



Ancaster C of E Primary School

Newsletter 10 – 31st January



Dear Parents, Welcome to Newsletter number 10. Term 3 is already a rollercoaster of learning and the introduction of the Golden Rules and the Behaviour Steps has ensured a positive focus on behaviour. I was very proud of our Year 6 children recently as when they were asked, 'was behaviour bad before the Golden Rules?' their response was that 'it was not bad, but it was not as good as it could be'. With every adult focusing on ensuring behaviour expectations are consistent across the school, the impact has been outstanding. There is an overwhelming feeling of politeness across the school and in those instances where children have chosen not to follow our rules, the consequences have encouraged them to reflect and review to ensure they consider the implications if placed in that situation again. I must also add that, through my monitoring of attendance, there is an upward trend in 100% attendances and the number of classes with full attendees all week is exceptional. Please see below for more information on new systems regarding children who are late or picked up early. Once again, the next 2 weeks promises to be as action packed as ever as we approach half term, however if you wish to speak to me I am available on the school gate each morning and will always be available if you wish to book an appointment via Mrs Beard in the school office. Best Wishes, **Mr Eden**.

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 1-Ewan Hull and Izzie Welby.

Class 2-Eliza Batchelor, Ben Fuller and Charlie Askham.

Class 3-Justin Dixon-Hardy and Chloe Gresham.

Class 4-Shannon Fendley and The Whole of Class 4.

Class 5-Alice Selby and Megan Dillon.

Each week we celebrate the Wow Writers and Mega Mathematicians from each class who share their learning in assembly. Over the past two weeks, these children were;

Wow Writers- Rose Read, Hannah Hinbest, Jack McDowall, Kayla Rohalnd, Harry Spencer, Katie Hutsby, Maisy Pattison, Grace Turner, Lois Taylor, Archie Vangasse and Jasmin Gheniou.

Mega Mathematicians- Daniel Annan, Becky Vallance, Jack Wright, Max Vangasse, Edie-Mae Hotchkins, Gus Phillis, Khya Colcomb, Jake Barratt, Jasmine Hendry and Libby Stafford.

Team Points

Team point totals for this week are as follows;

Saturn-336
Minerva-294
Apollo-436
Maia-351

Well done to all children for following the Golden Rules and being the best they can be!

Achieving Quality Together (AQT) Collaborative Partnership Learning Review

As part of our AQT collaborative partnership with Navenby CofE Primary School, Welbourn C of E Primary School, Caythorpe Primary School and Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Primary School, a learning review was recently undertaken which involved the Head Teacher of each school visiting Ancaster to look at what we are doing well and any areas in which we can continue to improve. This was a fantastic opportunity, and each Head Teacher left commenting on the 'buzz of learning in each class', the 'positive ethos in and around school' and the focus, commitment and drive of the children and staff were also commented on. There are many more shared learning opportunities to work together coming up with the next event being an 'Able Writers Network Day' hosted here at Ancaster on **Thursday 6th February** in which 20 Year 4 pupils from across the network will come together to be challenged in writing. We are continuing to work together in a variety of different ways and this is a fantastic opportunity for staff, pupils and governors alike to ensure that we are continuing to be the best that we can be.

PTFA Coffee Morning

Please be reminded that the PTFA Coffee Morning is to be held on **Tuesday 11th February at 9.30am**. Please pop along to show your support or if you wish to join us in providing exceptional fundraising opportunities.



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Share and Shine Time!



This term, family assemblies will take place week commencing 10th February and are the children's opportunity to share with you the learning that has taken place in maths, literacy and across the curriculum, we hope to see you there.

The dates for these assemblies are as follows;

Monday 10th Feb at 2pm-Class 2 + 3

Tuesday 11th Feb at 9am-Class 1

Tuesday 11th at 3pm-Class 5

Wednesday 12th at 3pm-Class 4

Disco-Friday 7th February



The disco will be taking place on the date above.

There will be music provided by Mr Eden on his DJ decks as well as sweets, glow sticks and lots of fun!

