



Acomb First School Fortnightly Newsletter

Spring 1 first newsletter

Miss Williamson's message

Firstly, I want to thank you all for your support on Friday. I fully understand the implications on parents of closing our school, however my early morning risk assessment identified that the risk was too high to open. Closing a school is always a very difficult decision but I could not put staff or families at risk. Thank you so much for your support and understanding.

This half term seems to be flying along. We have already had an amazing showcase and have many more exciting events coming up so please do check the dates for the diary as they are updated regularly.

Thank you to all the parents who attended the PTA AGM this half term. The PTA has now all people in place - Caroline Watson and Laura Forsyth are the co-chairs of our PTA. We will be sending out more information about PTA and opportunities for you to support. In the meantime, one very easy way to help is to sign up to Easy Fundraising, which you can do here <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/acombfspta/>. This has currently raised £446. There is a video on the link explaining everything you need to know.

Another way to raise funds for school is to play the Northumberland Lottery. The next draw is in 5 days time and the jackpot is £25000. Tickets are only £1 each. You can share this link with friends and family too.

<https://www.northumberlandlottery.co.uk/support/acomb-county-first-school-pta>

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

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Hannah Williamson

A message from our Eco Warriors:

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to ask you to donate your recycling - things like bottle caps, plastic punnets, plastic bags, brown paper packaging, netting, newspapers, CDs. We would particularly like things that are brown, green and blue.

In our Eco Warrior Club we are going to design some art work to promote our responsibility to look after the oceans and rivers.

Many thanks

Alice and the rest of the Eco Warriors





Chestnut Showcase

Last week the children in Chestnut class did the most fantastic presentations of their project learning from Autumn term to their families, governors and the employers they had been working with.

Their project was all about different job sectors and Egger. The links we made with both Egger and Northumbria university were fantastic and really enhanced the children's knowledge and understanding. I was blown away by the sheer volume of knowledge the children had.

Parent questionnaires have been sent out so please do take the time to complete these as they really do help us with our forward planning. The questionnaire will only take 2 minutes to complete.



Recycling

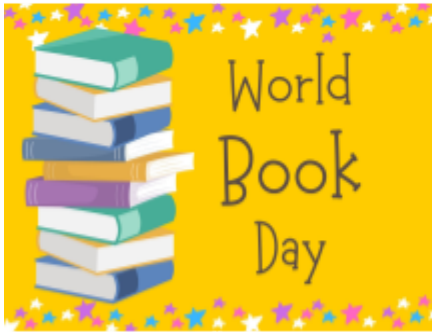
We still have our recycling bin located in the school car park. All children will be provided with a collection bag this week that can be returned once filled. Any donations of unwanted clothes, shoes, bags and more would be greatly appreciated. All donations mean the school will receive additional funding which we can use to do more wonderful things with your children.



Safeguarding

Keeping children safe from harm is our number one priority. We will always act upon any concerns individuals have, or any disclosures from children. However, if you have any concerns outside of school, or if you have a concern about a child or young person's welfare, it is essential that you call One Call on: 01670 536400

World Book Day



Acomb First School will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 6th March. We are asking the children to dress up as their favourite book character or wear pyjamas to mark the occasion. We are running a competition - children are asked to create a small model from their favourite book - this could be a scene, a character or even an object in the story. They can use any medium they would like to create this. They should be no bigger than an A4 piece of paper in height or width due to the space we have to display these. There will be lots of fun activities throughout the day and every child will receive a book token.

Staffing update



I am delighted to inform you that we have appointed Miss De Silva on a temporary contract to be a part time teacher and TA in school from March. Since she has joined our school on supply she has been a wonderful asset and hugely supportive of both children and staff alike. Miss De Silva will be teaching in Chestnut and Maple and she will continue to support Maple and Willow class when she is not teaching.



Valentine Parties

Following the success of last year's Valentines party we will once again be holding these before the half term holiday. Please see the dates for the diary sheet for more information.



Kingswood Y4 Residential

Sadly, many of you will be aware that Kingswood have gone into administration and have closed the Dukeshouse Wood site which our Year 4 children were booked to go to in the summer.

After many, many phone calls and lots of hard work we have managed to secure a new residential on the same dates at the PGL site of Ford Castle. PGL have also said they will honor payments already made to Kingswood which is incredible news.

The residential meeting with parents remains the same - Tuesday 11th February from 3.30pm.



PTA Cake Stall

Chestnut Class have their cake stall coming up next week so we would ask for cake donations from their families. This event always raises much needed funds for school.

PTA are currently supporting parents by paying the cost of the buses on trips. This has a significant impact on the cost of trips for parents so any support for this wonderful event is much appreciated.

Acomb First School - a case study to support other schools with linking careers to the curriculum.



I am delighted to inform you that our school has been used as an example of good practice with regard to our projects and working with local employers. There has been a case study written about our approach which has been shared with schools and many others across the region by North East Ambition. If you would like to read the case study, you can find it here:

<https://ambition.northeast-ca.gov.uk/news/primary/case-study-employer-engagement-projects-at-acomb-first-school>

This is a huge achievement for our school and is all thanks to our fantastic staff and the wonderful employers we have made links with who have given their time to support the children.