

# Acomb County First School Newsletter



Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020

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## Head Teacher Message

As we reach the end of this half term I am filled with gratitude that we have made it here fit and well with all children and staff in school! We have certainly missed holding the usual celebratory events in school such as Harvest Festival and the PTA Halloween Disco – however they are a small price to pay if it enables us to have all of our children back in the classroom!

Our routines and procedures seem to be working very well up to now and we will continue to reflect and adapt to operate as safely as possible. Thank you for all of your continued support and cooperation - it is very much appreciated!

I know I say this regularly, but we are really proud of our children and how they have taken it all in their stride. They really are a credit to school!

It's vitally important for us that we remain focused on teaching and learning this year, enabling our children to make as much progress as possible towards their end goals. It is our hope that we are able to maintain fulltime schooling for all of our children; and as yet we are not aware of any local or central government plans that involve restrictions to schools. Therefore we expect to see everyone back into school on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

However, if the guidance does change and new restrictions are announced we have a remote learning plan in place ready to roll out. We may well need to action this plan sometime in the future and we will be sending out more information if the need arises. ParentMail continues to be our main method of communication; please inform the school office if you are having problems accessing any of the services on the system.

Enjoy a well-deserved rest over half term.

Best wishes from us all,

Mrs Clarke

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## Goodbye

We'd like to say a huge thank you and sad farewell to two of our support staff. Mrs Jan Donkin, Office Administrator, has decided to leave after her year sabbatical, and Mrs Lynda Heslop, Catering Assistant, will not be returning from her maternity leave. I'm sure you will join us in wishing them both every success and happiness in all that they do in the future.



## Parent consultations

The telephone consultations went really well. Thank you to everyone for your support and for answering on time – it enabled us to make the most of the phone call and helped the afternoons to run smoothly. Please continue to look for progress updates on Tapestry – we love reading your comments on your children's progress.

### **Acomb Pumpkin Trail**

As an alternative to Trick or Treating there will be an opportunity to take part in a Pumpkin Trail around the village on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October. For more information please see the notice in this newsletter. You might spot some very spooky posters popping up around the village advertising the event. Thank you to Class 2 for those!



### **Attendance**

Following a sustained increase in our average attendance over the last three years, from 95% in 2017 -18, to reaching and exceeding our target of 96% in 2018-19 with 97% we were concerned that attendance figures would suffer this term.

We are delighted to see that with the exception of one week, our average attendance has remained above the 96% mark this half term. This is quite remarkable and is a direct result of school and families working closely together. We are very grateful that our return to school so far has been settled and without disruption. We should all be proud of our collective efforts in making the return to school so positive. Thank you and well done!

Week beginning	Percentage Attendance
2 <sup>nd</sup> September	99.42
7 <sup>th</sup> September	96.93
14 <sup>th</sup> September	96.14
21 <sup>st</sup> September	94.74
28 <sup>th</sup> September	99.65
5 <sup>th</sup> October	99.65
12 <sup>th</sup> October	100.00
19 <sup>th</sup> October	98.00



### **Going Cashless**

We are now officially cashless, thank you for all your efforts with +Pay; if you need any support with payments please contact Mrs Collingwood in the office.

### **Multisport Club**

Following the half term break Class 1 will be attending Multisport Club on a Wednesday. Class 1 parents should have received their confirmation email yesterday. We have 4 spaces left if anyone would still like to sign up. Class 1 children wear Forest School kit on a Wednesday which will be fine for Multisport club too. No change of clothes needed. Please collect your children from the yard at 4:15 pm on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November. Children going to After School Club will be taken there by school staff. Mr Thompson would like to say thank you to Class 2 for their sterling effort this half term and commends them on their behaviour, sportsmanship, teamwork and skill level. Well done Class 2!

### **School Admissions - Year 4**

The Online admissions portal opened on the 12<sup>th</sup> September for applications to Middle School, details of how to apply online have been sent to Year 4 children via Parentmail. Please contact the Admissions team on [schooladmissions@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:schooladmissions@northumberland.gov.uk) if you have any questions.

