



# Newsletter 1

## 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2022



Dear Parents, Carers and members of the community, welcome to the first newsletter of the new academic year. It has certainly felt a little different this year due to the death of Queen Elizabeth II, which resulted in school being closed on Monday last week and us using the national period of mourning to help our children realise the gravity of the situation and how/why this historical event is marked with respect. I am so proud of how the children encountered this time as talking about death and dying is such an emotive topic. A new academic year though brings a feeling of freshness and classrooms have been refreshed ready for a new year of learning and the children have loved being back with their friends exhibiting exceptional behaviour every day! I am happy that everyone is so settled and I look forward to seeing you all during the morning/evening collection periods. As a reminder, this newsletter is published every 2 weeks, but please do keep checking ParentHub, the school website and our Facebook page to keep up to date with more specific news coming from the school. Questions or queries can be asked at any time to our staff team who are always visible at the beginning/end of each day. Best Wishes, *Mr Sam Eden (Headteacher)*

### Our Church School Vision

At Ancaster, we are incredibly proud of our school and the work we undertake to ensure that everyone thrives and is supported, encouraged and enabled to be the best that they can be. Our Church School Vision sets out who we are and what we strive to do. We have communicated this previously, but this is not something that we will change regularly and as such, it is important for everyone to know and recognise how the work of the school is influenced by the intent set out in the vision statement.



You may remember that in the summer break, we were in need of a plasterer to help plaster a wall for us. As well as having our vision turned into a wonderful infographic-we have had the first wall that people see when they enter our school adorned with our vision and our values-doesn't it look amazing? Reading the words of the vision every day helps drive us forward to ensure our children receive the best education through our inclusive, warm approach that encourages everyone to thrive!



Our work around our vision is further exemplified by 4 'guiding lights' that have been taken from our vision and are central to the work we undertake. These 4 Guiding Lights are *inclusivity, exploration, empowerment and values-led*. Every policy, procedure, system, subject and school development priority will be guided by these four guiding lights and we will explore to what extent each focus is ensuring the work we undertake is rooted back to our church school vision as well as our core values of Wisdom, Courage and Respect (which play a fundamental part of the 'values-led' guiding light). As we continue to develop other aspects of the school's forward facing documentation, look out for the website, our prospectus and other items making their way into the public domain that help cement and communicate our vision further.

### 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.

### Clubs

Now that the school is in full operation, we are working on our extra-curricular enrichment offer which includes after school clubs. We have Mr Johnson working in school this year as our PE/Sport Apprentice and we are busy training him to deliver sports-based sessions which will start after half term. We are also working as a wider staff team to put together a comprehensive plan of clubs for children to join that is a mixture of free and paid for services from outside agencies. As you can imagine, demand for these services is high and many are not available until Term 2. More details for clubs at Ancaster from Term 2 will be sent out in due course as well as how to book onto these ahead of the term starting.

### New Staff Welcome!

A huge welcome to Mrs Eason and Mr Johnson who have recently started with us this term. Mrs Eason is a new Teaching Assistant who is working within Key Stage 1 and has already made an excellent start with us, it feels as though she has always been here! Mr Johnson is our new PE/Sport Apprentice and he is so excited to begin developing his skills working across the school and helping all children realise their sporting potential. Please join us in welcoming them both to the school family.

### Celebration Worship

We will resume our Celebration Worship next week in which we celebrate children from each Key Stage each week. If your child is selected to receive a certificate, you will be contacted and offered the opportunity to join us and celebrate your child receiving their certificate. These very special occasions are a real treat and opportunity to make memories and we look forward to sharing these with you. We are so blessed that we are able to welcome parents into school and look forward to seeing you soon.

### Labelling Clothes



No doubt, your children's school clothes will have cost you money over the Summer break and we cannot stress the importance of labelling each individual item. As a school, we constantly remind pupils to put their belongings away, but most days there are cases of lost jumpers etc. **To ensure that the items of clothing can be returned to pupils as quickly as possible, we would ask that every item that you have bought for your child is labelled clearly. Thank you for your cooperation with this.**

### Pre-loved Uniform

Our wonderful PTFA are helping to keep the cost of living down by selling pre-loved uniform at very cheap prices to everyone who wants it. All items are in excellent condition and whilst not brand new, they have lots of life left in them. Items for sale can be purchased at any time, so if your child outgrows their current items or you feel you need some spares please get in touch with PTFA by email to [ancaster.ptfa@gmail.com](mailto:ancaster.ptfa@gmail.com)

The list of items available is updated regularly and can be viewed online- the link can be found on our website on the Uniform Page. Please follow this link <https://www.ancasterprimary.org.uk/Uniform.asp>

### New Reception Superstars



Well done to our wonderful new starters in Reception who began with us this term. They have shown huge amounts of resilience and determination returning each day, looking incredibly smart in their full school uniform with a smile on their face! Keep up the great work children, we are so lucky to have you as part of our school family!

