

Acomb County First School Newsletter



Friday 23rd April 2021

Head Teacher Message

It has been a lovely sunny start to the summer term and children and staff alike have returned to school excited and raring to go! The slight relaxation of restrictions has meant we are now able to use the Common; go swimming and book school trips for later in the term, we have so much to look forward too!

Summer term topics have commenced and are already proving to be popular, Reception Class are enjoying their topic on Superheroes, Class One's topic is Brilliant Bodies and Class Two are studying the Stone Age, please remember to check Tapestry to see the exciting things that each class get up to!

We are still awaiting further guidance in relation to planning events involving parents and carers; however advice from Northumberland County Council is to proceed with caution for now and continue with our current risk assessments and control measures. We will, as always, update you when we are able too or if there are any changes.

Wishing you a lovely weekend,

Mrs Clarke

School 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. For any payment related questions please try to call during those times if possible, thank you in advance.

Swimming and Milk Money Reminder

The cost for Class 2 swimming this half term (which includes the cost of the bus to Wentworth), is £35.00 (£5 per week) for the whole half term via Iris+Pay.

For those children that are receiving milk this term the cost is £14.00 payable via Iris +Pay.

Many thanks if you have already made a payment; and thank you in advance for payments of any outstanding amounts.

Mrs Collingwood

Swimming

Due to the ongoing guidelines we are only able to take Class 2 swimming on a Friday. As soon as we have been notified of a change to the guidelines we will review our swimming arrangements with Wentworth.



Year 4 Transition to Middle School

Partnership Middle Schools have been in touch with details of their transition arrangements. We are delighted that plans are in place for Middle School staff to visit Acomb and also for our Year 4's to visit their chosen school prior to Transfer day on the 6th July.

Some of these dates are still to be set and we will notify you of these once they have been confirmed.

Both Hexham Middle School and St Joseph's have organised a rounder's event for Year 4's on Wednesday 30th June. We will organise transport to take children up to their chosen middle school with a staff member from Acomb to accompany them. Letters and permission slips will be via 'Forms' on Iris ParentMail in due course.

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

Caps and Sun Cream

I fear I may be tempting fate by putting out this message, as it often results in a change to the weather, however, due to the recent warm, sunny weather please can children come to school with a named cap and a small named sunscreen to keep in school. Children will have an opportunity to top up sunscreen at lunchtime prior to going outside. Please also apply sunscreen to your child's arms, face and neck before school on warm sunny days. Thank you in advance.



Request from Class 1

Mrs Barber has requested cut out images of faces from magazines for a Class 1 Art lesson. Please send them in via books bags. Thank you!

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

Paul Baker Retirement - Acomb Post Office

On Wednesday the village held a small presentation for Paul to acknowledge 30 Years of service as the village Post Master. Paul who is due to retire soon was delighted to receive a card made by the children of Acomb First School and Little Oaks Nursey. We wish Paul a very happy retirement.





School updates – School Council

Children have celebrated 'Earth Day' this week. This year's Earth Day theme is, "Restore Our Earth", with participants urged to focus not only on how we can reduce our impact on the planet but also on how we might actively repair ecosystems.

School Council met this week and have come up with a range of ideas of how we might make an impact in and around school and are discussing ideas such as a wildlife meadow to attract more insects, a vegetable patch, sensory garden and developing the pond area.

School Council will provide an update on progress following their next meeting.

School updates - Forest School

This week all three classes have had a fabulous time at the woods celebrating Earth Day. We talked about native animals and had great discussions about what that meant and which animals were native to the UK.

The children make us so proud at Forest School. They work independently and safely and show great interest and care about the world around them. They are always busy from the moment we get there until the second we leave. There is always such a happy, focused and friendly atmosphere where they are always excited to share with their friends and the adults there what they have found, made or achieved.

We have found some incredibly interesting mini-beasts and have talked about different life cycles, including metamorphosis. We also found the remains of some dead pheasants and had great conversations about what could have killed them, predators, prey and carnivores.

It's amazing how much learning happens when they are playing in the woods! Each session was completed with a fabulous fire and they learned about fire safety by collecting wood to burn and toasting fruit loaf. We ate it with a drizzle of honey. Yum!! Mrs Gray

Below are a selection of photographs, and pupil comments, from this week's forest school.

Children were asked, "What is your favourite thing about Forest School?"

"My favourite thing is going and looking for new creatures I have never seen before" - Eric

"I like Forest School because you can play in trees and go in lots of dens" - Sofia

"It's nice and you cook stuff on the fire" - Oliver

"I like how you get to play games and make dens" - Emelia

"Forest School is fun, especially getting muddy" - Archie

"I like Forest School because I like chopping logs and playing with my friends and playing 'Spirit of the Woods'" - Rory

"Digging for worms" - Daisy

"I love digging for diamonds" - Lucca

"Toasting marshmallows" - Halle

"Looking for feathers" - Hugo

"Searching for black beetles and eating marshmallows" - Alice

"Playing 'Spot' with our friends" - Rowan and Anna

"When Mrs Gray puts on the fire it makes me happy" - Alice

"Looking for spiders" - Charlie

"I love the space to play" - Poppy K

"I love exploring" - Ivy M

"I love climbing" - Alex

"My favourite thing is cooking on the fire, well mainly the eating part!" - Joanna

"The games at the end, like finding pairs of animals and Spot" - Devin and Emily

Please remember to take a look at Tapestry for lots more photographs.

Reception



Class 1



Class 2





Diary Dates

Date	Event	Time	Notes
April 2021			
Thursday 29 th April	Governor's committee meeting - RMC	6 pm	
May 2021			
Monday 3 rd May	May day		School closed
Friday 7 th May	NSPCC Numbers Day		More information to follow
Thursday 13 th May	Governor's committee meeting - SPD	6 pm	
Monday 17 th May	PTA Sponsored Read Week		More information to follow
Tuesday 25 th May	Tempest photographs	9 am	More information to follow
Friday 28 th May	Last day of term		
June 2021			
Monday 7 th June	School re-opens		
Wednesday 9 th June	Multisport Club Class 2	3:15 – 4:15 pm	Running for 6 weeks
Thursday 10 th June	Year 3 Visit to HMS	1 pm	More information to follow
Wednesday 23 rd June	National Writing day	All Day	More information to follow
Wednesday 30 th June	Year 4 Rounder's event at HMS	1.30 pm	More information to follow
	Year 4 Rounder's event at St Joseph's	1.30 pm	More information to follow
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
Wednesday 14 th July	PTA Uniform Swap –School Yard	Before and after school	More information to follow
Thursday 15 th July	PTA Uniform Swap – School Yard	Before and after school	More information to follow
Friday 16 th July	Last day of term		
September 2021			
Monday 6 th September	Staff Development Day	All day	
Tuesday 7 th September	School re-opens to children		



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