**Please note that you have until the 31st October to apply.**

The following link will provide further information and guidance including access the portal:

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Education/Schools/School-admissions-places-appeals-1/Yr-5-Middle-Yr-7-Secondary-Yr-9-High-entry-applica.aspx>

#### **Late Arrivals after Registration Closed**

If your child arrives late for school after 9.00am, please come to reception to sign your child in. Please note that if your child is late after registration has closed that this is recorded as an absence and will affect your child's attendance.

#### **After School Club**

Please inform the school office if there are any changes to after school club bookings so we can let teachers know. 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**

#### **Notices and Local Events**

**Acomb 1<sup>st</sup> School PTA would like to invite you to join a village pumpkin trail.**

**All we ask is that you display a pumpkin proudly at your home, to be visible no later than 4:30pm on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October.**

**Then, instead of traditional trick or treating, children can walk around the village, spotting pumpkins, and their parents can choose to reward them with treats as they go.**

**Of course, if you want to go further and dress up for the trail, or dress your house till it looks like a spooky mansion that is very welcome too.**

**We will have a trail map or activity sheet available from the Post Office from Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> minimum donation £1.**

**If you would like to be included on the trail map then please email [acomb1stpta@gmail.com](mailto:acomb1stpta@gmail.com) by Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October.**

**#staysafe**



supporting



# WE'VE LAUNCHED OUR LOTTERY PAGE

**Buy Your Tickets From Our Page - We Get 50%**

- We now have a Northumberland Lottery page!
- Support local causes and win prizes of up to £25,000!
- 50% of all tickets sold from our page go to us!
- PLUS 10% goes to other local good causes!
- Tickets only cost £1 per week!
- Support us and win prizes - WIN WIN!

To Start Supporting, Visit:  
[www.NorthumberlandLottery.co.uk](http://www.NorthumberlandLottery.co.uk)  
And Search For:

**Acomb First School**



Supporters must be 16 years of age or older

## **Local Authority Notices**

Please see a message below from Northumberland County Council:

### **Halloween 2020**

With Covid-19 restrictions in place in the North East, Halloween traditions may look a little different this year.

Anything that increases contact between multiple families is increasing people's risk and could spread the virus further. So, this year we are asking families to get creative with their celebrations.

- Don't hold a party in your home with people outside your household or support bubble.
- Traditional trick-or-treating is strongly discouraged due to the challenges of maintaining social distancing and the risk of sharing food and sweets.

However, here are some ideas for safer, alternative ways to enjoy Halloween:

#### **In the home**

- Hold a Halloween treasure hunt within your household
- Host a virtual party with themed games and music
- Watch a scary movie with the family
- Carve pumpkins
- Make your own Halloween costumes
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#### **Outdoors**

- Give your own doorstep a spooky makeover or craft a pumpkin
- Walk from house-to-house admiring Halloween decorations
- The rule of six applies when outside but if you do meet other families, remember to keep a 2m distance from anyone you do not live with.
- Wear a face covering if you can
- Take sweets with you to share amongst your own household and give them out every time you spot some decorations
- Don't trick or treat – knocking on people's doors and sharing sweets is not recommended.
- Take hand sanitiser with you and use it if you need to
- Wash your hands with soap and water once you get home
- If you, or someone in your family, is self-isolating please stay at home this year.







# Covid-19 in Northumberland

## School Snapshot

Tuesday 20 October 2020



Reported positive cases  
of Covid-19 in schools.

To put this into perspective, there are  
45,599 pupils across 163 schools:



**87 Positive cases = 0.190% of  
pupils in Northumberland.**



**These are positive cases  
reported within the last 14 days.**

We urge everyone in our communities to follow the current local measures to ensure we can continue to stay safe, and to keep our children safe. We need to work together to keep numbers low, and to keep our children in education. We must do our bit, and we thank you for doing yours!



**Northumberland**  
County Council

[www.northumberland.gov.uk](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk)

**Class news** – We are now posting regular class updates on Tapestry directly for parents and carers. We are also using Tapestry instead of the class pages on our school website.

### Diary Dates

Date	Event	Time	Notes
October			
Autumn half term holiday			
November			
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	School reopens to pupils		
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	Class 1 Multisport Club - Week 1	3:15 pm – 4:15 pm	Running for 7 weeks
December			
January 2021			



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