



Newsletter 5

29th March 2021



Welcome to the latest newsletter, I hope we find you well. As we approach the end of the term and into Easter celebrations, the timing coincides with more national gradual easing of the lockdown, which I hope allows you and the children to be able to spend some much needed quality time with friends and family (let's all hope for good weather). Since we returned to school on 8th March, the buzz of learning has been so evident with children and staff working hard every day-I have literally never seen so many smiles on the children's faces and it has been wonderful to reconnect and re-establish relationships and emotions which lockdown has undoubtedly affected. Thank you for your continued support-as we have seen, our school community will thrive when we work together to ensure our children are having the best experiences! Have a wonderful Easter break and I shall look forward to seeing you on our return. Best Wishes, *Mr Sam Eden (Headteacher)*

Parent Consultations

We have decided to once again hold Parent Consultations in the form of telephone calls from the teaching staff to parents/carers. You have already been sent an information letter which explains this further and we are very much looking forward to once again holding these conversations with you, following the success of the last round which took place in November.

As part of the process, we will be sending out the Pupil Profile Sheets which will explain much of the information that the teaching staff will expand upon as part of the conversation but it will also allow you for you to generate any questions that you may wish to ask in response the information.

Pupil Profile Sheets will be sent out during the first week back after Easter. These sheets will also include your date and time of the call, which will be allocated to you by the staff.

National Tutoring Programme

You may have seen within the media that in response to the pandemic, the Government has created the National Tutoring Programme (NTP), which allows us to use teachers to help provide additional catch up based sessions on specific objectives. We have been incredibly fortunate to secure the ongoing services of Mrs Dawn Jones, who is an incredibly experienced teacher, to work with our children 3 days per week and whilst all year groups will work with Mrs Jones, we have prioritised year groups starting with the eldest children first. We will let parents of each year group know when it is time for their child's year group focus however, parents should be aware that not all children will be selected to undertake this provision as it might be that other provision provided by the school may better suit a child's needs.

Mrs Garriock-Retirement

Many of the children throughout school, having started in Reception, will have had the absolute pleasure of experiencing Foundation Stage with Mrs Garriock who has worked as a Teaching Assistant and Higher-Level Teaching Assistant within our school for an incredible 16 years. As an experienced Early Years practitioner, Mrs Garriock is such a valued member of staff who has always worked her hardest to ensure that our children are the best that they can be right from their very first day in school.

Recently, Mrs Garriock has made the decision to retire from her roles and responsibilities at Easter and enjoy some down time with her husband as we come through the pandemic and they can enjoy time together away from work.

Whilst we are delighted that Mr and Mrs Garriock will have opportunities to enjoy their time travelling (we are hoping for postcards from some interesting locations), we haven't quite fathomed what life in Ancaster will be like without her as many of the longest serving staff members have never known the school without her! **We wish Mrs Garriock all the absolute best and know that she will be popping back to see us whenever she can!**

We have had a period of time to employ a new Teaching Assistant for Foundation Stage and last week we were successful in recruiting Mrs Tracey Duggan, who many of you will know as the Deputy Manager from Ancaster Village Nursery and brings to our school a wealth of knowledge, skills and understanding not only of EYFS but also of the local context of the school. Mrs Duggan will be joining the school very soon and as soon as we have established a start date, we will let parents of Reception know.

Please join us in wishing Mrs Garriock all the very best for the future and welcoming Mrs Duggan.

Important message regarding testing for COVID-19 from Lincolnshire County Council

We are aware that the recent expansion of home-testing for COVID-19 may be causing some confusion.

It is extremely important to be aware that testing using Lateral Flow Devices (LFDs) is only appropriate for people who are **not** symptomatic.

Anyone who has any of the COVID-19 symptoms (fever, persistent cough, change in the sense of taste or smell) should immediately self-isolate, along with their household, and arrange a Polymerase Chain Reaction test (PCR) at a testing site. This is a legal requirement; in no circumstances should an LFD test be used instead of booking a PCR test; as these tests do not have the required sensitivity for symptomatic testing and are likely to produce false-negative results. This could result in children & staff members attending school when they are infectious.

It should also be noted that LFD tests are not approved for use for primary-age children, and parents of primary schools children should not administer LFD tests to these children in any circumstances.

It is important that all schools do not allow staff or children to attend school when they are symptomatic because they have a negative LFD test result. Anyone symptomatic should self-isolate and arrange a PCR test. Very simply, **symptoms = PCR test; only people [adults] without symptoms should be using LFD tests.**

For further support, please contact Lincolnshire's Health Protection Team at healthprotectionteam@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Kind Regards

Andy Fox BA MPH MFPH FRSPH
Consultant in Public Health
Lincolnshire County Council

Red Nose Day-Thank You!



Thank you for sending your children into school in non-uniform for Red Nose Day. We used the opportunity to think about charity and consider how we can help others around us. We also discussed the work of Comic Relief and looked at what they do to provide help and support to those that need it. If you didn't get the chance to donate directly to them and you are still wanting to do so, then please use the link available on their website.

Notification of Reception Places September 2021

Parents and carers who have applied for a Reception place for September 2021 will be notified by email or letter on 16th April 2021. Once again, we have received a record amount of enquiries and requests for places and we look forward to beginning the transition for our newest cohort of children as we move through the remainder of the academic year.

Welcome Back Mrs Green

Mrs Green has been away from Ancaster for the duration of the previous term as she has been undertaking her second school placement as part of her Initial Teacher Training (ITT). Having successfully completed the placement, we are so happy that she is now back in school with us from this week and there are no more requirements for her to undertake placements anywhere else as the remainder of her training time will be undertaken in Ancaster.

Happy Easter Everyone! School closes on Wednesday 31st March- we hope you have a wonderful break and look forward to seeing you all when we return to school on 19th April 2021.

