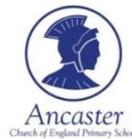




Newsletter 1

11th September 2020



Dear Parents, Carers and members of the community, welcome to the first newsletter of the new academic year. Wow, what a wonderful start to the academic year it has been. After such a turbulent few months of such uncertainty, the pleasure that being open again has brought has allowed for us to feel the true benefits of being back together as a school community once again. A huge thank you to you all for all of your well-wishes, your kind comments and acts of support during the time the school was closed to wider groups, we worked incredibly hard to ensure that everyone connected to us felt included and valued during the lockdown period. Whilst school closed for the summer break, we completed work on our brand-new classroom which is now being used to educate Year 6. As the very first users of the classroom, we are ensuring that they are being the best ambassadors for our newest way of working with single age classes across the school (picture below). We have had essential work completed on a new boiler and heating system throughout the school, new toilets within the Foundation Stage (pictures to follow) and decorating work completed through the summer. All in all, school feels fresh and ready for our new start and the children have responded beautifully to being back together with everyone exhibiting exceptional behaviour! I am so happy to see everyone and I look forward to seeing you all during the morning and evening collection periods. As a reminder, this newsletter is published every 2 weeks, but please do keep checking ParentHub, the school website and our Facebook page to keep up to date with more specific news coming from the school. Best Wishes, *Mr Sam Eden (Headteacher)*

Covid-19 Update

Thank you to everyone for adapting to our new drop off and pick up times. We are pleased in the way that this is working although we do feel that there are a few issues emerging from observations of the first full week. The first group (8.45am drop off) appears to be bigger than any other group indicating that some families are coming to school sooner than they should. We have carefully constructed the planned arrival and departure times to ensure that the footfall at each time is as small as possible. Next week, class based staff will be checking which children are arriving earlier than they should and we will then facilitate a conversation with the identified parents to remind of allocated times. If you are unsure about the time you should be arriving/departing, please contact the school office to ask.

We have noticed that there are parents and children arriving at the gates for around 8.30am. Please note that the gates will not open until 8.45am for the first group of arrivals and arriving any earlier than this encourages people to engage in the social interaction we are trying to avoid.

Please try and stick to one adult dropping off and collecting as we have risk assessed for a certain number of people on site at any one time and more adults dropping and collecting is not in line with our agreed protocols and procedures. If one adult undertakes to collecting/dropping off, the other adult must remain outside of the school property.

Should parents wish to wear a face covering, you are more than welcome to do so as we are unable to guarantee that everyone will always remain 2m apart, particularly during the busiest times.

With this in mind, the rules for socialising with friends and family are changing from next week as set by the government. The new rules, which come into force on Monday, mean that no more than 6 people (of any age) can meet inside or outside for the foreseeable future to help bring down the spike in Covid-19 cases that the country is currently experiencing (this does not affect education-we still expect full attendance). We are relying on all parents and carers to follow the social distancing/meeting rules in place so that we can all play our part in minimising the threat of infection. Clearly, we have all seen the benefits of our school being back open and we want to ensure that everything that happens from here on in helps protect the school from the threat of closure within a local lockdown scenario. Thank you in advance for your support with this-it is clear that the disruption the virus is causing is wearing on us all but it is important that we continue to work together to keep the school open and the children learning with smiles on their faces!

Harvest Festival-changes for 2020



This year, we will be unable to hold Harvest Festival in church as usual and instead will be celebrating this in school and in class. We are still asking for donations to give to the Grantham Passage so that those who need it most in our locality can be helped when they need it.

As is tradition, on the date of our harvest festivals, we have asked you to donate item(s) from a list generated by the passage, or similar, so that they can then be picked up and distributed accordingly. As we are now operating in slightly different times, we will ask that any donations are placed in boxes that will be left outside the school on the date below and we will then ask them to collect reducing the risk of transmission on our site.

The list of items that Grantham Passage have requested this year are; cartons of longlife milk, porridge oats, tinned tomatoes, baked beans, soup, cordial, chocolate bars, cereal bars, cereals, sugar, coffee, biscuits, tinned meat, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, men's socks.

The date for sending in any donations is Tuesday 6th October 2020.

Individual School Photographs 22nd September (AM)

Advance Notice of Date: Individual school photographs will be taken of the children on the date above. We will not be undertaking sibling photographs this year due to Covid-19 and parents can be assured that we will ensure that strict distancing measures are in place alongside hygiene principles and procedures for our visitors whilst the photographs are taken. More information on how photography company are operating in a Covid secure manner will be sent to you from the school office.

Parent Letters from Class Teachers

Each teacher in school has been busy planning their curriculum content and we have pleasure in providing you with a parent letter via ParentHub and paper for those not yet accessing the app. Please ensure that you read these documents as they will give you valuable information and keep you up to date with your child's learning. A copy of these documents will be placed on the school website. Should you require any additional information, please see your child's Class Teacher.

