



Ancaster
Church of England Primary School

Newsletter 12

17th March 2017



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Dear Parents, Carers and members of the community, welcome to Newsletter 12. We hope this information finds you well. It certainly has been a 'jam-packed' fortnight since the last newsletter, with so many exciting things going on in and around our school. Year 6 enjoyed their residential and we'd like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Hiorns and Mrs Bailey for taking them. Gardening club have been very busy in the lovely Spring weather we have been enjoying recently and we've had lots of visitors to the school who have inspired and enthused the children. We still have much to look forward to in the last two weeks of term too, pop the diary dates on to your calendar and we will look forward to seeing you at events over the next fortnight, as well as each day on the playground. As always, we aim for one of us to be available on the playground for a quick chat most mornings, however appointments can also be made to see us via the school office. Have a super weekend.

Best Wishes, *Mr Sam Eden (Executive Headteacher) Mrs Clare Talbot (Deputy Headteacher)*



Dan the skipping Man!

Dan the skipping man visited last week and has left us with a skipping legacy! The impact of his exciting visit is evident for everyone to see. Following his visit, children can be seen skipping before, during and after school, and we have even spotted some whilst out walking the dog! As all who took part found out, skipping is not only tremendous fun, but also an excellent way to get fit and keep up a healthy, active lifestyle. To ensure the impact of skipping continues in school, our fabulous playground leaders and midday supervisors have been fully equipped with a variety of team and individual challenges, for break and lunchtimes. If you would like to carry on skipping at home, Dan has a YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/dantheskippingman) packed with instructional videos. Get skipping!

Sam Ruddock Visit



At Ancaster, we are really proud of our association with the sports charity *Inspire+*; through this partnership our pupils get to meet a variety of inspirational personalities from the world of sport. Last week, Paralympic track and field athlete Sam Ruddock visited the school to deliver an energetic and inspiring workshop which left everyone with a real spring in their step. For 30 minutes, our children were riveted by his stories of the Rio Olympics and the need for resilience to truly be the best we can be! Later in the year, we look forward to welcoming another Inspire+ ambassador, Shona McCallin MBE, who won a hockey gold at the 2016 Rio Olympics!

Red Nose Day – Friday 24th March

Our enthusiastic School Council are organising our Red Nose Day events and have decided on:
 'Wear Something Red' Non Uniform Day- £1 donation
 Red themed bake sale – please send in cakes/biscuits with a red theme (cherries/smarties etc) which will be sold at break times.
 School Council will also organise fun activities at break-times. It should be another great day raising money for a good cause and links with our financial capability PSHE work as well as our school values.

Diary Dates:

Big Pedal: Starts **Mon 20th March**
 Biker Breakfast: **Wed 22nd March**
 Red Nose Day: **Fri 24th March**
 Gardening Club plant sale: **Fri 24th March 3.30pm**
 Group school photos: **Tues 28th March**
 Easter Church Services: **Thurs 30th March**
 KS2 9.30 /KS1 10.30
 Easter trail & chocolate tombola (non-school uniform): **Fri 31st March**
 End of Term 4: **Fri 31st March 3.30pm**
 Start of Term 5: **Tuesday 18th April**
 Parent Consultations: **Mon 24th April & Wed 26th April 3-6pm**

Y6 Residential to Kingswood, Dearne Valley



On Monday, March 6th, the whole of Year 6, accompanied by Mrs Hiorns and Mrs Bailey, embarked on the school's first residential to a Kingswood site. After a smooth journey, they were warmly welcomed by Kingswood staff. Any apprehension about being away from home that may have been felt quickly subsided, as the children met the fabulous staff, who were keen to bring out the best in everyone and challenged the children to exceed their expectations. The accommodation was comfortable, with everyone getting far more sleep than had been anticipated, and the varied meals were hungrily demolished after the action-packed programme of activities.

In fine, sunny weather, our intrepid explorers enjoyed a busy and exciting itinerary, which ranged from indoor climbing and problem solving to the very muddy blindfolded Nightline! Everyone ended up with their own personal favourite, but as Year 6 recognised in their evaluations, teamwork, resilience, confidence and determination were all developed. This has done our children the power of good as they prepare for their final term in primary school at Ancaster. Special thanks must go to Mrs Hiorns and Mrs Bailey for making trip possible by accompanying Year 6!

PTFA Easter Trail and Chocolate Tombola

Once again, our wonderful PTFA are organising an Easter trail on the last day of term, where older and younger children will work together to solve Easter clues set in a treasure trail around the school. On this day children can come to school in non-school uniform in return for a donation of Easter chocolate. PTFA will then organise all this chocolate into a chocolate tombola and each child will receive a ticket on completing the Easter trail and win the corresponding chocolate prize. This has been hugely popular with the children in the past and we look forward to this event again!



Gardening Club Update



Gardening Club, led by the brilliant Mrs Awcock, have been extremely busy and over the last few weeks; planting tubs of spring flowers for the plant sale on 24th March 3.30pm and sowing seeds (both veg and flowers) some for around school, some to sell and some for the station project.

They have started to plant a new border next to the car park, and have re-vamped the pebble pond next to the large pond so that children can get up close to the emerging wildlife. Lots of frogs have been spotted and some frogspawn too!

Thanks to Mrs Clarke, a Class Scotland parent, they have been able to plant wheat in 2 of our raised beds, which, when grown will be milled at Heckington, and they will bake bread with the flour. Our poly-tunnel is brimming with plant life, look out for some coming your way on a special day not too far away!



The Big Pedal



From the 20th to the 31st March we will be taking part in 'The Big Pedal', as we have done in previous years. We would like as many children as possible to come to school on their bikes/scooters every day and fill up our bike shelters that have been rather quiet over the winter. The 'bike fairy' will be visiting over the fortnight, awarding spot prizes for bikes in the shelter.

We will also be hosting another of our popular 'Biker Breakfasts' on Wednesday 22nd March from 8.30am, where children will be able to enjoy a free breakfast if they have travelled to school by bike or scooter. Let's kick off Spring with healthy exercise and see if we can beat last year's bike total!



KS2 Choir

Our lovely choir, enthusiastically led by Mrs Phillis, has a treat in store for us and will be performing acapella, a gospel classic, at the KS2 Easter service. Their practise sessions are always a delight to observe as the children really enjoy themselves, are constantly smiling, as well as producing a fantastic sound!