school year. Photographs will remain on the Gallery section of the school website should your child wish to take a trip down memory lane during the Summer break.

A few important reminders.....

Attendance

Please find below the DfE expectations for pupil attendance from September: -

In March when the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak was increasing, we made clear no parent would be penalised or sanctioned for their child's non-attendance at school.

Now the circumstances have changed and it is vital for all children to return to school to minimise as far as possible the longer-term impact of the pandemic on children's education, wellbeing and wider development.

Missing out on more time in the classroom risks pupils falling further behind. Those with higher overall absence tend to achieve less well in both primary and secondary school. School attendance will therefore be mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term. This means from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including:

- parents' duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age;
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence
- the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct

School Uniform

Children should return in September wearing school uniform, photographs of which can be found on the school website.

Increasing numbers on our school roll over the past few years, and limited cloakroom space means that large, rucksack style bags often end up on the floor of the cloakroom and create a trip hazard. When purchasing a new school bag, it must be a Poulton Lancelyn flat book bag/satchel bag that can fit into each pupil's tray. However, should your child already have a Poulton Lancelyn rucksack that remains durable, these can still be brought to school in the short term until a new bag is needed. Our uniform suppliers have been advised of this important change.

"Uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, nor do they need to be cleaned using methods which are different from normal." Children will return to school in September wearing uniform. Photographs of this can be found on our website. For September 2020, we have introduced a school tracksuit. On PE days, children can either attend school wearing their Poulton Lancelyn tracksuit or bring a PE kit in their pump bag. PE bags will not be stored in school and will return home after each use. Details of PE days will be sent to you in September.

Health and Safety

With increased numbers of pupils returning to school in September, I would like to politely remind all parents and carers to park respectfully and cautiously in the roads surrounding school. Neighbours driveways should not be blocked at any time, parking or pulling up on yellow zig zag lines is not permitted due to the dangers this presents. The corners of Venables Drive/Dibbins Hey must be left clear for pedestrians to cross safely. If children are scooting/cycling to school, please keep them close by as you approach the busiest areas around school. Due to necessary staggered start and finish times for pupils, it is essential that all parents and carers arrive and leave the site and surrounding area promptly.

Communication

During the period of closure, we have been successful at keeping lines of communication open in order to best support children learning at home. 'Helpme' emails have provided pupils and parents with feedback, explanation or support when it has been needed. However, due to the full reopening in September, these emails are no longer necessary and will be deactivated from today. All future correspondence should be emailed to schooloffice@poultonlancelyn.wirral.sch.uk or telephone 0151 334 5021.

The Seesaw online learning platform will stay live and be used to set homework tasks from September. Pupils will be able to upload their tasks and communicate with their teachers regarding homework related issues. Any other concerns or queries must be sent via the school office. Homework will not be set during the Summer break and we request that no activities are uploaded during this time as staff will not be accessing the Platform and the work would therefore remain unchecked. The Trustees and Governors fully support work/life balance for staff so this platform will only be accessed by staff between 8am and 6pm Monday-Friday.

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 1st Sept 2020 – INSET day (school closed to pupils)

Wednesday 2nd Sept 2020 – Pupils Y1-6 return (See transition letters for timings and site map)

Thursday 10th Sept 2020 – Parent/teacher 'Zoom' transition & welcome meetings (information to follow in September)

Monday 14th Sept 2020 – Pupils move to new classrooms

Tuesday 15th Sept 2020 – New F2 starters to begin phased transition

Please view the calendar page on our school website for further dates into the Autumn term.

I thank staff, Governors, pupils and parents for the tireless commitment to keeping our Poulton Lancelyn community thriving during the past year and very much look forward with optimism to September when we will be able to reunite properly again as a school.

Many thanks for the cards, gifts and well wishes that so many of you have sent over the past few months – it is very much appreciated by all of the staff.

Enjoy a restful Summer and see you all soon.

Kind regards

Mrs Arnold