



*Spring Term 1  
2016*

*Langar Church of England Primary School*

*Barnstone Road, Langar, Nottinghamshire. NG13 9HH 01949 860056*

*Head Teacher: Mr A B Johnson*

## Message from Mr Johnson

Welcome to the first spring term newsletter which I am sure you will find very informative and interesting. As always, the children have been very busy this half term and there is a lot to share. We hope you like the new look format and you enjoy reading what we have been up to.

## Pole to Pole Day

On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016 Langar Primary held a Pole to Pole day. The children were organised into their house groups, which were then split in half, and travelled around the world, spending half an hour in each country.



The children were treated to pasta making in Italy, kite constructing in China, Russian doll designing in Russia, boomerang making in Australia, fact finding in America, food tasting in Spain, spice smelling in India and djembe drumming in Africa.

The day was a great success and gave the children a taster of life around the world and a wealth of information about the countries they visited.

## School Topic news...

### Discover, Explore, Create



'Explore' is the theme this term, and all class topics are geography led. Class 1 are looking at weather and hot and cold places, Class 2 are studying Antarctica and Kenya through their topic 80 Days Around the World and Classes 3 and 4 are exploring Asia. Our cross curricular topics have proved to be a great success so far.

Feedback from the children after the first term's 'Discover' topics (which were history led) told us that they had enjoyed the real life experiences; the opportunities to work with children from other classes and the speaking and listening tasks.

There will be more of this to follow as our summer term topics are arts led and come under the heading 'Create'.

## Key dates

### January 2016

- 28<sup>th</sup> Year 1 Parents – lunch invitation  
29<sup>th</sup> Assembly in Church 11.40am

### February 2016

- 8<sup>th</sup> Multi Faith week  
10<sup>th</sup> No school swimming  
11<sup>th</sup> Year 2 Parents – lunch invitation  
11<sup>th</sup> School closes for half term  
12<sup>th</sup> INSET day – school closed  
22<sup>nd</sup> School re-opens  
25<sup>th</sup> Year 3 Parents – lunch invitation  
25<sup>th</sup> Class 2 Sharing Assembly 3pm  
parents welcome  
26<sup>th</sup> Assembly in Church 11.40am

## School Office news...

Payment should be paid in advance of meals taken.  
Lunch money for next term is £60.20.

Children In Need day – a very big thank you to everyone.  
We raised £120.56.

## School Council news...

The Hillary Award for the Autumn term was awarded to Josh Humberstone for his bravery.



Sport Relief is back! Its taking place between 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> March 2016 – more details to follow nearer the date.

Just to let you know the School is collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers again. We will need to hand the vouchers in by 8<sup>th</sup> July 2016 in exchange for Sports and Cooking equipment. Many thanks for your continued collecting!

## Eco News

This term we have had 30 children join the Eco Action Team – Wow!

The team have had one team meeting so far and the projects that the team want to enter into, in and around school, range from waste, wildlife and pollution – to name a few. Watch this space ...

Thank you so much to everyone who donated their Christmas cards to the Eco Team. We had so many we were able to cover our Eco Warrior – Daisy in them! The team will recycle the card fronts for Christmas gift tags.



## Let's Get Cooking

The Let's Get Cooking team have had a fantastic start to the year by making a selection of soups, soda bread and tomato pasta.



## Christingle

Lights dimmed, candles glowing, children singing!  
The Christingle service, led by the Reverend Gamble in St Andrews church was a well attended, thought provoking celebration.



The children had made Christingles at school in the afternoon and then were taken to church by their parents and carers to take part in the service.



## Sports News ... On your marks, get set – go ....

On 18<sup>th</sup> January 2016 the Athletics team went to South Notts Academy to compete in a Small Schools competition. Children from year 3 and 4 undertook 4 relays and 4 field activities. The team came 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 8 schools resulting in the team going through to the Group B final. Date to be confirmed.



12 children went to South Wolds Academy on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2016 to enter into a rowing tournament with 11 other schools. Strength and stamina was certainly tested!



