

Acomb County First School Newsletter



Friday 12th March 2021

Head Teacher Message

It has been such a pleasure to have all of our children back in school this week, we have been delighted with how well they have settled back into school routines despite such a long time away.

Amongst many other things, the most rewarding is to see how happy they have been to see their friends and play on the yard again. We've seen a return to traditional games on the yard this week, all initiated by children such as Toilet Tag (Stuck in the Mud to us of a certain age!) and the old favourite Duck Duck Goose!

PE has certainly been a hit, with tennis and cricket being covered this half term. We've had to remind the children they don't get extra points for hitting staff cars!

We plan to make the most of the remainder of this term, our focus continues to be the delivery of a challenging, broad and balanced curriculum with an opportunity to recap any lost learning where needed.

Thank you again for all of your hard work at home and we wish you all a lovely weekend.

Mrs Clarke

School News



Staffing update

After 12 years of dedicated service Linda Dobson our school cook has retired. She is looking forward to putting up her feet following many years of serving lunches to the children of Acomb First School. We thank you for your hard work and wish you a happy and enjoyable retirement!

Congratulations to Jill Blaylock who has been recruited to fulfil the role of School Cook following Linda's retirement.

A very warm welcome to Abby Tidswell who has joined the team as Kitchen Assistant. We hope you will be very happy in your new role at Acomb First School!

Penny Parr has also joined Class 1 this term as part of her initial teacher training with Northumbria University.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Hugo in Reception on becoming a big brother! Congratulations also to Mum and Dad on the wonderful news!



School office

The school office is manned by Mrs Collingwood from 8:30am – 12:30pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and 8.30am – 2:45pm on a Monday and Friday. The remainder of the time the office and phones are covered by Mrs Clarke.

Free School Meals

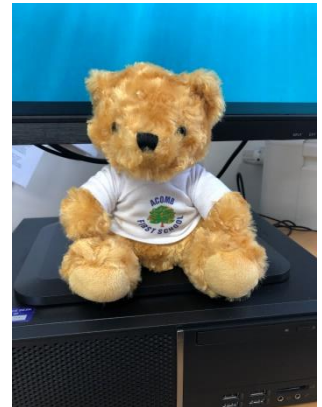
If your circumstances have changed recently it might be worth checking to see if you are eligible to apply for free school meals. The application process is really quick and office staff can talk you through the online form or even complete it over the phone with you. The first link below provides more information and the second link takes you directly to the application form.

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Education/Schools/Meals.aspx#schoolmeals>

https://online.northumberland.gov.uk/citizenportal/form.aspx?form=Free_School_Meals

PTA Teddy Bears

Thank you for your lovely messages and photos, we are delighted that the teddies were warmly received by children at home and school. We are still in the process of collecting photographs of children with their teddies; if you haven't sent one yet, please do so to admin@acomb.northumberland.sch.uk or upload to Tapestry.



A View from my Window - Art Competition

Thank you for all of your entries, we had some beautiful and inspired pieces of artwork. Due to such high standards all children who entered received a certificate of participation. Well done to you all! Special congratulations to the following children who were the winners.

Reception - Daisy
Year 1 – Emelia & Daniel
Year 2 – Sofia
Year 3 - Josh
Year 4 - Poppy



Robinwood - Year 4 Residential

We have had confirmation from Robinwood that the Year 4 Residential trip booked for April will sadly not go ahead. They are awaiting guidance from the DFE as to when they are able to re-open their centres and it is looking likely that it may not be until May or June at the earliest. We will organise a full refund for all payments made to school and are looking into options for day trips later in the summer term when restrictions allow.

Internet issues

We have had significant problems with our Wi-Fi connectivity over the last few months with slower speeds than usual resulting in poor connections across school. We have been assured by BT that the issue is now fixed, however we apologise for any inconvenience this has caused when taking part in live sessions.

