Thursday 28 April 2022

**Weekly Letter**

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope my letter finds you all safe and well.

It has been lovely to welcome all the pupils back after the break. It amazes me how much they all seem to grow in such a short space of time. We have had a great start to the summer term with lots of exciting things happening in school and with lots to look forward to this term.

We have had very low numbers of COVID cases, and we are optimistic this will continue throughout the term.

**Holiday Heroes**

We had another successful Holiday Heroes during the Easter break, the pupils had lots of fun taking part in a range of fabulous activities, a huge thank you to Mrs Mahood and team for all their hard work. Thanks again to all the staff who kindly worked during the holidays. We are currently in the planning stages for Holiday Heroes during the May half-term break. Mrs Mahood will be in touch once we can confirm we are able to go ahead.

**Calvert Trust**

Last week pupils from Year 7 and Year 10 took part in a three-night four-day activity holiday at Calvert Trust, in Keswick, Lake District. It was both a pleasure and privilege to be able to go along and support them. The pupils absolutely amazed us taking part in a wide range of new activities and many experiencing their first time staying away from home. I was so proud of the pupils and all they achieved. It wouldn’t have been possible without the fantastic support, care and encouragement offered to them by our wonderful staff, who went above and beyond to encourage and enable the pupils to get the very best out of the experience.

**Jewish Passover celebrations & faith visit**

Last week we celebrated Jewish Passover an important celebration in the Jewish religious calendar, in addition we had a faith visit on Friday 22 April, classes took part in a range of activities learning about the celebration and the religion of Judaism. Thank you to Mrs Howarth for taking the lead and arranging the visit. The pupils and staff enjoyed the visit, more information and photographs are available on the school website.

**Saint George’s Day**

On Friday we celebrated Saint George’s, Day, Patron Saint of England, although the official day of celebration was the Saturday. Pupils learned about Saint George and his life & work. It was a great opportunity to promote our fundamental British values and our school values too. Pupils engaged in a range of activities, there are lots of class blogs to look at to find out more.

**Website refresh**

Yesterday we had a photographer in school capturing images of the school grounds and the pupils engaging in a range of learning activities. The images are going to be used for our website as it is due a refresh. The photographer was able to give me a brief overview of the images and footage he had captured and I was so impressed with quality of the images and special moments he was able to capture. The difficult task will be selecting the final images to use, as there are so many amazing ones to choose from. Thank you to Mrs Hodgeon for arranging and taking the lead on his visit. I will be in touch when we are ready to launch the new images on the website.

**Parent Governor Vacancy**

We have a Parent Governor vacancy and are looking for a parent or carer who has the time to commit to playing an active role in the life of the school to join our team. We are keen to secure a parent governor whose skills, knowledge and experience will complement the existing team. Whilst not essential, we would especially welcome parents who have worked or are currently working in the medical/healthcare or social care profession or who have/had their own business. We are also keen to increase the diversity of our Governing Board and would actively encourage parents from the BAME community to apply.

If you are interested and would like an informal discussion about the role of governor, please feel free to get in touch with Mrs Wendy Blundell, Chair of Governors blundellw@astleypark.lancs.sch.uk who would be happy to give you further information about the role. If you are interested, please complete the link [Parent Governor Notice of Election Ms Form](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=u2qxpPbMiUSMT5RGeWw8YnKUIYDdQIxBvuJTvkDpJwBUREMwTFI1TlFJVTUyMFpVMDI4Sks3QVNJTC4u) and we will be in touch.

**Staffing update**

Following an opportunity for internal temporary secondments, two of our Level 2 Teaching Assistants have been promoted to Level 3. Mrs Julie Banks has moved from Beech Class to Sycamore Class and Mrs Donna Taylor has moved from 8A to Oak Class. Well Done and Congratulations to them both.

Hoping you all enjoy the Bank Holiday weekend, and I will look forward to welcoming the pupils back to school on Tuesday 3rd May.

Take care & keep safe  



Kieran Welsh

Headteacher