On 11<sup>th</sup> February 18 children will be taking part in a competitive swimming gala at Carlton Forum. We wish them luck.

## Multi Faith Week – Week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> February 2016

As part of our current value; 'Thoughtfulness', the children will be taking part in a multi faith week. As a Christian school we know how important it is to teach about the diversity of our country and world, and encourage a tolerance and understanding of the people in it. The children will learn about four world faiths and the festivals and celebrations that they have at this time of year, through collective worship, art, drama, music, crafts and written work.

## News skills for Years 5 &6



On 26<sup>th</sup> January Class 3 were visited by St Johns Ambulance for a whole day practical workshop. The day started with a whole school assembly on basic first aid around burns and DR ABC.

Children up to the age of 18 can volunteer for St Johns Ambulance – further details can be found on [www.sja.org.uk](http://www.sja.org.uk)



## Governor news ... Attendance

Having reviewed attendance at the last Governing Body meeting, governors are concerned that absence, and particularly unauthorised absence figures have increased. In particular they are concerned at the number of parents taking children on holidays during term time.

In September 2013 the Department for Education issued a directive saying that schools were no longer able to authorise holidays taken during term time except in exceptional circumstances and that schools should not be placed in a position to decline approval for leave of absence.

In a recent survey, the DfE estimated that one in six truants is away with their parents on a family holiday. Holiday prices and the fact that parents have booked a holiday before checking with the school are not special reasons. Ten days absence for a family holiday can result in pupils with poor attendance becoming persistent absentees and hence being referred to the Local Authority for targeted support.

The national figure for school attendance is 96%. Presently we have 22 children whose attendance is below this figure and governors have asked me to write to those parents to alert them to the fact.

Thank-you to those parents who are following the legal requirement and supporting the school and children's learning by taking holidays at the allocated times.

## All about Governors

I am sure many of you are aware that the school has governors, but you may have wondered what a governing body actually does? The following internet article provides an 'at a glance' explanation:

Governors work together to provide an independent oversight of the management and operation of the school, with the aim of improving the quality of education provided and raising standards. A school's Governing Body does not run the school; this is the job of the Head Teacher and other senior staff.

The Governing Body meets regularly throughout the year. Governors may receive and discuss reports from the Local Education Authority, the Head Teacher and the Governing Body's Committees. Governors may discuss particular curriculum areas, proposed building work or new developments at the school and decided on the best course of action to take.

At meetings the Governing Body will:

- guide the school's aims and strategies;
- review performances (including attendance);
- consider problems and possible solutions;
- fulfil statutory obligations;
- make decisions in the best interests of the school's pupils and staff and the wider community

A wide range of responsibilities and obligations rest upon the Governing Body.

In discharging their obligations Governors must act with honesty and integrity at all times, and be ready to explain their actions and decisions to staff, pupils, parents and the wider community.

The overall aim for the Governing Body is to take general responsibility for the school's conduct, and ensure that high standards of achievement and attendance are promoted.

### The Governing Body Does:

- Offer support and advice to the school as a critical friend;
- Appoint the Head Teacher;
- Help set the school's aims and policies;
- Approve and monitor the school's budget;
- Deal with complaints in line with the school's complaints policy;
- Review the Head Teacher's decision to permanently exclude a pupil;
- Help the school respond to the needs of the wider community.

### The Governing Body Does Not:

- Inspect the school or members of staff;
- Decide on the way pupils are taught;
- Have the right to exclude pupils;
- Manage the day-to-day aspects of school life

The power to make decisions and take action lies with the Governing Body as a whole. However, an individual Governor may act on behalf of the Governing Body if they have been delegated specific responsibility to do so.

Our school governors are: Mr Mark Ebb (Chair), Mr Mark Hover (Vice Chair), Rev'd Bronwen Gamble (Foundation), Dr Helen Baxter (Foundation), Mr Andrew Johnson (Head Teacher), Mrs Emily Brown (Staff), Mr Michael Donnelly (Parent), Mr Richard Swallow (Parent) and Ms Hannah Saxton (Co-opted)