



Anstey First School

19th July 2019 Newsletter 5

From the Governors:



Governors' Corner

So, there goes another school year and a very busy one it was. As Anstey School grows there is a need to regularly review the staffing structure, to move staff about and to find another corner to put all the stuff needed for running an ambitious, improving school e.g. computers, teaching resources and children. The governors are very proud of the recent improvements in the Early Years setting and the plan, over the Summer break, will be to improve the environment for the Little and Wise Owls. Cash is tight but the children in our care deserve, not just a high standard of teaching, but also a pleasant work place. Changes might not come as fast as we would like but there is a determination to see plans through.

And, on staffing changes, I sat in to observe a curriculum development meeting with the teaching staff the other day. Most of what was going on went straight over my head but one

thing was very clear; there is going to be a first-class team in operation in September. There was an enthusiasm for school improvement, for getting things done, even at the end of the long, draining, Summer term.

From September we get Mrs Myers back full time after loaning her out to Hornead School. She wasn't really expecting that surprise Ofsted inspection but made it look easy. I know she's looking forward to being back in the thick of it at Anstey. Our thanks must go to the way Mrs Modeste took on the extra responsibility so well in the head's absence. And while I'm at it, let's not forget the support staff; there is a wealth of experience and skill at all levels at Anstey School – it's a real team effort.

At some point in the next school year, probably sooner than later, the inspector will be calling on us. I have every confidence that the school will be in a healthy position to take on Ofsted. And we should remember, no matter what the outcome of an inspection (that all too cursory snapshot of a school) it is the same school the day after, as it was the day before...

Tom Sealy, Chair of Governors.

The day I spied on the teachers....

I had the privilege yesterday, in my role as parent governor, to sit in on the teacher's curriculum planning afternoon. The teachers had taken an afternoon out of school to try and plan the integration of the Montessori '5 Great Lessons' with the National Curriculum. But it was so much more than that! Discussion ranged from how to instill gender equality to how to nurture creativity whilst still ticking the (literal tick boxes) of the national curriculum; from how to ensure they were modelling a growth mindset to how to give our rural children experiences from the wider world. What really came across to me whilst I was sat there listening was the passion, experience, creativity and dedication which every one of our teachers have. You could feel how much they care that each and every child has an experience at Anstey which is rich, personalised and sends them away with all the skills that they need to succeed. Like all of us, they may not always get it 100% right but I came away satisfied that our children could not be in better hands!

Natalie Punter

PTA Events 2019-2020

Start of Term – We will be starting our '100 Club' lottery – more details in September!

25th October – Halloween Party

5th December – Winter Wonderland Fair

6th June 2020 – Fairies and Fantastical Creatures Festival



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Messages from the Classrooms

Owlets have had a very busy few weeks with the teddy bear's picnic then Bewilderwood and sports day. We have also managed to fit in caring for the chickens, meeting the baby chicks and welcoming Louis, our new Owlet. All of this and we have still continued with our topic learning about road safety and travelling to the zoo and the seaside on our imaginary train!



Fledglings have been preparing to move onwards and upwards as well as joining in wholeheartedly with school trips and fun. There has been a lot of outside learning involving water this term, making the most of the hot weather.

Little Owls Have been doing a project around Katie Morag and the Isle of Struay. They have made pictures of their own imaginary islands and they have created tourist brochures encouraging people to visit Struay. Year one have done quite a bit of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) work lately. They have made some electronic racing cars which they have absolutely loved racing around the playground, adjusting and mending. The little owls have also released their tadpoles back to Miss Smith's pond and are digging up their potatoes!

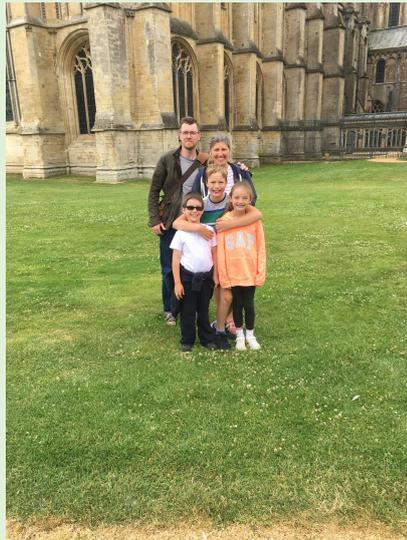




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Wise Owls have been making scrapbooks about the mud run, continuing with their musical education with 'draw what you hear' exercises and doing lots of writing exercises focusing on creativity and content. Year 4 went on a special leavers trip on Mrs Vinton's narrow boat on the old West river – from the Lazy Otter Marina up to Ely. They visited Ely cathedral and went kayaking on the river.





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A Note from Mrs Myers

Dear Parents,

As we approach the end of the 2018-2019 school year I would like to thank everyone from the bottom of my heart for the continued support for our lovely little school. This school year, I found, has been a little trickier than previous years with extending my time at Hornead (plus the Ofsted!) and continuing to split my time between two schools as well as having a staff member leave in the middle of the year. I am now happy Hornead has found their new Headteacher and Anstey has found an amazing addition, to our already talented staff, in Mr McKelvey. Sometimes you have to just roll with it and take the good with the bad and have faith that equilibrium will be restored.



I have appreciated the support from all the Anstey staff who have stepped up to help and gone above and beyond. Anstey staff have grit and heart!! Life in a small school is never easy at best but it has certainly been made easier by those times when we all work together to support each other. Your kind words and gestures, as we end our year, are very appreciated by myself and all the staff.

We are all looking forward to coming back in September refreshed and ready for a fabulous new school year, with some physical improvements to our building like an actual staff room (☐) and our KS1, KS2 and preschool areas spruced up as well as the introduction of our bespoke curriculum encompassing the National Curriculum alongside a Montessori Curriculum and approach.

A little tired and weary from a very eventful and exciting term I'm sure many of you, our staff included, will appreciate the opportunity to spend quality time together as families and to have some well-deserved fun. We wish our families and children who are moving on to their new schools all the best in your future and to the rest of you a very happy summer break. I look forward to seeing you all back at Anstey on the 3rd of September.

Sincerely,
Mrs Myers



Don't forget to
name all new
uniform!

Dates and Things to Note

- Tuesday 3rd September – Return to school 9am!

All term dates are available on the Anstey school website – please do check them as they have changed in the past few weeks due to the odd bank holiday next year and so on: [Term Dates](#)

Uniform is also available through the website: [uniform information](#) and [uniform order page](#)

Clubs: Mrs Vinton will send out a list confirming days and pricing but the clubs will be:

- Magical Maths
- Labtots (New!! – Tuesdays)
- Dance with Shannon
- Outdoor Pursuits
- Film club

Thank you to all parents who have cleared their Gateway accounts, we only have a couple outstanding which we would really appreciate being cleared ASAP.