



Ancaster Church of England Primary School

Newsletter 14 – 27th April 2015



Dear Parents and Carers, welcome to Newsletter 14. I'd like to start this message by saying how pleased and relieved I am that the good news is now out and around regarding Ancaster's expansion. Having known this information for a short while, it has been fantastic to be able to discuss the topic freely and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. The general consensus is that this is a wonderful opportunity for the village and future generations. It absolutely breaks my heart to say to children and parents, particularly those that live in the village, that they are unable to join the school due to space constraints; by having an additional classroom, not only will there be the places to meet local demand, but the school can continue to work towards one day being a school with 7 classrooms, eventually allowing for single year group classes. Whilst this may be years away from actually happening, our growth to 6 classes is not and the excitement amongst pupils, parents, staff and governors is certainly being harnessed within school. Thank you so much for all of your comments so far regarding the consultation. **May I remind you that we are holding an Information Evening on tonight 6pm-7.15pm**, led by the Governing Body, where you will be able to discuss plans, see pictures of the new classrooms, see the site where the classrooms will be and also have a glass of wine and nibbles too. I look forward to seeing you there! Have an enjoyable fortnight,
Best Wishes, **Mr Eden.**

Be the Best You Can Be!



Our certificates for achievement were awarded to the following children in our special Friday assembly-well done all;

Class Italy- Max Davies, Brody Ballard.
Class China- Matthew Holmes, Eva Lunn, Erin Taylor and Max Vangasse.
Class Brazil- Mischa Foster, Tyler Rosling
Class Sri Lanka- Oliver Undy and Jessica Blankley
Class Lesotho- Steven Vallance and Jasmine Pellett

In addition to the certificates handed out during worship, we also celebrate the achievements of children in the areas below. The following children have been highlighted for their superb attitude.

Rip roaring Readers- Jasmine Hendry, Lois Taylor, Callum Arnold, Lily-Belle Turner and Ted Duggan.

Team Points

Team point totals for this term so far are;

St. Winifred-111

St. Modwenna-198

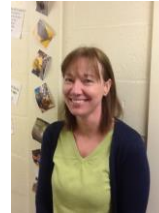
St. Hugh-165

St. Columba-122

Well done to all children for following the Golden Rules and continuing to be the best they can be!

Friendship Achievement Respect
Creativity Honesty

Governor Focus-Sally McDowall (Parent Governor and Chair of Staffing and Finance Committee)



I became a governor in October 2013 mainly because I wanted to give something back to the school! My daughter Lucy (now at secondary school) and my son Jack (Y5) love being at Ancaster and have always received the support they need to achieve their potential. I wanted to help make sure that this was happening for all of the children in our school.

We have two sub-committees on our Governing Body, and I recently became Chair of the Staffing and Finance committee. This group of governors is responsible for agreeing the annual budget drawn up by the Senior Leadership Team, and for monitoring spend against this budget throughout the year. I work mainly from home as a data analyst/programmer, so the skills I use in my job come in very useful here.

There has been a lot for me to learn about school governance in the last 18 months but I can honestly say that it's been a very positive and enjoyable experience so far! I'm really excited about the prospect of having not just one, but **two** new classrooms in September and I hope you will be able to join us this evening at school to look at the plans and discuss further with members of the Governing Body.



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Church School Questionnaire Feedback

Thank you to parents who completed the Church School Questionnaire that was given to parents at the recent Parent Meetings. We now have pleasure in providing the results of your thoughts based on the questions asked. To ensure that we are listening to your feedback and highlighting any areas in which parents are unsure of the current provision in place, we will be contacting you shortly to exemplify these answers further and provide more information. Having recently had a School Effectiveness Officer from the Education board at the Diocese of Lincoln, who are responsible for the Christian churches within the district, it was felt that our efforts in developing our Christian character are having a significant impact on helping to raise standards within the school, for all learners, and we are thrilled to receive this feedback, along with the information provided by yourselves as the parent body.

		Yes	No	Don't Know
1	Are you aware that the school is a Church School?	99%	1%	
2	The school is a caring institution based on clear Christian values.	100%		
3	The school keeps me informed about the Religious Education provided by the school.	79%	11%	10%
4	I am happy with the Religious Education provided by the school.	93%	1%	6%
5	As a parent I feel able to enjoy and participate in the Christian ethos of the school.	84%	3%	13%
6	I am happy with the Collective Worship provided by the school.	93%		7%
7	I have the opportunity to attend acts of Worship (e.g. Class Assemblies, Open Morning)	93%	6%	1%
8	The school has excellent links with the local church, the parish and the clergy.	94%		6%
9	The school has links with the diocese.	67%		33%
10	The school has links with local, national and global communities.	71%	1%	28%
11	I see the school as inclusive where everyone is valued.	98%	1%	1%
12	Taking all of the above into consideration, do you believe that the school is a good Church School?	96%		4%

Staffing Announcement

It is with a very heavy heart, that we must inform you that Miss Manson has decided not to return to Ancaster in September as Class Italy's Class Teacher. Being a teacher is not an easy job and juggling full time responsibilities alongside a small child is incredibly difficult as we are sure many parents are aware. For this reason, and so that she can be the best Mummy to her adorable little chap, she has chosen to concentrate on this very important job and assures us that she will return to the role once the hectic life of bringing up a toddler subsides.

