



Ancaster
Church of England Primary School

Newsletter 3

16th November 2020



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Welcome to the latest newsletter, I hope we find you well. There is quite a lot of information in the newsletter this month so I will keep my section brief. I do want to say to parents and carers that I am so very proud of our start back to Term 2. The children's focus and determination continues to improve and staff are seeing huge improvements in achievements in/beyond the classroom. Please see the section below on our whole school 'catch up focus' as we know that there is more that we can do to help the children return to their confidence, stamina and ability levels pre-lockdown. As always, I will be a prominent figure on the school gates several times per week, should you wish you ask a question or raise a concern of any kind-please do not hesitate to ask. Have a wonderful November and I shall see you soon. Best Wishes, *Mr Sam Eden (Headteacher)*

Catch-Up Focus-Maths, Spelling and Phonics

It is clear that being back in school has allowed the children to feel safe, secure and happy in a world where things currently feel uncertain and unknown. We are so very grateful to be able to be open and not included in this second lockdown as we have seen how detrimental the first lockdown has been for a whole host of reasons both socially as well as academically.

Since September, staff have been working closely with the children to identify gaps in learning that may have arisen from when a greater number of children were unable to access face to face teaching and as a result, our analysis has been able to show us that **Maths** and **Spelling** are the areas that we need to focus on the most in order to help the children thrive academically.

In our youngest children (Reception and Year 1), **phonics** is also an area where the children need a greater level of input.

You will see from the Pupil Profile sheets that you have been sent as part of the Parent Consultation process that the ways in which the staff in class are working in relation to Catch Up are detailed on the sheet. What we have found is that lots of children appear to have such a negative view of themselves mathematically. There has been a steep loss in confidence and many children are now much more willing to give up than ever before when faced with an unknown task, concept or question. Levels of stamina have been impacted greatly and what children used to be able to achieve in 1 hour now takes longer.

Thankfully, as we continue to work with the children many of these elements are improving. However, we need your help further with this at home. Please find the time to tell your child how fantastic they are at maths and ask them to show you what they have learnt this week. It is true that written methods for recording in maths today may be unfamiliar compared to when you were at school but ask your child to show you their methods and procedures and celebrate with them their very many achievements.

We are so proud of the collaboration that we have with our parent body and thank you for your continued support in helping the children be the best that they can be.

Parent Consultations (w/c 16th and 23rd Nov)

Please be reminded that Parent Consultations are taking place this week and next week in the form of telephone calls being made by the Class Teacher to you on one of the dates below depending on which year group your child is in.

You should have received your child's Pupil profile sheet on Thursday last week which also detailed the time and date of the telephone call. Please let us know urgently if you have not yet received this document and/or if the allocated time is not suitable. We are hoping that every provision can be made by parents to accept the telephone call as a large number of rescheduled appointments is going to take the Class Teacher away from the classroom and reduce their teaching time. Please let the school office know if there is anything that we need to be aware in relation to these telephone consultations taking place.

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

Staff are looking forward to discussing your child's start to the academic year with you as well as share any information relating to their academic needs as well as the social/emotional aspects of the curriculum. They will use the Pupil Profile sheet as a basis for the telephone call and will also be very happy to answer any questions, queries or concerns that you might have.

Children in Need 2020



Thank you to everyone who has already taken the time to donate directly to the Children in Need fundraiser with a suggested donation of £1. Due to the pandemic, we have been unable to accept volumes of cash into school so this seemed the quickest and most direct way of ensuring your donation reached the charity. If you haven't donated yet but do wish to do so, please visit the Children in Need website. Many Thanks!

Anti Bullying Week-This Week!



This week (w/c 16th November) is Anti-Bullying Week and we will be using this as a mechanism for discussing issues with the children and ensuring they understand what they need to do in order to recognise bullying as well as how to tell relevant adults in order to stamp it out. Within class, we will be undertaking drama, song, artwork, writing and much more linked around the bullying theme.

On Friday 20th November, we are encouraging children, parents and staff to wear odd socks as it's an opportunity to encourage people to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique! We will not be asking for any money to fundraise for this but will use it as a lever to promote the messages of the week. **The national theme this year for Anti-Bullying Week is 'United Against Bullying'.**

Attendance for Term 1

Having conducted analysis of attendance for Term 1, and factoring in absences relating to Covid-19, we are so pleased to report that our whole school attendance figure for September and October was **97.68%**. This is excellent as it shows that children being in school will correlate with the educational benefits attached to high attendance levels. We look forward to sharing similar, or even better figures in January for the year date when we next analyse this level of data. Class figures for Term 1 are as follows;

Reception-97.89%, Year One-97.42%, Year Two-98.01%, Year Three-97.92%, Year Four-98.12%, Year Five-97.34% and Year Six-97.02%.

Christmas Related Activities

We are still in the process of completing our Christmas related calendar. We do know that this year, unfortunately there will not be a nativity in its usual format and we will not be holding a Christmas Fayre as we would in normal times. We are working hard to ensure that the festivities are felt throughout every classroom and every child has the most amazing build up to this very special time of year.

One key element that many children like to do at this time of year is send each other cards. Whilst we appreciate the sentiment, and in normal circumstances would facilitate the delivery of these items, this year we are going to ask that children do not bring cards into school. One lovely idea is to donate the money that would usually be spent on cards to a worthwhile charity so that more people can benefit from the kindness and generosity.

Child Starting School in September 2021?

Applications for applying for a place for any child due to start school in September 2021 are now open via the Lincolnshire County Council website. You can apply by clicking the following link-[Click Here](#) Applications can be made from 16th November 2020 to 15th January 2021. If you already have a child in school, you still need to register their sibling in this way as although you will be allocated a place in line with the admissions criteria, their application must go through the official channels.

If you know somebody who is interested in accessing a school place at Ancaster, due to our new buildings, we are now in the position to offer more places than ever before and we want to ensure that everyone who requires a place has access to our school. Unfortunately, lockdown and Covid-19 is making it difficult for us to operate in our usual ways and we have been unable to hold the usual Open Morning that would take place. If you, or someone you know, is keen to find out more information about the school prior to making an application, please be aware that we are currently putting the finishing touches to a 360 degree tour of our school which will allow for prospective (and current) parents to view the school and we are looking to add more interactive elements to ensure it feels as current and informative as possible.

We are aware that choosing a school for your child is one of the biggest decisions that you can make as a parent and we want to ensure that every answer to a question/query is given and every opportunity to explore the school is exercised in a way that keeps us all safe during these times. In addition to the online tour, Mr Eden will also schedule a 1:1 telephone call with prospective parents to enable them the opportunity to find out anything they want to know. This is not exclusively ring-fenced for new parents to the school, if you already have a child in school but would like to speak to Mr Eden about any of your other children starting school, you are more than welcome to request this.

Once the 360 tour is available, we will let you know and look forward to letting you view the school in its

Poppy Appeal



Thank you to everyone who kindly bought a Poppy or related item to support the Poppy Appeal. In school on Armistice Day, we held a 2 minute's silence and had a thought-provoking day remembering those that had worked so hard to fight for our country so we can be who we are today. Throughout the day, the children all contributed to shared pieces of art work in each class which will form a central display in school encouraging the children to keep remembering and thinking about how important the actions of those that help to serve and protect our country are in allowing our continued freedoms today.