



Newsletter 12 23rd March 2018



Dear Parents, Carers and members of the community, welcome to Newsletter 12. I hope this communication finds you well. How on earth are we already about to break up for the Easter break? This year appears to be flying past, but in a good way as there is so much happening in and around the school. Since the previous newsletter, we have had World Book Day Dress Up, Science Week fun, trips for Class Wales and Thailand, Maths Challenge Days at Sir William Robertson High School, our collaborative partnership schools joined us for the Poetry Slam, a visit from one of our favourite speakers, Sarah Outen and a whole lorry load of wonderful learning. We have also been busy recruiting our new Administrative Assistant and will be in a position to announce the successful applicant after Easter, once the school in which she currently works has had the opportunity to make their parents aware. With only three academic school days to go until we break for Easter, there is still much to do in school and we will use next week to help celebrate Easter and ensure that the Easter story is firmly understood through our creative approaches to learning. We will close on March 28th at usual times and then reopen on Monday 16th April. We hope you have the best holiday and look forward to seeing you all when we return after Easter. Best Wishes, **Mr Sam Eden (Headteacher)**

Parent Consultations April 18th and 19th

We are looking forward to seeing you for the forthcoming Parent Consultations which will take place after the Easter break. These meetings are a statutory requirement and if you are unable to make the official dates, we will ask that you make another appointment to discuss your child's progress, attainment and wellbeing here in school. We take our responsibilities to keep you informed very seriously and you will also receive an updated Pupil Profile sheet to help explain key areas of the meeting. The new booking system has been very well received with great feedback gained to school where parents have felt that the opportunity to make your own slots has meant you can plan accordingly. If you are yet to make your appointment, please come into school at any point to book your slot and we look forward to seeing you.

RHS Level 5



We are thrilled to announce that the school has recently been awarded the highest accolade from the Royal Horticultural Society who recently awarded us 5 star status. This is excellent news considering all of the work we have undertaken in our own grounds, as well as with the train station adoption. This prize also comes with £200 gardening vouchers which Mrs Awcock has already put to good use by transforming the small area outside Class Peru. Please join us in thanking Mrs Awcock for all of her hard work and efforts-she is a true superstar! You can read more about this in this week's Grantham Journal!

Easter PTFA-Chocolate Tombola



Once again, the PTFA are organising an Easter Trail for the children on **Tuesday 27th March**, where older and younger children will work together to find the Easter clues and solve the puzzle. On this day children can come in non-school uniform, in return for a donation of Easter chocolate. Each child will receive a ticket on completing the Easter trail and win the corresponding chocolate prize.

Welcome Mrs Glendinning

We are delighted to announce that we have secured an excellent Class Teacher to teach Class Wales when Mrs Owen begins her maternity leave. Mrs Glendinning will be joining the teaching team and she is a passionate, enthusiastic teacher who is eager to begin working with us. Mrs Owen will be back after Easter but will begin her maternity leave a short time after we return. Please join us in welcoming Mrs Glendinning to Ancaster!

Swimming

Swimming will begin for Class Japan (and pupils in Y6 who have not yet met National Curriculum requirements) after Easter. The first session will take place on Monday 23rd April. Please see the letter sent out today which contains more information.

Class Photographs-4th May

Advanced notice of date-Class Photographs will take place on the date above.

The digital lives of our children, opportunities and risks-Parent workshop-21st May 6pm



At school we ensure the happiness and safety of our students and this includes their time spent on the internet. Most of our students are engaged with technology in a wide variety of ways; as well as using the internet for education, they also play games, socialise and invest a lot of their personality in the social and ever-changing place that is online. But as well as enormous opportunities there are risks too which we have begun to communicate with you via these newsletters.

In school we do a lot to educate the children, but as the parent or carer you play the most important part. How you choose to model your online behaviours as well as how you monitor your child's devices etc are important to how children choose to behave online.

We are delighted that we have been able to secure Alan Mackenzie, an E-Safety expert who has been working with hundreds of schools, charities and other organisations for many years to come into school and deliver a workshop exclusively for our parents on how you can be supported.

A regular guest speaker at conferences he is an associate member of the UK Council for Child Internet Safety and Ambassador for the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre.

He specialises in internet safety and will be able to answer all your questions.

"This isn't about technology, you won't be bombarded with lots of tech speak, it's about behaviour and risks to our children." Alan Mackenzie

What will be discussed?

What do children get up to online, what are the risks and opportunities? What does the latest research and opinion tell us and what is the best guidance? Does technology 'protect' our children? Alan will be discussing things including gaming, social media and much more.

The session will take place on Monday 21st May at 6pm and we are hoping that parents will seize this opportunity and attend as it will be highly beneficial to each and every parent. More information nearer the time will follow but please use this to help Save the Date.

Easter Services-Next Week!

Our Easter Services will take place on 28th March at Church. We hope you can join us-it is sure to help everyone think about the true meaning of Easter. KS2-9.30am and KS1-10.30am. Please let your child's Class Teacher know if you can help us to walk to Church.

Science Week Fun!



Last week we celebrated British Science Week by ensuring that the children had the opportunity to work on a variety of different challenges and experiments. We absolutely loved seeing the children ask scientific questions and develop their thinking to make predictions and test a hypothesis. The week culminated in externally led workshops where the children explored a variety of concepts with Sublime Science (including slime) which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone! Click onto our Twitter feed @ancasterprimary to see more pictures from the week.

Unexplained Absences

We have reviewed our school procedure for children who have unexplained absences from school. There have been public cases **nationally** in the past where schools have not chased up the reasons as to why children are absent from school. It has then transpired that there have been tragic circumstances around these absences, e.g. illness of a parent and a child unable to seek help. With this in mind, having looked at every element of our current procedure, we will do everything we can to prevent such situations occurring as we are sure you would agree that your child's safety is paramount to us all. If your child is not going to be in school please call the office on 01400 230871 or email the school on enquiries@ancaster.lincs.sch.uk to report their absence. Please do this before 9:00am on the first day of the absence. If we have not heard from you by 9:15am then we will start to call **all the contact numbers that you have provided (please ensure these are up to date)** in order to gain an explanation for the absence. If we still have not been able to ascertain where your child is then we will make a home visit.

If after a home visit we still haven't been able to get a response then we will report it to the police as your child will then be classed a 'missing child'. This procedure is to ensure that we know where your child is and that you are all safe. Please let us know in good time why your child is absent from school.