



Ancaster  
Church of England Primary School

## Newsletter 5 11<sup>th</sup> November 2016



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Dear Parents, Carers and members of the community, welcome to Newsletter 5. I hope this communication finds you well. What a wonderful return to school we have had with many events and opportunities which have allowed us to connect with the school community. The recent Open Morning was such a fantastic morning in which existing and prospective parents came in and got a real sense of what the school is about with the ability to join in learning and ask questions to the adults in and around school. It was incredible to see so many people in school for our Firework Extravaganza which, once again, brought the community together for a fun filled evening lighting up the Ancaster sky. Thank you so much to everyone who attended, your help with fundraising is much appreciated. The Parent Consultations on Monday and Wednesday this week were also a fantastic opportunity for parents to have a key update on progress, attitudes and behaviour since starting back in September. We are so proud of the achievements of the pupils and also asked you to complete our Parent Questionnaire which has brought with it, once again, excellent results showing how happy you are as a parent body with the education and learning experiences we are providing at Ancaster. We are so proud of our school and take parent satisfaction very seriously-I will be sharing the results of the survey with you shortly once the analysis has been completed but want to thank you for taking the time to invest in our school as we are stronger together than as separate entities. I look forward to seeing you over the coming weeks in and around school. **Best Wishes. Mr Sam Eden (Headteacher)**

### Wraparound Care

This week we have announced to parents in separate communication that Ancaster Village Nursery will be, from January 2017, taking over the existing Breakfast Club provision and also offering a full After School Club that will allow parents to be able to access wraparound care from 7.45am to 6pm.

We are delighted to be able to work with the Nursery as they already offer a fantastic service within the village but this will ensure it is enhanced further by being on the school premises and allowing the pupils to be in an environment that is conducive to their age and stage of development and learning.

Some parents have been asking why we have chosen to stop running our own Breakfast Club provision and allow the Nursery to offer this and it is important that parents know that after a detailed review of the service, it was found that the amount of money the school charges for this provision is too low and is costing the school money. This means the service as it stands is not viable and we would have had to significantly increase our costs to cover this and ensure the school budget is not paying for Breakfast Club. Our own costing review meant that should Ancaster be to provide the service, we would have had to charge more than the £4 that Nursery will be charging and we wanted to work with a provider that offers value for money and an excellent service.

In working with Ancaster Village Nursery to set up the agreement, we have been so impressed with how much they are willing to work alongside the parent body to offer a first class service and we are incredibly excited to see the provision grow and develop over the coming months.

### Firework Update



**Last week, we welcomed into the school grounds the largest number of families ever recorded to our Firework Extravaganza. We are proud to announce that a huge £675 was raised across the evening and this money will go towards the PTFA contribution to our school development of the outdoor area. Can we take this opportunity to say thank you to the PTFA for the fantastic organisation as without them, this wonderful event would not have been able to take place. Also thank you to Terry Vangasse, Jason Taylor and James Hull for setting off the fireworks and ensuring that the event was safe. We look forward to a bigger and even better event again next year!**

### Congratulations Mr Swain-A new Baby has been born!



Congratulations to Mr Swain and his wife, Leonie, who welcomed their brand new baby into the world yesterday. Baby George was a very healthy 9lb 7oz and is adjusting to life after celebrating his birthday. Please join us in wishing both Mr and Mrs Swain as well as their little boy, Stanley, all the best in welcoming their new little one into the world!

## Attendance Update

We have been busy analysing the attendance for the last term and ensuring that any patterns or trends in pupil absence is monitored and discussed with parents. From the Pupil Profile sheets that you received from the Parent Consultations, you will be aware of what the percentage for you child looks like and we will ensure you are kept up to date in future updates of this document. For the previous term, the attendance figures per class are as follows;

-Reception-Scotland-98.02%    -Y1-Switzerland-96.11%  
-Y2-Canada-98.20%    -Y3/4-Mexico-97.97%  
-Y4/5-Jamaica-97.22%    -Y5/6-South Africa-96.14%

As you know, for attendance to be considered to be good or better it is ideally placed to be above 95% and closer to 97% for outstanding attendance. For the first term, the attendance figure for the whole school was 97.29%. Please help keep this figure as high as possible by ensuring your child is in school every day and only missing education when absolutely necessary. Please be reminded that family holidays are not deemed as an exceptional circumstance and we are not allowed to authorise holiday/absence unless there is an exceptional circumstance which is agreed by the school.

Overall, our annual attendance figures as a school are rising. In 2013/14 attendance for the whole school was recorded as 95.2%, in 2014/15, the figure was 96% and for the academic year 2015/16 our overall attendance was 96.4%. Analyses shows that we have increased the percentage of pupil attendance by 1.2% in the past two years.

Further to this information, we are able to report that a total of 148 days of school were missed across the academic year due to family holidays which have not been authorised and a total of 727 school days were missed due to children being absent from school when ill, with a further 76 days being lost to medical appointments. When totalled, this equates to 5 days off per child in the school last year. We fully appreciate that children who are ill should not be at school, but feel it is important that parents and carers see and understand the figures above as time away from school, no matter how little is incredibly detrimental to pupil progress. Thank you for your continued efforts in ensuring excellent attendance.

### *Children in Need 2016 Next Friday-18<sup>th</sup> November*



Next Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> November, we are inviting children to come to school dressed in something spotty or in pyjamas with a £1 donation to the charity and any donations of cakes. We will be holding a cake sale so please send any money into school with your child so they can participate if you wish. Thank you in advance, we look forward to seeing the children going spotty and dotty or in their pyjamas for Children in Need.

### *Twitter!*

Are you following us on Twitter? We update this platform most days and know you will find this an effective form of communication.

### *Reading Parent Workshop Advance notice of date-6pm 7<sup>th</sup> December*

To ensure that parents feel comfortable with the increased expectations in reading and making the most of reading at home time, we have arranged for an expert in this field to deliver a high quality talk to parents which will give you hints and tips for this crucial time. Jeannie Bulman will ensure that parents have strategies for developing reading further at home as well as guiding you through the more trickier comprehension questions that children are asked as they develop their reading skills and move on from phonics.

We would like to see as many parents as possible at this event as we know that Jeannie will deliver a friendly, informative and useful session that will undoubtedly impact on your ability to complement the work being undertaken at school in relation to reading.