

Dear Parents, Carers and members of the community, welcome to Newsletter 9-I hope this communication finds you well. First of all can I say thank you to the response that we have had from the parental community in relation to the communication sent to you earlier this week regarding last year's SATs data, which has recently been published. The great swathe of support show that Ancaster is a hive of positivity and that the overwhelming support from you guarantees that we all remain focused on our goal of ensuring that children receive the best education possible. Of all the visitors who have been to the school recently, their comments have been universal in validating the current view that the school is an effective learning community with pupils, parents, staff and governors who love the school, and want it to thrive and succeed. Thank you for your ongoing support and if there are any concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to myself or a member of staff in the first instance, as we are aware of how rumours can grow and be counterproductive to the good work being undertaken to support your children in 'being the best they can be'. Also, thank you for your well wishes to me regarding the announcement that we are expanding our family. I have had so many lovely comments and appreciate you taking the time to wish us well. Have an enjoyable 2 weeks and I look forward to seeing you in and around school. Best Wishes, **Mr Sam Eden (Headteacher)**

Share and Shine Time!



This term, family sharing will take place week commencing 5th February. This is the children's opportunity to share with you the learning that has taken place across the curriculum. The dates for these sharing opportunities are as follows;

- Class Wales -6th Feb at 9am
- Class New Zealand-7th Feb at 9am
- Class Spain- 8th Feb at 9am
- Class Peru- 8th Feb at 3pm
- Class Japan-9th Feb at 9am
- Class Thailand-9th Feb at 3pm

We are very much looking forward to seeing you at these events-the children always love to see you in the classrooms and it opens the lines of communication, bringing learning to life.

Headlice

Further to an email sent earlier this week, we have spoken with the children regarding headlice and how to make sure that we are not spreading them to one another. Children have been reminded not to put their heads close together, not to share hair bobbles etc, to always wear long hair tied up and to support one another.

We are looking into ways in which we can support you with the ongoing checking and treatment. Please remember to keep checking up to 10 days after treatment. Thank you to the parents who have already taken steps to ensure we bring any problem into line.

E-Safety



We continue to be increasingly worried and concerned about the discussions taking place between children when online off school premises. You will have seen in the previous newsletter that we are asking parents to be vigilant and this continues to be a message we need to reinforce. The number of different platforms that the children access is potentially beyond us, as adults, as we may only be aware of the major sites such as Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and Snapchat. It is worth noting that many of these companies do not allow children to have their own account and users must be at least 13 years old to register.

We are asking parents to regularly check your child's internet history, speak to them about their online profiles and make sure they are only accessing content pre-approved by you. **If they are on children's versions of Social Media, check their friends-can they tell you who everyone is? Are they who they say they are?**

We are working hard to educate the children about their online actions which can carry huge consequences. We should all be embracing the internet and all that it offers, but please can we also ask parents to discuss this with your children.

Tuesday 6th February is Safer Internet Day. We will be marking this with activities in school and we are currently arranging workshops for children to access in school and a special parent workshop, from an expert, to help you keep on top of the changes that are occurring in this area. More information on this is to follow.

New Gate Procedures

We have been reviewing our Safeguarding Procedures to make sure they are keeping the children as safe as possible. We are reducing the length in which the gates are left open so they are restricted to key opening and closing times and to maintain site security at all times.

In addition to the Senior Leadership Team, a Teaching Assistant will also be present at the main gate each day and Mr Rudd, the Caretaker will monitor the gate to the park.

Gates will open and close at the following times

Morning-Gates open at 8.45am and close at 9am.

Afternoon-Gates open at 3.25pm and close at 3.35pm (all parents and children to have left the site).

Please note that during the times the gates are open, access to the school is not allowed unless accompanied by a school adult. This is important as we ensure that no unfamiliar adult has entered the building and in case of a fire, we are aware of who is in the building at any one time.

Finally, we are noticing that parents and children are arriving at the school very early, in some cases 8.30am and now there is clarity that the gates will not open for a further 15 minutes, particularly as the winter months take hold, it may be wise to aim to arrive at around 8.40am.

Staff will endeavour to be on the playground between 8.45am and 8.50am and again at the end of the day once children are dismissed.

Thank you for your ongoing support and we look forward to seeing you on the playground each day.



Keep up to date with what's going happening in and around school, including today's Maths Day fun, by following us on Twitter
@AncasterPrimary

Disco Fever!



Friday 2nd February

Our wonderful PTFA are arranging another of our popular Discos on the above date-we hope your child can join us. Entry is charged at £1.50 with unlimited free drinks. Sweets and treats will be available to buy throughout! The timings are as follows;

EYFS/KS1 5.00-6.00pm

KS2 6.00-7.00pm

We look forward to dancing the night away!



World Book Day -March 1st (Advance Notice)

Next term we will be celebrating the 21st annual World Book Day and are inviting all children to dress up as a book character on this day. Outfits do not need to be specially bought as homemade ones are often the most effective, utilising what you already have at home. Classroom staff will also be dressing up! See if you can spot the stories we will be representing! There will be lots of exciting learning taking place, including: using digital media to make film trailers to turn our books into movies, writing book reviews to inspire others in our library, role play and so much more! We know it's going to be another fabulous event for promoting reading for enjoyment and a lifelong love of reading.

Welcome Back Miss Crosby

We are delighted to welcome Miss Crosby back from her maternity leave. She returns into Peru (Year 2) with Miss Footitt, as the Teaching Assistant, Tuesday-Friday. Please join us in welcoming Miss Crosby back to Ancaster!



Swim Marathon

On Friday 2nd February, a team of Year 6 children will represent our school at Grantham Meres, swimming as many lengths as they can in 30 minutes to raise money through sponsorship for Grantham Rotary Club. Thank you to Mrs Hiorns for organising and co-ordinating our participation.
Good Luck Swimmers-we are behind you 100% as you demonstrate the value of achievement!