



Ancaster
Church of England Primary School

Newsletter 14

29th April 2016



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Dear Parents, Carers and members of the community, welcome to Newsletter 14-I hope this communication finds you well. We have made an excellent start to our topic of 'We're Alive'. All Class Teachers have now sent out a parent letter and curriculum map detailing the learning links for this term and details of other information you need to know. Over the past week, we have had several visitors to school, namely two headteachers conducting our Peer Review. This was a process in which they spent time in school looking at the quality of learning across the curriculum and the impact of our new assessment system. They loved the school and what the children are offered and helped validate the many strengths of our school as well as identifying areas for development which can be worked on to help further improve our school. We are delighted to be collaborating in this way and know these judgements are helping us secure the very best outcomes for each and every pupil. Should anyone wish to catch me, I am always available for a quick chat most mornings or appointments can be made via the school office. Have a wonderful two weeks and I look forward to keeping you further updated in future newsletters. **Best Wishes, Mr Sam Eden (Headteacher)**

Be the Best You Can Be!



Our certificates for achievement were awarded to the following children in our special Friday assembly-well done all;

Class France-Mazie Rasdall and Lexi Green

Class India- Annie Batchelor, George Bailey and Lily Knight

Class Madagascar- Amy Sadler, Oliver Hague, Liam Walsh and Jack Green

Class Australia- Lilly Fields, Alix Bailey, Ellie Barr and Lily-Belle Turner.

Class USA-Niamh Roberts, Lucy Cullum, Ryan Chapman and Harry Hutsby

Class Iceland- Jack McDowall, Jessica Annan, Ashlee Hayter and Jamie Seng.

Wow Writers have been celebrated by the school for their commitment and enthusiasm to reading. These children are;

Oscar Taylor, Leyton Walsh, Merry Lawson, Brogan Greenhalf, Jack Marsh, Charlotte Blackledge.

Well done to all children, across the school, for being the best you can be!

Advance Notice of Disco-20th May

Our PTFA will be holding a disco for all children in school which will take place on Friday 20th May. More details on timings and prices will be communicated soon. We hope all children are able to join us as these are such wonderful events enjoyed by all. Mr Eden, once again, will be the resident DJ and is looking forward to dancing the night away.

Come and Join in the Fun!

It will soon be time once again to come into school and join in the learning in our fabulous family sharing opportunities. These will take place week commencing 23rd May and these fantastic events are the children's opportunity to share with you the learning that has taken place over the course of the term. The dates of the sharing are as follows;

Class France-Tuesday 24th at 9.15am

Class USA-Tuesday 24th at 3pm

Class Australia-Wednesday 25th at 9.15am

Class Iceland-Wednesday 25th at 3pm

Class India-Thursday 26th at 9.15am

Class Madagascar-Thursday 26th at 3pm

Please try to support your child by attending. Children are so incredibly motivated by their parents coming into school and this helps inspire children to strive to be the best they can be.

The Big Pedal



Wow, what a wonderful experience the Big Pedal has been over the course of the last two weeks.

With Biker Breakfasts, Dr Bike Maintenance sessions and inter class competitions, there has been over 60 bikes in the shelter every day. This is absolutely phenomenal. Thank you to everyone who has allowed their child to cycle-we will keep you informed on our progress in the competition.

Please keep cycling to school-the children have explained how much they love coming to school in this fun and active way.

Parent Questionnaire

At the recent Parent Consultations over 90 parents took part in our parent questionnaire about school communication. In the past, parents have expressed concerns over the quality of the communication between school and home and we have worked incredibly hard to ensure that this is addressed.

The feedback from the questionnaire was very positive with the vast majority of parents (87/90 respondents) strongly agreeing that the communication from school is effective and the ways in which we ensure messages from school to home are having a positive effect on knowledge and understanding. As a school, we have developed as many ways as possible to communicate with the parent body and beyond. These include; regular informative **newsletters, constant updates to the school website, An incredibly active Twitter feed, Home/School diaries, New pupil profile sheets detailing attitude and progress information, termly curriculum maps and parent letters from each Class Teacher, staff availability on the playground each day, regular parent consultations, Tapestry for Foundation Stage, letters informing specific details and Parentmail updates via email and text.** We are thrilled that the hard work of the school is being celebrated and valued by parents as we want to keep you informed in the most convenient ways possible. One of the comments made by a parent who recently moved to the school stated;

'Since moving my children to Ancaster, I am thrilled with the constant amount of information I get from this wonderful school. Compared to experiences in other schools, this level of communication is the best of any school I know-thank you'.

An Exciting Project is about to Start!



The school has been meeting recently with members of the Parish Council and we are keen to establish a working relationship where the school becomes even more involved with the community than we already are at present. One way that we will be working with the Parish Council is to help protect the plant, 'Tall Thrift' which is now the only place in the country that this flower now grows. As it is so protected, we have been asked to help place guards around the base of the plant so that it can flower and continue its growth in Ancaster. We will then be working alongside the Wildlife Trust to ensure our children understand its importance in the local area and what they can do as residents of Ancaster to help preserve it. This fits beautifully with our current topic of We're Alive and we look forward to working closely with the Parish Council on this exciting project.

Inspire+ Transition Weekend

Well done to two of our Y6 pupils, Josh and Jack who undertook the Inspire+ transition weekend at PGL with children from across South Kesteven District Council. A great time was had by all and they represented the school brilliantly.

SATs Week

SATs are tests which need to be completed at the end of each Key Stage. Children in Years 2 and 6 take the tests at specified times in May. As we are now working within a new National Curriculum, the DfE have updated the tests to reflect the expectations of the new framework. Children in Year 2 and 6 will sit these tests for the first time. We work incredibly hard not to worry the children about these tests and ensure that they are happy in the run up to them taking place. Whilst there are elements of children getting used to the tests, we do not expect children to undertake huge amounts of practice papers or focus children's time on learning how to 'pass a test'. These tests act as statutory markers to determine levels of progress made by children across a key stage. We cannot authorise any absence during these test periods and more information will be sent to parents of children in Y2 and Y6.

Ascension Day Celebrations

Ascension Day is the **40th** day of Easter and commemorates Jesus Christ's **ascension** into heaven, according to Christian belief. We want to mark this occasion by having a special worship in church on Thursday 5th May at 9.30am for Key Stage 2. This service will be led by Reverend June and is only for our children at this time. If parents are able to act as parent helpers on the way to and from church, we would be most grateful. Please let your child's class teacher know if you can help.