



Acomb First School Fortnightly Newsletter

Autumn 1 2024

Miss Williamson's message

Welcome back to the start of another new academic year. I would like to welcome all our new families and children including those starting in Reception and other year groups across the school. I do hope you have had a lovely summer break.

I have been incredibly impressed by how well the children have come back to school. We have had a number of children starting in Maple and Chestnut class in addition to the new Willow class children. I could not be more proud of their resilience, hard work and wonderful attitudes to their learning. We have the most children on roll that we have had in over 8 years.

I do want to thank all of the staff for the time they gave in the holidays to create the wonderful learning environments and preparing lessons. The start to the term certainly wouldn't have been so successful without their hard work.

You have been given a dates for the diary sheet and also a forest school sheet. We do try and communicate events/timings as early as possible. As a working parent I know how busy life is and how important notice for upcoming events is. Please do make yourself familiar with these as they will help. These will be updated as the year goes on so keep an eye out for new sheets being shared. There are times when due to unforeseen circumstances things change so please do bare this in mind. We do try our best but sometimes changes are out of our control.

First school education should be the best days of a child's life and that is our aim – to educate the children whilst they are having fun at the same time. Good relationships are essential and we will communicate with you all regularly. In return, we urge you to let us know if there is anything happening at home which might affect your children in school – this could be anything from poorly pets to moving house or the death of a relative. Please keep us informed so we can give your children any extra support they need.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at school or by email: hannah.williamson@acomb.northumberland.sch.uk

Hannah Williamson



Letter from our Chair of Governors

Welcome back to the new academic year. I hope you all had a great holiday. I was in school earlier this week to meet with Miss Williamson and our Safeguarding advisor to complete the annual Safeguarding report for our school. It was lovely to see the children well settled and to hear that children new to our school have settled well too. Maple Class did particularly well coping without tables and chairs! After a very lengthy delay I'm pleased to hear that the new furniture has now arrived and looks great. This term governors will be busy undertaking Safeguarding refresher training. This is an annual requirement and includes bringing us up to date with government thinking and requirements. Some of us will be involved with the Headteacher's performance management process, reviewing progress over the past year and setting targets for this year. We will all also be paying visits to school to monitor provision and progress - it is always a privilege to see the school in action and to talk to the children about their learning. Miss Williamson will be contacting you about arrangements for the election of a new Parent Governor. Please give serious thought to whether you would like to stand and talk to Miss Williamson for more information.

There is lots to look forward to this year. I wish the children and staff every success and look forward to seeing our school go from strength to strength.

With my very best wishes

Julie Robson



Skills Builder
Gold Award

Acomb Skills

As many of you are aware, in school we work on 8 skills (from Skills Builder) in everything we do. These skills are life skills which we develop in your children. These include

- Listening
- Speaking
- Problem solving
- Creativity
- Staying positive
- Aiming high
- Leadership
- Teamwork

We have worked with Skills builder for the last year and this has involved a significant amount of work on our curriculum, in assemblies and I am sure you will remember the incredible showcases with the employers that the children worked with.

I am delighted to inform you that we have been awarded the Skills Builder Gold Award.

Acomb Sensory Hub

I am in the process of applying for funding from a range of sources to try and raise money to create a Sensory Room. As you will be aware we have very limited space in school so this would be an additional building. We have many children in school who would benefit from a Sensory Hub. This will be a space for interventions, family workshops and a community space that can be hired out by families and community groups. However, the creation of this will be dependent on if we can raise sufficient funding. If anyone knows of any potential funding streams we could access please do let me know.

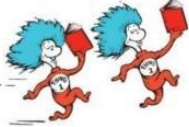


School Day Routines

School starts at 8.45am prompt. We have a flexible drop off between 8.30am and 8.45am every morning. A member of staff will be on the yard at 8.30am and we encourage parents to use this time to ensure all children are in school ready for a prompt start to the school day at 8.45am. All classes start with phonics or reading sessions which are the essential ingredient for every child's education. If your child is late, it means they miss one of the most important sessions of the school day. Please ensure every child arrives at school in good time.

Could I please ask parents to ensure that at the end of the school day no children are allowed to climb over the locked gate to the field. This is a significant risk due to the height of the drop on the other side. Could I also ask that you do not let children ride around the busy yard on scooters and bikes. Many thanks for your support with this

The MORE
that you read,
the MORE things
you will know.
The MORE that you
LEARN,
the MORE places you'll go.



Reading @ Acomb

Reading is a major focus of this year for our school as it is a life skill which supports every other area of learning. We now have all staff trained in Read Write Inc which is an excellent phonics scheme for younger readers. We also have purchased new Read Write Inc books for the children to read at home and in school. Thanks again to the PTA for their support with this. We will be hosting a meeting for all parents of children who are learning phonics early in the autumn term to give you further information about it.

Children who are secure in their phonics and no longer access Read Write Inc will now have access to Accelerated Reader which is a fantastic resource which ensures children are reading books of the right level in a fun and engaging way. The children will choose their own books which should increase their motivation to read. They will also complete quizzes when they have completed a book.



Nut free School

We have a number of children in school with nut allergies. As a result of this, please ensure any packed lunches and snacks are completely nut free. I really appreciate how vigilant you all have been last year. You will find our nut free policy on the website for your information. The following information is essential for you all to be aware of:

All food products containing nuts are prohibited. The school expects parents to check food products when preparing pupils' lunches and snacks.

Parents, pupils and staff will be mindful that the following food products are prohibited:

- Cereal bars
- Peanut butter sandwiches
- Packs of nuts
- Chocolate bars containing nuts

In addition to the list above, food packaging that states a product contains nuts, or is unsuitable for people with nut allergies, means that the product will be considered prohibited.

Any prohibited items will be removed, and a nut-free alternative will be provided.



Staffing update

This week we say a fond farewell to Miss Gregerson who is leaving us due to family circumstances. We want to thank Miss Gregerson for all of her hard work and wish her well in the future. Miss Cook, who has been in school this week, will be working with us on supply from now.



Acomb First School PE Hoodie

Uniform

The children have all come back looking incredibly smart this term. The new hoodies look fantastic too and lots of children have mentioned how much they are enjoying wearing them.

I know there have been a few questions about Forest School day uniform. All children come to school in forest school kit on their forest school day.

I would like to remind you that **all children** must have earrings removed for PE lessons. This is essential for health and safety reasons.