School Reading Books

We still have a number of reading books missing from our reading scheme. Please can you take a look at home for any school reading books and return them. Thank you.

Free School Meal Vouchers

Families in receipt of income based free school meals will receive vouchers for the Easter holidays via the Hugg system. Northumberland County Council have pledged to fund the vouchers as part of the winter grant scheme which covers the cost of vouchers during school holidays until the end of March 2021.

E Safety page

Mrs Barber has been very busy updating our E Safety page on the school website. The page now contains lots of helpful advice and tips for parents and carers on a range of E safety topics including popular gaming sites like Roblox and Fortnite. Our aim is to provide you with enough information to keep you a step ahead of your children! Please follow the link below for more information and please contact school for further advice or support.

<http://www.acomb.northumberland.sch.uk/website/esafety/253750>

Swimming

The latest update from Wentworth is that they plan to start swimming lessons again after the Easter holiday; however they are still awaiting confirmation of this. We are hopeful that swimming can begin for Class 2 on Friday 16th April.

Class Messages

Reception

The children in Reception have been very excited to have their friends back. They have settled straight back in and got on like the superstars they are! We have had lots of time to catch up, talk about how we're feeling and started looking at the lifecycle of a butterfly. They have really impressed me with their knowledge!

Class 1

The children in Class 1 have settled back into their school routine amazingly well. They have remembered when to wash their hands, our class routine and we have been busy talking about our class rules too. The children loved seeing all of their friends back at school on Monday morning and really enjoyed our special virtual assembly with all of our school friends too. I am so happy to see all of the children's smiley faces back in school. This week has been a busy week! In English this week, we have been reading the story of the 'Owl Babies', we have been learning about habitats in Science and we discovered that this story was set in a woodland habitat. In Maths this week we have been learning all about length, we have learnt how to use standard units of measure and non-standard units of measure to investigate the lengths of different objects in our classroom.

Just a little reminder that from Monday 8th March we are only able to change reading books once a week. Our book changing day is a Monday only. We would really appreciate it if you could please make sure that your child brings in their reading records and books on a Monday, so we can change and quarantine the books. Please remember that we are unable to change any books in a reading record that has not been signed by an adult. Please don't forget that our reading target in Class 1 is to read at least three times a week. This can be a mixture of books sent home from school and books read at home too.

I am so impressed with how well you have all settled back into school life and I am looking forward to seeing you all again next week!

Class 2

Class 2 have settled in very well, demonstrating a mature attitude and super keen to get going! I have been really impressed with their attitude towards learning. We have been working on fractions this week in Maths; the children have tackled tricky problems involving proper and improper fractions amazingly! In English the children have been writing poems and making sure that we include good rhythm and rhyme!

In addition to their normal lessons, the children have been completing independent experiments using magnets to celebrate British Science Week and are looking forward to inventing a new game using magnets.

After School Club

Please inform the school office if there are any changes or new bookings for After School Club, this enables us to keep registers up to date and let staff know home time arrangements.

Thank you in advance.



LITTLE OAKS NURSERY

2 YEARS - £15.75 PER 3 HOUR SESSION (for non-funded sessions)

3 & 4 YEARS- £14.25 PER 3 HOUR SESSION (for non-funded sessions)

BREAKFAST CLUB (includes breakfast)

£5.25 FOR 2 YEAR OLDS

£4.50 FOR 3 YEAR OLD OR ABOVE

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB (includes meal)

£5.25 PER HOUR FOR 2 YEAR OLDS

£5.00 PER HOUR FOR 3 YEAR OLD & ABOVE

Any enquiries please call 01434 613422

Celebration of Work

During Lockdown, Emily in Class 2 was inspired to create a poem called 'Be Yourself' and has given us permission to share it on the newsletter. Class 2 are super proud of Emily for sharing her poem in class and describe it as thought provoking and think it shares an important message for us all. We love your poem Emily and couldn't agree more with your fabulous words!

