



# ACOMB FIRST SCHOOL



Head teacher Mrs Angela Speed

## NEWSLETTER 1 2016-17 13.9.16

Welcome back to the new year and term and welcome to our new reception children who are delightful and a pleasure to teach.

The staff team

Teaching :

- Reception: Mrs Ashley Manning and Mrs Angela Speed
- Class 1: Miss Louise Thompson
- Class 2: Mrs Fiona Hinchcliffe.
- Part time teacher: Mrs Anna Gray

Learning Support Assistants are Mrs Caroline Foster, Miss Stacy Eames and Ms Sonia Watkinson who now have roles across the school.

Mrs Jan Craig is our admin assistant and is available every morning.

Lynda Heslop joins Linda Dobson in the kitchen and Lynne and Lisa Taylor are our caretaking team.

Curriculum News; we have updated some areas of our curriculum provision in order to provide breadth, depth and high quality teaching and learning experiences for the children and have invested in some new schemes and resources across the school.

- Phonics and Spelling. The teaching of synthetic phonics is firmly established in our school and we are building upon this good practice and success by adopting the Read Write Inc phonics in Reception and Year 1 and Read Write Inc Spelling programme in years, 2,3 and 4. The spelling programme provides interactive learning opportunities which teach the children spelling rules and tools for successful independent spelling across all their work.
- Maths; Over recent months we have made maths a focus area for improvement and have invested in training for Mrs Hinchcliffe, the maths leader. We have made a successful application to the North East Maths Hub so that we can be at the forefront of developments and improvements in maths teaching. As a result of this work, our maths curriculum is now a Mastery in Maths Curriculum which means that children learn place value and the four operations in greater depth at a level appropriate for their year group before using their arithmetic and reasoning skills in other areas of maths.

We will invite you to information sessions later in the term. I would really appreciate some feedback from parents as to which times of day/evening are most convenient for people so that we can maximise attendance. You can talk to me in the yard or send a note in.

### Wentworth on Wednesday;

The children all enjoyed their first swimming and multi -sport session and year 1 children have made a great start. Just a reminder that girls need a one piece costume and boys need to wear close fitting trunks not swim shorts.

The cost to parents is £5 a week which contributes towards the cost of transport, swimming session and the multisport session. I do appreciate the fantastic contributions that are made as we could not continue to provide this unique provision without the parental support. You can send in money for the half term which will be £35 or send in £5 a week.

**Attendance;** It is essential that children attend school unless they are ill. Holidays in term time cannot be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances as defined in the Hexham partnership of schools agreement which is available on our website or from the office. Our Educational welfare officer regularly visits school to check that every child's attendance is as good as it possibly can be. All appointments other than hospital appointments must be outside school hours. A hospital letter or appointment card must be brought in to the office so that the absence can be authorised. If you have any queries please do come and speak to me.

### **Parent Teacher Association for fund raising and meeting other parents.**

The outgoing PTA will be holding an AGM on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September at 2.45-3.15pm. Most of last year's committee have now moved on to middle school and we need lots of new people to get involved. Please come along and find out more. There will be tea and cake on offer!

### **PE Kit**

Every child needs in school at all times;

Blue/black shorts, white tee shirt and trainers/sandshoes.

Joggers and sweatshirt/fleece for outdoor PE on colder days.

Please name everything so that items can be returned if they go missing.

### **School Dinners & milk**

A new menu will shortly be available.

£10.50 per week for nursery and class 2. Thank you for paying with cash or cheque in a named envelope . A gentle reminder that dinner money must be paid in advance.

Milk is £13.50 for the whole term up to Christmas.

**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.

### **Acomb Childcare After school club    September 2016**

We are delighted to announce that the club is now open under the management of Mrs Nikki English.

[nicolaenglish2008@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nicolaenglish2008@hotmail.co.uk)

**School exterior;** we hope to make a number of improvements to the school exterior this year. One of our plans is to replace the double gates into the yard and will be asking the children for some design ideas reflecting our school emblem of Oak tree and acorns.

## **Diary dates**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT</b>	<b>TIME</b>
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> September	PTA AGM;	2.45-3.15pm
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> September	Harvest festival	2.30pm-3.15pm
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> September	MacMillan Coffee morning	9.15am-10.30am
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> October	Stay and share. Come and see your child in their classroom.	9.05-10.15am
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	Parent consultations; an appointment letter will follow	3.30-6.00pm
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	Teacher training day; school closed	
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> October	Half term holiday	
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Nasal flu immunisations for years 1,2,3. A letter with further information will follow	
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Whole school trip to see Jungle Book at Queens Hall	1pm
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas performance	6.30pm
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas party	
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	last day of term	
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	New term starts	

A parking plea!

As the new term starts can I please ask for your cooperation and consideration when parking near school. There are discussions continuing with NCC and highways to improve the situation following the parental question completed last year.

In order to keep children and other road users safe please do not park on the yellow zigzag lines or opposite these lines as the road is narrow in this area. Please do not use the staff car park entrance to turn ...it is dangerous for all concerned.

I do appreciate the difficulties but if at all possible please walk to and from school....healthier and more sociable too!