



Newsletter 2

21st October 2020



Dear parents, carers and members of the community, welcome to the latest newsletter, I hope we find you well. I am so incredibly proud of how the children have worked this term-they have shown great resilience and determination in what has been a great start back to school this year. Whilst the threat of Covid-19 exists in everyday life, our children have been able to come back to school and our staff are working meticulously to diagnose any gaps in learning from the previous year and address these at the same time as ensuring that the current year group content is shared, considered and taught. Fundamentally, we work on the basis that children should feel happy, secure and safe in order to learn and our successful return from lockdown has allowed us to consider the needs of all children across the school whilst ensuring they can be the best they can be in all that they do! Looking forward, I hope you all have a wonderful half term break, it is very clear that the children need the break and are ready to rest, relax and recuperate and although there are restrictions once again being placed upon us in different areas, I hope you get the chance to press pause and catch your breath before we return and begin the countdown to Christmas (I cannot quite believe that I have even just written about Christmas already, but I am sure it will be here before we know it). For now, have a wonderful rest of your week and I look forward to seeing you when you are collecting and dropping off each day. Thank you, as always, for your kindness, warmth and consideration at this time when so much is unknown-the support from our parent/carers is most definitely appreciated.

Best Wishes, *Mr Sam Eden (Headteacher)*

Parent Consultations

At this time of year, we begin to arrange the Parent Consultations that take place in November. Due to Covid-19, we are unable to meet with parents and carers face to face and have considered how we might conduct these meetings to ensure the health and safety for all whilst maintaining the high levels of communication that you rightly expect.

We have decided that we will continue to create Pupil Profile sheets detailing how well each child is working within school as well as identifying any next steps to be worked on. These will be sent to parents on Thursday 12th November. You will have the opportunity to have this information prior to communication with your child's Class Teacher as part of the Parent Consultation.

This year, the Parent Consultations will be via a telephone call from the Class Teacher who will focus on how well your child has settled into school this academic year as well as considering all of the information included on the Pupil Profile Sheet that you will have received previously as well as discussing any issues or areas you would like to talk about. Due to only having limited numbers of phone lines in school, we have had to restrict the number of teachers making calls on a given evening. Each teacher will make their phone calls to parents in w/c 16th November and w/c 23rd November as per the timetable below and phone calls will take place between 4-6pm.

Monday (16th/23rd)	Tuesday (17th/24th)	Wednesday (18th/25th)	Thursday (19th/ 26th)
Year 2	Year 4	Year 1	Reception
Year 6	Year 5	Year 3	

When you are sent your Pupil Profile Sheet on 12th November, you will find that you will have been allocated one of the dates above according to which year group your child is in and also a time when this phone call will take place. All we ask is that once you know your information, if the time and date of your proposed scheduled phone call is unsuitable, you let us know and we will work with you to schedule a more convenient time. Please do make every effort though to be able to hold this conversation in the first instance as we want to limit the time the teacher is away from class during the school day as they are working hard to close the gaps that have occurred during the period in which school was closed as a response to the Covid-19 lockdown. All staff are very excited to be able to talk to you all and I know that these conversations will be as fruitful as ever in ensuring that your child is being the best they can be!

Harvest Festival Donations-Thank You!

Earlier this month we asked for any donations that you might feel you could give towards our contribution to the Harvest Festival collection which has been sent to Grantham Passage. We were overwhelmed by your kindness and generosity and you can see below in the photograph that the amount of items we were able to donate as a school will certainly help those who need it during these uncertain times.



Microsoft Teams-Home Learning

Parents need to ensure that they are able to have the provision to log into Microsoft Teams as whenever children need to self-isolate due to Covid-19, staff will be posting learning online using this platform. We will post 4 lessons by 9.30am on the first day of isolation and we will expect that every effort is made to help enable your child to undertake the learning as this will mean that your child will keep up with the learning that is continuing in the classroom whilst they are absent.

Should you foresee any problems accessing Microsoft Teams, please let us know.

All children in Y1-6 were sent their login details last academic year. EYFS pupils were sent their login details in September.

**As we will be setting homework in a different format (See section below on homework), we no longer will be using the exercise books that we earmarked for homework. These will be sent home with your child to keep at home and can be used in the event of a local lockdown/class bubble closure of the need for self-isolation to complete the work set on Microsoft TEAMS.*

Homework

When we return after half term, we will change the way we set homework for children in Years 1-4. We have purchased pre-printed learning books for each year group for children to work through in Maths, Reading and Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar. Year 5 and 6 have been working in these booklets over the last few weeks with great success and we have made the decision to extend this to all other National Curriculum year groups. One of these books will be sent out each week and we will also use them in class when work is not being set at home. Reception will continue to receive the same level of homework as they have been receiving.

End of Term

As we move through this week, we move ever closer to the end of term 1 and into a much needed break for the children and staff who have worked so hard since our return in September. Please note that school closes for half term on Thursday 22nd October at the usual times and will reopen on Monday 2nd November. From all of us at Ancaster, we hope you have a wonderful half term break.

Poppy Appeal



Once again, we are supporting the Royal British Legion by facilitating the annual Poppy Appeal. As with most things, we have to look at how we will undertake this to minimise the spread of Covid-19.

Starting after half term and using the

suggested donations of;

-Zip Pull-50p

-reflector-50p

-Silicon Wristband-£1

-Snap Band-£1.50

Metal Poppy Badge-£1.50

Standard Poppy-any donation

After half term, if you could send your donation into school in an envelope with your child's name and class written on as well as what you would like to purchase-the adults within class will ensure that your child receives what has been requested. Where we sell out of an item, we will ask the child which other item they would like for their donation. Thank you in advance for supporting this very worthwhile cause. The donations will be collected after 11th November.

Successful Reintroduction of Hot School Meals

After completely redesigning lunchtimes to accommodate the return of hot meals, it has been lovely to see the children eating their hot school meals again-the children have just said how much they have missed eating the hot option and can't wait to taste the meals scheduled for the rest of the week. Don't forget, if your child is in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, you are entitled to claim a free meal every day paid for by the Government and we would love to see less lunchboxes and cold options being eaten and more and more children eating hot school meals. Parents of children in Key Stage 2 (years 3-6) can pay for a meal at £2.30 per meal (unless you are entitled to Free School Meals where the meal is provided free of charge). You can book your child's hot meal options by logging onto Good Lookin' Cookin' website and ordering for after half term.