



Ancaster
Church of England Primary School

Newsletter 4

26th November 2021



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Dear Parents, Carers and members of the community, welcome to Newsletter 4 of the academic year and I hope we find you well as we all hurtle our way towards the Christmas festivities. At the moment, as we learn to live with COVID-19, we are seeing more positive cases within the community than ever before and this has implications on pupils through increased use of remote learning, isolation periods as well as the knock-on effect missing education brings. Over the course of this term, we have been/are dealing with increased staff absence due to COVID-19, which can be problematic as we are not always able to access supply staff due to unprecedented demand within the system and so we may have to move staff around to ensure consistency and continuity of education for our children. As case rates rise both locally and nationally, and we respond to this next level of the pandemic, I do hope that all families remain safe and well. I look forward to seeing you over the course of the next few weeks. Best Wishes, *Mr Sam Eden (Headteacher)*

Fantastic Fireworks



Our fireworks night was such a wonderful event with a fantastic family and community feel throughout the evening. We had so many visitors to the school, raising a phenomenal £3000 profit! This is the best event yet and we have so many people to thank for helping make the evening such a success.

Please join the school in saying a big thank you to all of the PTFA and their helpers of volunteers and staff who ensured the event was brought to life and the 'firework crew', who without them, there wouldn't be a show. Finally, a huge thank you must go to each and every parent, family and community member who attended for supporting the school and making the event such a spectacular evening!

We cannot wait to see what is being planned and prepared by the PTFA as they continue their events and fundraising this academic year-look out for more announcements and consider joining their Facebook page where there is a wealth of information and links.

Find them on Facebook by searching -Ancaster Primary School PTFA

Poppy Donations



Thanks to all who donated to the Royal British Legion via the Poppies that we have had in school over the last 2 weeks. We helped raise an incredible amount, and more than we have ever donated before with a fantastic **£340.71** collected! Thank you so much for your support.

We held our own enrichment day on Monday 11th to commemorate Armistice Day and there were some wonderful pieces of art created by the whole school and shared in a special worship in the morning in which we also held a 2-minute silence to reflect.

Safeguarding



Safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone!

If you believe that a child may be a victim of neglect, abuse or cruelty call Children's safeguarding - 01522 782111 (Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm). This is Lincolnshire Children's Services who will take the information and log the details you wish to share.

Open Morning

We recently welcomed lots of new, prospective parents into school for the Open Morning to showcase our environments for children and families looking to join us from September 2022. If you know of anyone who is looking for a school place for their child from September 2022, please do not hesitate to let them know that they can still arrange visits to look around ahead of the application round closing in January. We have had a record number of enquiries for spaces once again and are keen to hear from everyone looking for potential places.

Pupil Profiles and Parent Meetings

Thank you for your incredibly high levels of engagement with the recent Parent Meetings which were held via telephone calls and also framed by the Pupil Profiles that we sent out prior to the calls. We hope that you found them useful and they gave you an opportunity to discuss your child's attitudes and attainment with the Class Teacher. **Please remember that we pride ourselves on our communication levels and we encourage you to seek us out and let us know the problem, no matter how small, so that we can help resolve any issues that may arise.**

Dates for Christmas Festivities



We have been busy arranging Christmas Festivities and whilst we are only currently in November, the big event will be here before we know it. Therefore, we wanted to give you advance notice of these dates so you can make any arrangements in advance.

10th December-Christmas Jumper Day/Non-uniform (£1 suggested donation to school fund) and Christmas Dinner Day (available to book via Good Lookin' Cookin')

13th December AM-R/Y1/Y2 Aladdin performance

Travelling Panto (payment/info activated in Parenthub)

13th December PM- Reception Christmas Performance to parents at 2.30pm

14th December PM- KS2 Trip to Grantham Guildhall-Jack and the Beanstalk Pantomime (payment/info activated in Parenthub)

14th December – KS1 Nativity Play to parents at 1.45pm*

15th December – KS2 Christingle in church*

15th December-KS1 Nativity Play to parents at 1.45pm*

16th December-AM- KS1 Nativity Play to parents at 10am*

16th December-Christmas Parties PM (children can bring an item of party food and their party clothes to get changed into)

17th December-Last Day of Term-school closes at the usual time.

More details regarding each of these events will be given nearer the time and via Parenthub.

*With our Key Stage 1 performances being held in the school hall-we have been able to put specific measures into place to mitigate the transmission of any potential spread of COVID-19 by ensuring that we put on more performances, that the audience is reduced for each performance and that the space is well-ventilated. Our Key Stage 1 Leader, Miss Footitt, will be writing to parents of Year 1 and 2 to explain how you will be allocated specific seats to watch the performance and more information about what to expect. The Christmas performance the children undertake in Year 1 and 2 is a very special event in both the children's lives as well as being a memory for parents for many years to come and we are keen for this to take place but please be assured that we will do everything we can to do this safely.

With respect to the Key Stage 2 Christingle in Church on 15th December-we are only able to hold this event once with all 110 KS2 children attending and as such, there would be an unprecedented amount of demand for the small space that the church offers-we are unable to guarantee similar safety measures that have been outlined above and so it is with regret that we are unable, this year, to invite parents to watch but we will take lots of photographs and share these with you via the usual channels. Thank you for your understanding.

Power to Change Award

Don't forget-we have launched our brand new 'Power To Change Award'. We are asking children to do something themselves, over a period of time, which they believe will help to make a **positive change** in the local community, in school or the wider area; this could be picking up litter in the local community, helping a neighbour with some jobs, raising money for charity etc. We collected and discussed many ideas with the children through the launch and if you feel your child (or another child) is doing something which you feel needs to be recognised as part of our 'Power To Change', then please email powertochange@ancaster.lincs.sch.uk with the name of the child and a brief description of what they have been doing.

Christmas Fayre



It was within our initial planning for this year that we would hold our annual Christmas Fayre but as we move closer to the festive break-we are keen to limit the amount of contact/potential transmission of Covid-19 and as such try and protect yours/our Christmas holiday periods as best as possible. For this reason, we will not be holding this festive event this year. Whilst many events are returning to 'normal'-seeing case numbers continue to rise both locally and nationally has led us to make this decision to ensure that we are not actively encouraging transmission of the virus as we move closer to Christmas. We hope to welcome this event back next year!

Change of Weather

The weather is turning ever colder now as we begin to prepare for winter and many children are still coming to school without a coat or suitable PE kit for outdoor PE. Please could we ask that you ensure that your child has these warmer items so they can participate in all events inside and outside the classroom.

School Council and Mini Police

Over the past few weeks we have been holding a series of votes which have also promoted the Modern British Value of democracy. The children have been encouraged to present their speeches whilst the children have voted to elect. More information will be coming from both the new School Council as well as the Mini Police as they firm up their new roles and responsibilities.