Miss Manson is an exceptional Class Teacher and has settled into the school family beautifully and it will certainly be a shame to see her leave at the end of July. Whilst she is certainly not leaving us anytime soon, we are on the hunt for a highly skilled Foundation Stage teacher to carry on the excellent work that Miss Manson has started. For this reason, we will be holding interviews in school on This week. We will let parents know details of the successful candidate in due course.

PGL Weekend Fun

Last weekend, two of our year 5 pupils attended a weekend of outdoor adventures and fun through our involvement with Inspire+.

Poppy Jennings and Sam Taylor had a brilliant time working alongside pupils from other schools in the Grantham area in a weekend long residential trip.

Having spoken to PGL staff, they have told the school that our children were excellent ambassadors for Ancaster Church of England Primary School. Well done children!

As we continue to build links with PGL, Class 5 (Y6) will be undertaking their residential trip to PGL week commencing the 18th May.



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New Bike Shelters



In partnership with Sustrans, and our involvement with the Bike-It project, the bike sheds are on the move. We want to ensure that any bikes brought into school are kept safe and secure so Dr Bike has secured funding to move the existing bike shelter and double the size by adding another shelter alongside the one we already have. These have been placed behind the library and will mean that children will need to bring their bikes into the school grounds. Please ensure you reinforce our school rule with your child of ensuring they dismount on entry into the school grounds and **walk** their bike to and from the shelter. We need to ensure all children (and adults) do this to maintain the safety of pedestrians using the school grounds at high traffic times of the day. Please remember that the number of children coming to school on wheels has implications for the winners of the 'Whizzy Wheels' award which is handed out in Collective Worship each week. Currently, Class China are the stand out winners-can another class beat their lead?

We would like to invite you to a very special Biker Breakfast in which we will be holding a Grand Opening Ceremony of the new Bike Sheds. All children coming to school on their bikes that day will, not only be able to christen the new sheds, but will also be entered into an exciting prize draw and could win a prize! **The date for this is 5th May from 8.30am.**

Class Lesotho Resources Needed

Class Lesotho are conducting a project and have asked for any donations of the following items; large garden canes, sheets, pegs and rope or twine. Any donations will be greatly received and can be given directly to the Class Teachers. Thank you in advance.

Book Amnesty



We are in the process of beginning to develop our reading resources within school. One of our parents, Mrs Turner, has kindly agreed to go through the books alongside Mrs Dickinson, to ensure that they are of the highest quality and of the interest levels of our children. There may be books that we put to one side for a book sale at a later date and we will also be investing in a wide range of brand new books. Can we please ask that all parents and children send in any books that belong to the school so we are able to see all of our stock and make choices based on what we have and what we need. Also, if you have any high quality books that you have finished using, we would greatly appreciate these in school to see if they can be added to our shelves for the children to enjoy. May we ask that all books are sent in to school as soon as possible. Thank you in advance.

Value of the Term-Trust

As you are aware, as a school we are exploring different values underpinned by the Christian faith to help teach our children about life and the world in which we live. This was hugely successful last term, where we focused on Forgiveness. The children went away and did lots of learning in class as well as at home which was added to our forgiveness tree in the main hall. This term, the tree is bare once again, ready to be adorned with learning celebrating the value of trust. We have already had 3 collective worships on this value and the children are beginning to understand its importance and why we must carefully consider our use of trust in all forms. Please extend this learning within your family home so the children are able to see the home/school links.

Key Stage 2 SATs

Our wonderful Year 6 pupils will be taking their end of Key Stage 2 SATs in the week commencing 11th May. These tests are compulsory and we will not be able to process any applications for leave during this period for Year 6 children. More specific details will follow for parents of children in Year 6.

Please be reminded that Monday 4th May is a National Bank Holiday and school will therefore be closed on this day. We will reopen on Tuesday 5th at the usual times.

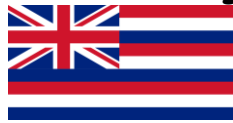


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And Finally...Introducing the new teaching and learning space-Hawaii!



During the Easter holidays, the space previously known as the Practical Area, underwent a transformation to improve the space and ensure that when the children and staff use it, it is conducive to learning and makes everyone feel valued. We are incredibly proud of this space and the children have been thinking of the name for the space, in line with our multicultural theme. With this in mind, it will now be known as Hawaii and the display space and focus will be on promoting this country to the children.



We hope you like this space. The school will be further improved over the next school holidays, with improvements being made to the cloakroom area between Class Sri Lanka and Class Brazil and these two classrooms will also be fully painted over the course of the Summer holidays. This is extremely exciting and along with the new classrooms, marks a new dawn for Ancaster Church of England Primary School.