



Ancaster Church of England Primary School

Newsletter 1-11th September 2015



Dear Parents and Carers, welcome to Newsletter 1 of the new academic year. What a summer it has been, it was wonderful to be in school when the postman arrived so I could read of all of your family adventures. Classes have taken this opportunity to share their holiday stories and listen to those of others with displays being created of the postcards to help celebrate these magical moments. I am absolutely delighted with the new classrooms, as I am sure that you are! There has been so much work over the summer break and to see this come together and be ready with the children using the new facilities makes me exceptionally proud to be this school's headteacher. We have started the school year with 150 pupils on roll which is much increased from numbers in the past. In fact, there has not been this number of pupils in school for over 7 years and with more places remaining, the number of children able to access the provision on offer in our school will only increase and help this school be the best it can possibly be. We have also had internal work undertaken over the summer, with Class Madagascar and Australia being painted, the staffroom and offices being fully refurbished and we will also be replacing all of the internal doors in school over the course of this term. We will then continue painting the school and refurbishing areas to ensure that every nook and cranny of our wonderful school looks and feels outstanding and reflects the exceptional teaching and learning opportunities we offer each day. It has been an absolute pleasure being on the (new) school gate each day and catching up with you all. Should have any questions/queries, please do not hesitate to ask. **Best Wishes, Sam Eden (Headteacher)**

Usual Newsletter Information

We will continue to publish our achievers and governor profiles on the newsletter and these will appear in the next issue.

Labelling Clothes Back to School



We understand and appreciate how expensive buying school uniform can be. We also recognise how frustrating it is when an item of clothing goes missing. Please help remedy this by labelling every item of clothing (including shoes/plimsolls) so that anything can be returned to its rightful owner.

Volunteers in School

At Ancaster, we always welcome support from volunteers who are able to help teachers and support staff further enrich the curriculum and offer new opportunities. If you feel that you would like to maximise your skills in school in any capacity, please see Mr Eden for more information.

Curriculum Maps and Parent Letters

Each teacher in school has been busy planning their curriculum content and we have pleasure in providing you with a curriculum map and parent letter which will come home with your child. Please ensure that you read these as this will give you the valuable information you need to keep up to date with what your child is learning about. A copy of this will be placed on the school website. Should you require any additional information, please see your child's class teacher.

Pantomime



The whole school have received a special treat to end their first full week back. We have enjoyed a wonderful performance of The Amazing Adventures of Librarian Lil, a pantomime by the Rhubarb Theatre Group based in Leadenham. We wanted to support this wonderful group as they have been in school during the past and given us wonderful performances. This show, aimed at promoting literacy and reading was an excellent and engaging way to end the week. We are sure the children will have many stories to tell you about this excellent show.



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School Expectations



We have been looking closely at our expectations and the way that we report to parents when a child is not meeting our expectations as a school. As a school striving for outstanding outcomes for every pupil, we think it is important for you to be aware of how we are viewing your child's attendance, their punctuality to school, the way in which they come to school ready to learn i.e. do they have their reading records, PE kits etc, and their behaviour in and around school. With this in mind, we will be tracking all of these areas closely and the first parent meeting consultation, due to take place in November, will focus on these areas as well as the usual settling in information and their levels of attainment. To help your child, please ensure that they are in school every day. From this point forward, the government has placed a minimum attendance target for each child at 95%.

Therefore, we expect all children's attendance figure to be 95% or above and will be communicating this with you so you are able to remedy any situation. Please ensure your child is on time and ready to learn. They should have their PE kit in school all week along with their reading records which will be used to communicate messages from school staff to parents and vice versa. More information about this will be presented to parents in due course, but this rise in expectation means that children are receiving the best education possible and all adults involved in their life will be striving for the very best for them every day.

Staff Availability

All staff will be available on the school playground prior to school starting in the morning and again after school. Please use this time to catch them and discuss any questions/queries. Please can parents always make their class teacher their first point of call to discuss any worries or concerns as very often, these can be resolved following a simple conversation. Should an issue then need to be escalated to involve a member of the school's senior leadership team, this will happen in due course. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

Clubs

Clubs are already beginning to start. We are currently working with school staff to create a menu of clubs that will further enrich the curriculum and offer new and exciting opportunities to the children. If you are able to run a club, please let Mr Eden know. More details will be communicated as clubs are agreed.

Harvest Festival



Our annual harvest festival will take place on Friday 9th October at St. Martin's church. As we now have too many children to fit the whole school into the church as well as parents, we will be holding two separate harvest festivals. These will be:

9.30am-Key Stage 2

10.30am-Key Stage 1

We hope you will be able to join us for this important celebration. If you are able to walk with a class to help maintain adult:pupil ratios, please see your child's class teacher.

We are very excited to be working with Ronnie Ownsworth and Cola Jennings who will be delivering an exciting workshop on the 28th September to promote harvest and love british food fortnight. More information will be published nearer the time.