



## Newsletter 4 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020



### Arrangements for Christmas

Christmas is just around the corner and whilst festivities in school look a little different to what they usually do, nothing can dampen our Ancaster Christmas spirit-not even Coronavirus! In fact, on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December, we started the day with a festive boogie-Mr Eden called an emergency online meeting of all of the classes to bring them a 'major announcement' and once we were all assembled, the instruction to stand up and dance whilst 'I wish it could be Christmas Everyday' blared out of the speakers brought with it the best Christmas dance moves and a sleigh full of smiles. The children could all see each other dancing on screen and it was a lovely way to begin December and Advent. As we move through the next two weeks, please use the information below to see what is happening.

#### w/c 7<sup>th</sup> December

This is a normal 'curriculum based' week of learning. Whilst there will be more opportunities for festive fun within the learning taking place, we will be saving the specific Christmas fun for next week. All of the festivities will be taking place in the class bubbles that we are all currently in but for the duration of our time in school this term, we will be calling them class 'baubles' instead.

#### w/c 14<sup>th</sup> December

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December-Christmas Parties in the afternoon.** We are pleased to be able to schedule a Class Party to be held in your child's 'bauble' over the course of this afternoon. **Children can come to school on this day in their party clothes** and wear them for the duration of the day. PTFA have kindly donated £20 to each class for games, prizes and activities to be purchased and there will be time for the children to enjoy this tradition with their friends. **We also feel that a buffet of food can be offered if we facilitate it in the right way and this is where we need your help.** We are asking that, if you are able, you offer a contribution to the class buffet but this can only be shop bought, pre-packaged items which we would ask are delivered into class by *Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December* to give staff time to put them away ahead of the party taking place. To co-ordinate this further, and help prevent similar multiple items being donated and to help promote healthy choices as part of the buffet, Class Teachers will be in touch with you to make suggestions about what you might donate. Many thanks in advance for helping with this-please note that if you are not in a position to be able to contribute no judgement will be made, we thank you for any support you give in any capacity.

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December-Christmas Pantomime at 2pm.** Our wonderful PTFA have sourced and paid for an online Pantomime of **Jack and the Beanstalk** that all classes will be watching at 2pm (if your child is isolating due to Covid-19, we will also send you the link to watch at home and join in). This is an exciting, interactive, lively and engaging show which will capture the magic of attending a pantomime without us having to leave the building. Whilst in the past we have loved our trips to Grantham Guildhall, or the travelling Pantomimes that have come into school, we know that attendance of those shows will once again resume in the future but for now we are incredibly excited to be able to engage in some festive panto fun together, 'Oh Yes We Will!!' Please note that children are not permitted to bring sweets or treats into school for this performance. **PTFA have also purchased gifts for each of the children** which, after a period of quarantine, will be disseminated on this day so look out for the children bringing something special home and a big thank you to the PTFA for their hard work in ensuring our children receive these surprises! *Children will need to be in full school uniform for this day.*

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December-Christmas Dinner Day.** This is available to book via Good Lookin' Cookin. We cannot wait to enjoy this hearty meal together with friends in our 'baubles'-we will have the music playing, the lights will be up and on and we will have our own version of our family Christmas Dinner together. It is not too late to book this-should you have any issues, please contact Mrs Moore, our School Business Leader on [debra.moore@ancaster.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:debra.moore@ancaster.lincs.sch.uk) Children are to wear full school uniform on this day.

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December-Last Day of Term-**we will be holding planned activities during this day which will culminate, as it does every year, with our final candlelit worship (which will be held online but will not lose any of its magic'). During this wonderful end to the Christmas festivities, Mr Eden reads the whole school 'Twas the Night Before Christmas' amongst all of the fairy lights and candles setting the scene for a warm and cosy end to the in-school celebrations and the end of term! School will end at the usual times and children will need to be in full school uniform for this day.

During this week, children will make a Calendar and a Christmas Card and will continue to be taught their usual core learning-we will also be undertaking some class activities around our Christmas Tree, which this year is in the middle of the playground for us all to enjoy together!

**We hope your child enjoys the build up to Christmas as this truly is the most magical time of the year!**

### Parent Consultations

Despite us not being able to meet face to face to conduct our Parent Consultations, staff thoroughly enjoyed having the opportunity to hold telephone calls with parents to discuss how your child has settled into the new academic year and celebrate their achievements as well as highlight any areas that we are working on to help your child be the best they can be! Thank you for engaging in the conversations and whilst we hope that we can return to face to face appointments in the future, it is comforting to know that we have an alternative system that works should we ever need to use it again in the future. Please do not feel that the consultation is the only opportunity for you to talk to your child's Class Teacher, you have their direct email addresses to ask any questions and can also request a further discussion should you wish. At Ancaster, our parent partnership and communication is so very important in helping your child(ren) thrive, should you ever need to talk or discuss any element of your child's provision, our door is always open!

### Spreading Christmas Cheer!-Amazing Ancaster Parents!



Two of our parents have been busy being Christmas Elves and have been undertaking some exceptional work to help people in and around the local area with access to Christmas presents should you need any support. They have asked people for donations of items, of which the community has rallied together, and donated an incredible amount of wonderful items for children which will be available on a 'first come first served' basis at the playing field car park in Ancaster on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 1.30pm. Items will be available for free and people can take as much or as little as they like. A huge thank you to Melodie and Shannon Blankley for spreading the true spirit of Christmas and organising this for everyone!

### Gifts for School Staff this Christmas

We have been approached by many parents to ask whether we will accept gifts for school staff to say thank you at Christmas. Whilst there is never any expectation from us to buy staff gifts, we do understand that parents, carers and families like to do this as a way of showing appreciation and we are always so, so thankful for your kindness and generosity. To ensure that this is done in a Covid secure manner, we ask that you hand any gifts directly to the person it is intended for and it will then enter a period of quarantine before being opened. Please do not feel obligated to buy a gift for any member of staff, we truly love doing our job and the gift of a smile on the children's faces and their hard work, efforts and achievements are truly our reward!

### Poppy Appeal



We have recently received notification that your generosity, kindness and thoughtfulness in supporting the Poppy Appeal raised a brilliant £130.40 which will be used to support the Armed Forces community past and present. Thank you!

### Child Starting School in September 2021?

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 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020 to 15<sup>th</sup> 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, the previous lockdown and now the new localised Tier 3 restrictions continue to make 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 have commissioned a virtual tour that can be accessed by [clicking here](#)

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.

*Merry Christmas and Happy  
New Year from all at Ancaster  
Church of England Primary  
School-School reopens on Monday  
4<sup>th</sup> January at the usual times.*