

Dear Parents, Carers and members of the community, welcome to Newsletter 7-I hope this communication finds you well. Well, here we are at the end of term and fast approaching Christmas at an alarming rate. I am not quite sure what it is this year, but I am certainly feeling more festive than ever-it may well have something to do with the exceptional Christmas performances that I have had the pleasure of witnessing this week and the lovely festive feeling pervading the school as we celebrate this wonderful time of year. You will have also received the letter from Sally McDowall, our Chair of Governors, regarding my current position as Executive Headteacher coming to an end as planned with me returning to Ancaster full time from January. Whilst I am so incredibly proud of all that has been achieved in both schools across this last 12 months, I am delighted to be coming back to our wonderful school full time and focusing on the next steps that will continue our school focus of providing the very best outcomes for pupils each and every day. For now, I hope you have a wonderful Christmas and a very happy new year and look forward to hearing all about your holiday adventures on our return in January!

Best Wishes, *Mr Sam Eden (Headteacher)*

### Parish Council News

The Parish Council are strongly considering setting up a community speed watch group. They are asking for volunteers who would be willing to give up a few hours during the daytime to carry out this activity which involves 3 or more people in high visibility waistcoats recording the speed and registration of cars who will then, if speeding, receive warning letters from the Police or even a visit in serious or repeat cases.

Volunteers will need to be trained and will set up in an approved manner at a site approved by the Police and will be given a speed gun/monitor to record and report speeding motorists. It is anticipated that this operation would be carried out once or twice per month in several different locations around the Parish.

Also, the Parish Council are looking for 3 new Parish Councillors. For more information on all of the information above, please call Denise Gascoyne, Parish Clerk on 01400 230745.

### Dates for Christmas Festivities



- 15<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am**-KS2 Performance in Church (please join us for walking if you can)
- 15<sup>th</sup> December at 1.15pm**-Christmas Fayre in school
- 18<sup>th</sup> December AM**-Pantomime Trip to Grantham Guildhall (Whole School)
- 18<sup>th</sup> December PM**-Class Christmas Parties
- 19<sup>th</sup> December**-Last Day of Term
- 3<sup>rd</sup> January**-First day of term 3

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year  
from all at Ancaster Church of England  
Primary School!*

### Good Luck Mrs Dickinson



Some time ago we made you aware of the wonderful news that Mrs Dickinson, Teaching Assistant in Y5/6 and HLTA, is expecting her first child and she is now busy preparing for the birth of the baby and the beginning of her Maternity Leave. This leave will begin after Christmas which means that Mrs Dickinson will be leaving us at the end of term. Please join us in wishing her and her husband our very best as they embark on this exciting new chapter in their life!

### Perfect Performances!



Wow is all we can say regarding the wonderful performances that have taken place this week. First, our youngest children in Reception performed their Christmas Spectacular to a packed audience who were so proud of the achievements of the children. Well done Class Wales-you were brilliant!

Also this week, Class Spain and Class Peru undertook their Nativity, Prickly Hay. This was an absolute showstopper and anyone who has seen it has been in for a treat! The children were super confident and told the very important story of Jesus' birth with a modern twist. Well done to the children for their hard work and efforts!

Thank you also to the staff across all classes for their hard work in putting these performances together-each and every staff member is appreciated for their efforts! We are very much looking forward to the KS2 Church Service and hope you can join us!

### Tombola

We are still accepting your generous donations for the Tombola and raffle prizes. If you have any spare bottles of wine lurking at the back of your cupboard, Mr Eden will be running the very popular Wine or Water stall and is keen for any unwanted bottles you are happy to donate. Also, we will be providing refreshments at the Fayre and if you are happy to donate any cakes, that would be great-thank you! Don't forget the Bake Off Competition-will you win?

### Christmas Fayre-Friday 15th December 1.15pm collection and fayre from 1.30pm onwards



Get in the Christmas spirit and purchase some of your gifts at our annual Christmas Fayre. Each class will be running their own stall plus we've invited local businesses too. We have crafts, gifts, decorations and so much more. You can join in the raffles, tombola, or play some games and indulge in some Christmas refreshments (mince pies)!

We are very lucky to have Santa agree to come and see us for the duration of the fayre. He will be delivering presents from the PTFA to each class and then there will be a very special grotto in which children of all ages can pay to visit him and receive a gift.

Children can be collected from 1.15pm onwards from their classrooms and then at 1.30pm, any remaining children will be in Class Wales (Reception). When collected, children will need to be signed out by an authorised adult who will then take full responsibility for them for the remaining time in school. Any child not collected before 3.30pm will either be helping on stalls or be supervised undertaking Christmas activities. **Children must be collected by 3.30pm.**

### Greek Day

Class New Zealand rounded off their Autumn Term topic with a wonderful wow day. The children had a phenomenal day and loved all of the activities throughout the day. Please see our Twitter feed @ancasterprimary where pictures of the day can be seen (particularly Mr Swain and Mr Divers who dressed up and looked fantastic).

### Mr Divers-2<sup>nd</sup> School Placement

Mr Divers, trainee teacher in Class New Zealand, is required to undertake a second school placement in a contrasting location and key stage and will begin this in January. We wish him all the best in this coming placement and look forward to welcoming him back into school after February Half Term.

### Starting School in September 2018?



If your child, or someone you know is due to start school next September, please be aware that the application round is now open and closes on January 15<sup>th</sup> 2018. Should your child have a sibling in school, make sure that this criteria is outlined in the application as this will strengthen the application and secure a place at the school. If someone you know is interested in sending their child to our school we would love to hear from them and will be happy to show them around. This year we have had a record number of enquiries again for places and look forward to welcoming the newest intake of children into school ready for the next academic year.

### Shoebox Appeal-Thank You!



We were delighted to send a record amount of shoeboxes to Operation Christmas Child. In total, 19 shoeboxes were sent from Ancaster and we cannot thank everyone who took part enough. We spent some time in Collective Worship watching the reactions of children who have received them in the past and it certainly helped us all realise how fortunate we all are.

### Shona McCallin Visit



Continuing our inspirational visits via our involvement with Inspire+, the children were lucky to have a visit from another of the charity's ambassadors, Shona McCallin MBE. She was part of the team that created history and won Great Britain the first ever Olympic Gold medal in women's hockey at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio. The children listened with enthusiasm and asked such thoughtful questions. Thank you to both Inspire+ and Shona for coming into school for this inspiring visit.

### Welcome Mrs Holyland

When we return in January, we are looking forward to welcoming Mrs Nicky Holyland to the Support Staff team as she joins us as a 1:1 Support Assistant in Class Wales. She is very excited to be coming to work at Ancaster and we look forward to you welcoming her to our wonderful school!