



Acomb First School Fortnightly Newsletter

12th September 2022

Autumn 1 - Week 1

Upcoming dates

Monday 5th September

School closed for Inset day

Tuesday 6th September

School closed for Inset day

Monday 12th September

Afterschool clubs begin this week

Friday 14th September

Swimming for Chestnut class begins

Monday 19th September

Bank holiday – school closed

Monday 26th September at 3.30pm

Reading meeting for all parents of children learning phonics

Miss Williamson's message

I hope your children all had a wonderful first week back. We had the best start to the term with all of them. It was lovely to have the buzz of learning all around school again.

I was so impressed with how well they have all started the year. Willow class children settled into their new learning environment very well and have really enjoyed playing with all of their new resources. I am hoping we are able to get their outdoor learning environment completed very soon so they can have continuous access to that too.

Maple class and Chestnut class have been working very hard. The handwriting that they all did for the village show was amazing, especially after having 6 weeks off!

I realise my newsletter is not due until next Friday, however there have been a number of things occur which I wanted to share with you so I thought an extra newsletter was the easiest way to do this.

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

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

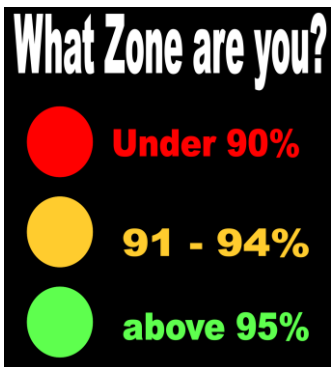
Miss Hannah Williamson



Her Majesty the Queen

Like the rest of the country, we too were deeply saddened to hear the news about the death of the Queen last Thursday. We held a special assembly in school on Friday for children in Years 1- 4 where her life has been remembered and celebrated. We also talked about her being a normal human being with emotions and feelings. We will continue to support the children with their emotions as I am well aware that it may also be hard for some of our children who have lost loved ones in the past.

I am sure many of you will be aware that King Charles has announced a bank holiday on Monday 19th September to coincide with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's State Funeral. School will therefore be closed next Monday.



Holiday requests

I have received a large number of holiday request forms since we have returned to school. It is important to note that I cannot authorise holidays (unless there are exceptional circumstances) and would kindly ask, if at all possible, that you keep your holiday bookings to school holiday times. The DFE have given advice to headteachers about holiday requests which can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-attendance>

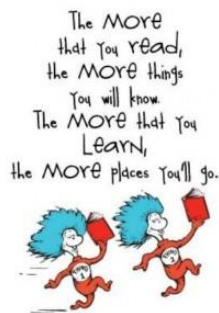
It is really important that children are in school as much as possible. We are all aware that Covid has really limited children's learning and social opportunities over the last couple of years. Being in school will allow us to ensure all children catch up from the school closures as quickly as possible. Not to mention that we love seeing their lovely, smiling faces every day.



Staff news

Sadly, Mrs Lynda Heslop has made the difficult decision not to return to her role as general catering assistant in September. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all of her support and hard work during her time with us. She will be a huge miss to staff and children alike.

We will be putting out an advert for a new general catering assistant as soon as possible.



Reading @ Acomb

All children have now started their reading lessons in school. In order to support you as parents we will be providing some reading workshops. These workshops will tell you all about our approach to reading, give you strategies to use when listening to your child read at home and give you the chance to ask any questions you have. These will take place on 26th September at 3.30 for any parents of children in Willow class, Maple class and those children in Chestnut class who have phonics lessons.



Walking Home from School Unaccompanied

I have had some children asking about walking home from school unaccompanied in Chestnut class. I am keen that children have this opportunity (where parents feel this is appropriate) as I know it can support transition. I would like to do this from later in the year, in the summer term. The dark nights are already starting to creep in and my main priority is around children's safety. If you would like to discuss this with me please do get in touch.