Be Yourself

**Be Yourself no matter what people say
Strong, flexible, does not matter
Small or big, thin or fat, never mind
Be Yourself and everything will go better
Woo Woo
We all have talents
Some people may think it's dumb but
You are you no matter what.**

Emily - Class 2

School Lunches

A quick reminder that children are able to have a school dinner whenever they wish. We no longer require a week's notice. Next week is a return to 'Week 1' of the Menu, which can be found on the School Website on the link below.

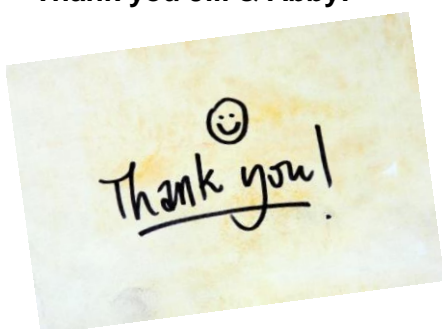
<http://www.acomb.northumberland.sch.uk/website/menus/378405>

A new menu for the Summer Term is currently being developed and will begin after the Easter holiday.

Total number of school dinners taken today is 53, our highest take up to date, which indicates that the school lunches are going down well!

Today is this lovely 'Rainbow' Fruit Salad – loaded with vitamins and minerals and delicious too.

Thank you Jill & Abby!



Diary Dates

Date	Event	Time	Notes
March 2021			
Monday 8 th March	School Open to all pupils		
Wednesday 10 th March	Class 2 Multisport Club	3:15 – 4:15 pm	Running for 3 weeks
Thursday 18 th March	Full Governing Body Meeting	6 pm	
Friday 19 th March	Red Nose Day Normal Uniform timetable applies.		Noses available to purchase in school £1.50. Please pay via +Pay
Monday 22 nd March	Class 1 telephone consultations	1:15pm – 3:30 pm	Please return reply slip
Tuesday 23 rd March	Class 2 telephone consultations	1:15pm – 3:30 pm	Please return reply slip
Wednesday 24 th March	Last Multisport club for Class 2	3:15 – 4:15 pm	
Friday 26 th March	Last day of term		
April 2021			
Monday 12 th April	School Reopens		
Wednesday 14 th April	Multisport Club Class 1	3:15 – 4:15 pm	Running for 7 weeks
Wednesday 14 th April	Robinwood Year 4 Residential		Cancelled
Friday 16 th April	Swimming for Class 2 children begins	1:00pm – 4:30 pm	TBC Awaiting further information
Monday 19 th April	Class 1 telephone consultations	1:00pm – 4:30 pm	Please return reply slip
Tuesday 20 th April	Class 2 telephone consultations	1:00pm – 4:30 pm	Please return reply slip
Wednesday 21 st April	Class 2 telephone consultations	1:00pm – 4:30 pm	Please return reply slip
Thursday 22 nd April	Class 1 telephone consultations	1:00pm – 4:30 pm	Please return reply slip
Thursday 29 th April	Governors committee meeting - RMC	6 pm	
May 2021			
Monday 3 rd May	Mayday		School closed
Friday 7 th May	NSPCC Numbers Day		More information to follow
Thursday 13 th May	Governors committee meeting - SPD	6 pm	
Friday 28 th May	Last day of term		
June 2021			
Monday 7 th June	School reopens		
Wednesday 9 th June	Multisport Club Class 2	3:15 – 4:15 pm	Running for 6 weeks
Thursday 24 th June	Full Governing Body Meeting	6 pm	
July 2021			
Tuesday 6 th July	Transfer Day		
Friday 9 th July	School Reports		
Tuesday 13 th July	Optional drop in/phone call with Class Teachers	After school	TBC
Friday 16 th July	Last day of term		
September 2021			
Monday 6 th September	Staff Development Day	All day	
Tuesday 7 th September	School reopens to children		



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Art competition winners