Entry is £1.50 and this includes unlimited drinks. The

Key Stage 1 Disco will be 6pm-7pm and the Key Stage

2 Disco will be 7pm-8pm.

NOMAD Trust Collection

You were informed recently of an incident in which a homeless man, desperately seeking shelter, chose to spend one of the coldest nights of the winter so far in our recycling bin. In school, we have discussed this incident with the children and this has given us an opportunity to explore the issue of homelessness and how this gentleman must have been thinking and feeling in a time of desperation and need. As a church school, we have made links to the bible and how the values by which we live should help us understand and help those who do not have the luxuries and home comforts with which we live. On Friday 31st January, Class 5 along with Alison Butters, one of our parents who work closely alongside the homeless, delivered a very moving and powerful Collective Worship to help the children realise that there is hope for the homeless and that we can help by listening, supporting and giving. With this in mind, we have set up a charity donation fund, in which you are invited to contribute, where any money donated will be sent to the NOMAD trust in Lincoln so they can continue their vital support. **Please send any donations clearly labelled or see Mrs Beard in the office.**

Sign2Sing



2 years ago, we took part in the Sign2Sing Record Breaker in which the children learned the sign language to a given song. You will know from the letter that was sent out last week that we will be doing this again and the children have been busy learning the new song and actions. On **Wednesday 5th February**, the school, along with thousands of others across the country will be taking part in this special event. To continue to raise awareness and support the charity, SignHealth we are asking that children bring in **a donation of £1 and wear a scarf** like the mascot Olli. We do hope you will be able to support this worthwhile cause and help raise awareness of the work in which this fantastic charity undertakes.

Music Instrument Amnesty



We are constantly looking at ways to boost our music resources and our Music team would like to ask if you have any instruments at home that you no longer use and would like to donate to school. These could be 'real' tuned instruments or percussion based instruments, as well as the sort of items people buy younger children which then get forgotten at the bottom of the toy box. If you have any instruments you would like to donate, please could these be sent to the office **for the attention of Mrs Talbot**. Thank you in advance.

School Council Badges

Any children who have been School Councillors in the past will have been given a large blue and white badge with the words 'School Council' in the middle. These are intended to be passed on to the next members of the council each term. The badges have reduced in numbers in school and we would appreciate any that might be lurking at the bottom of the drawer to be returned to school as soon as possible. Please could these be returned to **Mrs Hiorns**.



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Are you Interested in Joining our Governing Body?



We are in need of 2 Parent Governors to join our highly successful Governing Body. Led by our Chair of Governors, Viki Thomas, the Governors of our school have a very important role to play, as it is their role to ensure that the Leadership and Management of the school is held to account through high levels of support and challenge and being a 'critical friend'. We are encouraging our Governors to become active in participating in the life of the school and also aiming to ensure the right level of support is given by Governors.

To be a Governor, there is a level of commitment in which you will be required to attend meetings and perform duties on behalf of the Governing Body. This is an extremely exciting opportunity as the school is in a stable position and standards continue to rise. If you are interested in joining us, you would be playing an instrumental role in helping your child's school to develop and move towards becoming 'Outstanding'. If you would like to meet to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Eden. In the meantime, have a think about the possibility of you joining us, more detailed information will be sent out and we look forward to hopefully welcoming 2 willing parents onto our dynamic and forward thinking Governing Body.

School Values



Recently, we have been looking at the distinctiveness of our school as a recognised 'Church of England Primary School'. Whilst we are a village school, we also have an obligation and duty to ensure our practices and principles reflect the running of our school. We have a values driven approach in school and a few years ago worked to identify core values that underpin our school community. These are **Friendship, Achievement, Respect, Creativity and Honesty**. All of these values can be linked back to the teachings of the Bible and you will begin to see them being made more explicit as they appear on letters, newsletters, the school website and in and around school. Talking about these values, amongst many others, helps the children understand more about life and the world we live in as well as promoting moral and spiritual development.

Lollipop Lady and Parking



We are very fortunate to have had the post of Lollipop Lady reinstated and is now being fulfilled by the one and only Mrs Ann Butters, who previously worked in school as the Caretaker. She is delighted to be once again working alongside our school children and is helping make the journey to school a safer one. Please ensure that children use this crossing, as if it is not utilised and the Lincolnshire County Council feel that the post is not necessary, it will no longer be a viable option. The main message we have been asked to pass on is 'use it or lose it' and it would be a shame indeed to be in the position we have found ourselves in previously with no lollipop lady.

Now we have the post filled, we have been monitoring parking in the morning and after school. The Lincolnshire County Council Road Safety Officer has been observing and making notes of how parents are parking and has asked the school to notify parents of the findings.

Parents are choosing to park or drop off at the crossing point on Ermine Street and blocking the dropped kerb, which is illegal and is becoming restrictive for Mrs Butters to see and for children and pedestrians to remain safe. Please may we ask that you choose not to park in this place and find a safer alternative.

The Road Safety Officer has also witnessed parents parking on the Yellow Zig Zag lines outside of school and drivers using the school gates as a turning circle. Please can we ask that ALL parents do not use these areas to park or turn as safety in school is of our most paramount concern and this includes the outside of the building. We have asked that the local PSCO attends to monitor the situation and will be around in the morning and afternoons without warning.

We hope you understand the importance of this message and that you are able to work alongside us for a truly safe beginning and end of day.