

Dear Parents, Carers and members of the community, welcome to the first newsletter of the new academic year. It's been so wonderful to welcome old pupils and new ones, catch up with existing members of staff and start to get to know new faces. We have had such a wonderful start back to school and it has truly been a pleasure to visit each class numerous times and witness the calm, focused and respectful learning environments as well as feel as excited as the children by the wide range of activities planned and delivered by our excellent teaching team. It's amazing how after over six weeks without children's voices ringing out in the classes and corridors, it feels normal again so quickly. I want to thank the staff for their hard work over the holidays preparing their classes (which all look so inviting), sorting resources and tidying ready for some exciting first term lessons. A big well done to our new reception children, they have settled so well and we've had very few tears! I am very much looking forward to seeing Ancaster continue to flourish and shine as this year progresses. As always, if you need to catch me, I will be on the school gate several times each week or a longer appointment can be made via the school office. Have a wonderful week and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Best Wishes, *Mr Sam Eden (Headteacher)*

### New Class Identities



Please be reminded that the new class countries are as follows;

**Reception: Class Ireland**

**Year 1: Class Kenya**

**Year 2: Class Egypt**

**Year 3: Class Brazil**

**Year 4: Class Portugal**

**Year 5: Class Russia**

**Year 6: Class Nepal**

The children have loved their Class Identity Day and we have seen so much creativity in their learning and play. Thanks to everyone who helped the children with their dressing up and understanding of their new Class Identity. We will revisit these theme days again next term as we aim to hold one Class Identity Day each large term.



*From everyone at Ancaster, welcome back to school and we hope that you join us in supporting the school in being the best it can be!*

### Welcome to Ancaster-New Staff

Over the summer break, we welcomed Mr Colin Pattison into school as our new Caretaker and he has already made a great start to ensuring the school grounds are maintained and looked after. I am sure you will see Mr Pattison as he opens the gates and in and around the school during the morning and drop off points.

Also over the break, Ms Stapleton made the difficult decision not to return to her post as Administrator and we thank her for her time in school where she helped ensure the effective communication of the office. We returned to our earlier recruitment process and were delighted to offer the post to Mrs Alison Stafford who started with us this week. Mrs Stafford is incredibly excited to be joining the staff team and she will ensure that any of your requests are dealt with as smoothly and quickly as possible.

Finally, you will know that Mrs Hayter is one of our experienced Lunchtime Supervisors and has now worked at the school for a number of years. As we work with our sports facilitator charity Inspire+ quite closely they help co-ordinate a number of different roles and Mrs Hayter has accepted a position within school to be our PE/Sport Apprentice working full time across a range of different classes to enhance the PE/Sport provision during learning time as well as breaks, lunches and after school. Mrs Hayter is continuing her work at lunchtimes too so the children will get a varied offer of games and fun! Look out for more information about after school clubs which will be starting soon.

**Please join us in welcoming these new members of staff to the school family!**

### Daily Mile

On returning to school, we have introduced a new element to the school day in the form of the Daily Mile. You will remember that the new playground markings were installed last term and part of the design for this was the incorporation of the footprints which signal that 18 times around our playground equals 1 mile of travel. Schools are now expected to offer up to 30 minutes of structured active time for children per day outside of breaks and lunches (with a further 30 minutes per day being encouraged at home/clubs). One of the ways we are pursuing this is to introduce the concept of the Daily Mile to the pupils.

Each day, a small amount of ring-fenced time has been established (just before lunch) for the children to attempt the track. The way in which we have implemented this with the children is for them to try and get around the track as many times as they are able to do so and to use tomorrow, or the next time, to try and beat their number of times around the track.

We have spoken with the children earlier this week and made it clear that we will support children to do their best. This is not an area in which we will be issuing sanctions to children as we want them to be motivated to achieve their best, but is also an activity we expect all pupils who are physically able, to participate in. Where children are not yet as positive about this addition to the school day, please support us in ensuring the children recognise the value of exercise on healthy bodies and healthy minds.

### Midday Supervisor Post-Vacancy

Are you interested in becoming a Midday Supervisor in our school, or do you know someone who does? We have a fantastic opportunity to join our excellent lunch team and help contribute to the effective running of lunchtimes each day. The postholder would be required to work every day from 11.45am-1.30pm and be able to work effectively as part of a team. For more information, please enquire at the school office asking for Mrs Moore! We look forward to hearing from you!

### Inhalers in School



If your child needs to have an inhaler during the day it is important that they have one in school at all times. Please ensure that it is labelled with their name and that you have given clear instructions for use to the class teacher and filled out the relevant paperwork at the school office. For those who already have inhalers in school, please check that it has not passed the expiry date. Thank you.

### 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.**

### Curriculum Maps and Letters

Each teacher in school has been busy planning their curriculum content and we have pleasure in providing you with a curriculum map and parent letter which will have come home with your child today. Please ensure that you read these documents as this will give you the valuable information you need to keep up to date with what your child is learning about. A copy of these documents will be placed on the school website. Should you require any additional information, please see your child's class teacher.

### Baby Update



Congratulations to Mr Swain and his wife who welcomed their third child into the world over the Summer break. Baby Ralph was born weighing 7lb 10oz and is doing very well indeed! Mr Swain has returned to school without any tell-tale newborn signs under his eyes and he assures that sleep is plentiful in the Swain household! Please join us in congratulating Mr and Mrs Swain and their boys on their newest addition!

### 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. **Please note, Free School Meals Pupil Premium children will continue to be entitled to milk all the way through school should parents want this.**

### PTFA Welcome Back Disco-Advance Notice of Date-28<sup>th</sup> September

Reception/Key Stage 1 at 5pm-6pm  
Key Stage 2 at 6pm-7pm  
More details to follow from the PTFA