### Homework



Homework will begin shortly for all year groups 1-6. We have been undertaking a review of the books we used last year to support homework and have made some changes to ensure that these are fit for purpose and leading to the best outcomes for pupils. Staff will begin to set homework for the children as we await new books to be delivered and we ask that everyone attempts their homework to help them continue their learning journey away from the school site.

## Welcome Disco Friday 30th September EYFS & KS1 5-6pm



It is nearly that time of year again where we transform the hall into a room for dancing and fun and the PTFA ensure the children have an amazing night. We look forward to seeing the children in their party clothes for the sessions outlined and also cannot wait to see their best dance moves. Details regarding each disco are below.

**Reception/Key Stage 1** will be £3.50 per child and include 3 sweets and a novelty item, KS2 will be £2.50 per child and include 3 sweets.

**Key Stage 2 children** will have the opportunity to purchase any novelty items they wish from a shop inside the disco.

Unfortunately, parents are not allowed into the disco, however for Reception/KS1 there will be a parent's room with refreshments available and based in Class China for anyone who wishes to remain on site.

**Weather permitting the selection of Pre-Loved Uniform which is available will be available to view and purchase at the front of school from 5:50pm-6:20pm.**

### Dogs on Site

We have recently seen that parents are bringing dogs on site and whilst these are being carried in arms and are often small dogs, our policy is that dogs are not brought beyond the blue entrance gates. Please can all parents, carers and those picking up and dropping off respect this each day.

### Attendance Matters

There are incredibly strong links between the attendance figures of children and their attainment. Research shows that higher than average rates of attendance lead to more secure outcomes for pupils. We have been reviewing our attendance policy and procedures and we need to ensure that immediate focus is given to the children where their attendance fell below 95% in the last academic year.

Next week-where children's attendance last year met the Persistent Absence measure of more than 10% of absence, letters will be sent to parents explaining what will be happening next. Please ensure that your child is in school every day unless there is a strong, legitimate reason why they can't be in.

## Harvest Festival-19<sup>th</sup> October



Our wonderful Harvest Festivals will take place on the date above. As usual, we are unable to fit the whole school, including parents, into the church, so we will hold two Harvest Festivals, which means double the fun-the services will be led by Revd Georgie.

**Key Stage 2-9.15am-St Martin's Church  
Reception/Key Stage 1-10.15am-St Martin's Church**

If you are able to walk with us to St Martin's church where the services will be held-we always appreciate your support-please speak with your child's Class Teacher.

Donations to Grantham Passage will be greatly received, if you are able. This year, they have asked for a variety of items that families can cook using microwaves and kettles (noodles/micro rice)-this is because these items are cheaper to run than ovens etc. Any non-perishable items (tins and items with long use-by dates) that you are able to provide will be greatly received.

**Thank you in anticipation of your kind donations.**

### Cool Milk



Reception children are given milk in school as part of the Government's Milk Scheme until their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday. After Reception, or their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday- if you'd like your child to receive a carton of milk every day, please visit [coolmilk.com](http://coolmilk.com) to register and pay.

### Curriculum Links

To find out more about what your child is learning about this term, please familiarise yourself with the multitude of information on our website. Following this link will ensure you can see, in more detail, the different elements being covered.

<https://www.ancasterprimary.org.uk/curriculum.asp>

### Weekly Reading

As a school, we value the importance of reading incredibly highly and as such, we expect children of all ages to be reading outside of school and adults making a note in the home/school reading record that we provide. We have noticed that some children are not reading at all at home and we will be picking this up with parents to help ensure that we work together to keep this vital skill continuously developing. We look forward to seeing the rates of reading at home/away from school rocket and celebrating our superstar readers!