New Class Identities

Please be reminded that the new class countries are as follows;

Reception: Class England

Year 1: Class France

Year 2: Class Morocco

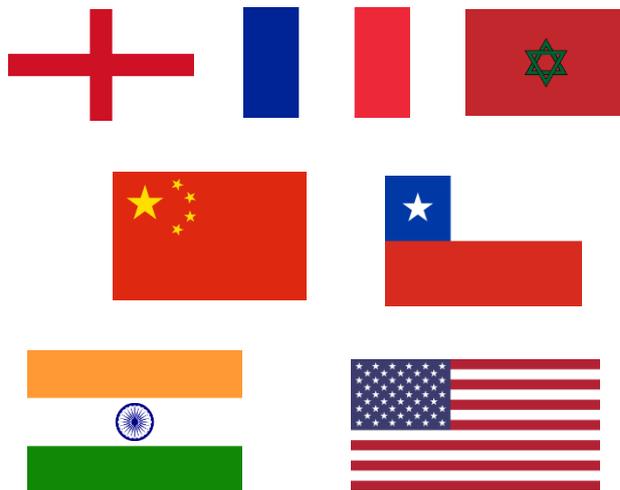
Year 3: Class China

Year 4: Class Chile

Year 5: Class India

Year 6: Class USA

The children loved their Class Identity Day last week and we have seen so much creativity in their learning and play linked to their country. These class names will now not change as they are rooted firmly within the learning outlined in our geography curriculum-



Any additional learning your child undertakes at home can be shared with their Class Teacher who will then celebrate this in class.

Homework



During this time of transition in returning back to school, it is clear to see that the children's stamina and capacity for learning has reduced whilst the full demand of the school day was not in place for the months of lockdown. We want children to be able to come home and rest without the addition of homework for the time being. For this reason, we have decided that formal homework will begin in w/c 28th September. Spellings and reading work will begin sooner as this is smaller chunks of work that the children can do to aid their learning. Please read with your child as often as possible. Ask questions about the book and what is happening and use the reading records to inform the teacher that this has happened.

New Reception Superstars

Well done to our very wonderful new starters in Reception who began with us last week. They have shown huge amounts of resilience and determination returning each day looking incredibly smart in their full school uniform with a smile on their face! Keep up the great work children, we are so lucky to have you as part of our school family!

New School Staff!

We are pleased to welcome new staff members to our team who have settled in brilliantly since school started last week.

Welcome to Miss Barrett, our new Year 4 teacher and Mrs Oleksow, Year 4 Teaching Assistant. Both members of staff have had a great start to term and have enjoyed getting to know the children and staff. We also say hello to Mrs Daubney and Mrs Clint who are both new One to One Support Assistants in school. In addition, we welcome Miss Harding who is training to be a teacher with us this year and is being mentored by Mrs Woods in Year 5.

For some time, Mrs Green, one of our wonderful Higher Level Teaching Assistants has been undertaking a university degree alongside her work with us in school and this year is also training to teach alongside Miss Footitt in Year 6 and will qualify as a teacher next year, which is very exciting.

Finally, although with us last year as a trainee teacher, we are delighted that Miss Wildgoose has joined the teaching team as the teacher of Year 2.

Please join us in welcoming these new members of staff into our school and wishing them all the very best for a wonderful year!

Inhalers in School

If your child needs to have an inhaler during the day it is important that they have one in school at all times. Please ensure that it is labelled with their name and that you have given clear instructions for use to the class teacher and filled out the relevant paperwork at the school office. For those who already have inhalers in school, please check that it has not passed the expiry date. Thank you.

Labelling Clothes



No doubt, your children's school clothes will have cost you money over the Summer break and we cannot stress the importance of labelling each individual item. As a school, we constantly remind pupils to put their belongings away, but most days there are cases of lost jumpers etc. **To ensure that the items of clothing can be returned to pupils as quickly as possible, we would ask that every item that you have bought for your child is labelled clearly. Thank you for your cooperation with this.**

Staff Emails

At the point of lockdown, we relaxed the use of staff email so that parents could easily contact their child's Class Teacher. Now that school is back in full operation, we will now revert to the usual channels of communication in order to communicate with you. We are happy that parents still email teachers if the request is urgent but would appreciate the vast majority of queries to be directed via the school office as per our usual protocols. At Ancaster, we recognise how high communication is on our list of priorities when it comes to ensuring the best educational experiences for our children and find that streamlining communication via the school office ensures that messages are not missed. Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

New Classroom for 2020!



It seems like such a long time ago that we shared with you the first images of what our new classroom would look like. The picture to the right is the finished product which has allowed us to now become a single form entry school meaning that every child is taught in their age group rather than in mixed age classes. We have a saying in school that we are the best school in the universe and it is fair to say that the best school just got even better!