



ACOMB FIRST SCHOOL



Head teacher Mrs Angela Speed

NEWSLETTER 4 2016-17 7.2.17

As we settle into 2017 I would like to share some of the themes and focuses we are exploring in school.

Mission and vision statements

Staff and governors have been revising the school mission and vision statements to ensure they represent our school ethos and beliefs and the aims of school leadership.

We would now like the views of parents and the proposed statements are attached to this newsletter. Please do let me know your thoughts either in writing or by coming and talk to me.

We are also including the children's views and thoughts through school council.

Growth mindset and independent learning skills

As a school we are dedicated to developing the children's learning skills and providing them with attitudes and tools which will support and develop their learning both in and out of school, now and in the future. You may well have heard your children talking about a growth mindset and attitudes for learning which include resilience, perseverance, and aspirations. This can be summarised as a "can do attitude". If a child says "I can't" we add the word "yet!". You can echo this attitude at home with a range of tasks and day to day activities such as getting dressed independently, tying laces and organising their own belongings. The children do enjoy their successes!

We are also developing the children's independent learning skills by providing them with appropriate strategies and resources to use. This includes resources such as wall displays, table top resources and strategies such as checking with a partner. We aim to provide the children with a "toolbox for learning".

We celebrate success at our Friday assemblies and award certificates to those who have embodied our school values through achievement, progress and effort.

This term we are focusing upon our Wonderful world and Brilliant Britain. We always aim to raise the children's awareness of other cultures throughout our curriculum. Our assembly programme includes celebration of festivals across many cultures, particularly those that are celebrated in the North east such as the recent Chinese or lunar new year. We believe that it is important that the children have an awareness of cultures within and beyond their immediate communities.

Our library provision is echoing this and we are delighted to have received a generous donation from the "Bufs" community group to enable us to purchase a range of books and resources.

Focus weeks. The focus weeks are designed to broaden and deepen the curriculum and allow children to use their skills across a range of activities. We aim to provide new activities and opportunities.

World music week Monday 13th February –Thursday 16th February

The children will be exploring traditional and modern music from around the world and exploring our diverse British society and cultures. As well as music the children will be taking part in art, writing and some cooking.

Key stage 2 will be focusing upon Carnival music from the Caribbean and South America.

Key Stage 1 will be focusing upon European music.

Reception will be focusing upon Asian music.

We would like to invite you to join us at 2.30pm on Thursday 16th February to hear some songs and music and share some cooking from these areas.

If any parents and friends of the school have any musical talents to share with us please do get in touch as we would be delighted to have you in school to perform or work with children as appropriate.

Science week Monday 13th - Friday 17th March

This is British science week and the children will be exploring science, maths and technology. Please do let us know if you have any science skills you can share as we would like the children to be aware of scientists in our community and start to raise an awareness of possible future careers.

Acomb Childcare After school club

This provision is proving to be very popular and the children are keen to attend. Please speak to Nikki English for details.

Breakfast club run by Little Oaks is available every day from 8am. Breakfast can be provided .

Acomb Toddler Group meets every Wednesday at 9.30-11.00am in the school hall during the school terms and is open to anyone with a toddler or baby. It is fantastic to see so many new faces to our school community.

PTA cake stall; each year group provides cake for their turn and we shall see who raises the most money.

Year 4 and year 3 have held their cake stalls and we move on to year 2 on Thursday 30th March, year 1 on Thursday 27th April and Reception on 25th May.

Clubs

We shall be running clubs for children after half term.... details to follow.

. Diary dates

DATE	EVENT	TIME
Thursday 16 th February	World Music week open session	2.30pm
Friday 17 th February	Teacher training day	
Monday 20 th to Friday 24 th February	Half term	
Wednesday 1 st March	PTA meeting	2.45pm
Thursday 2 nd March	World book day. The children can come to school dressed as a favourite book character	
Monday 20 th to Friday 24 th March	Science week	
Monday 27 th & Wednesday 29 th March	Parent consultations Letters for appointments will be sent out before half term. Parents of SEND children will be able to meet with Mrs Manning (SENDco)	Between 3.30pm & 6pm (Reception up to 5pm on Wednesday)
Monday 10 th to Friday 21 st April	Easter holidays	
Monday 1 st May	Bank holiday; school closed	
May	Year 2 SATS tests and tasks	
Monday 8 th to Wednesday 10 th May	Year 4 residential visit. Details to follow	
Monday 29 th May to Friday 2 nd June	Half term	
Monday 12 th to Friday 16 th June	Phonics screening for year 1	
Friday 21 st July	Last day of term	