

Acomb County First School Newsletter



December 2021

Head Teacher Message

We are nearly at the end of term and what a busy term it has been! I have been fortunate enough to pop into classes recently to see some of the amazing learning taking place and have been delighted with the progress the children are making across all subjects.

Next week we have a full week of Christmas fun planned including parties, pantos, musical performances, movies and of course a special visitor! We will aim to capture as much as we can through video and photos to share with you virtually.

We would of course love to invite you all into school to share these wonderful memories in person, however must continue to follow advice and remain cautious for the time being. We are hopeful that the New Year will bring with it some opportunities to plan for shared events once more.

I am sure you will join me in thanking the staff team, they continue to work with care and dedication to ensure every child is happy and achieving well.



Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for the New Year!

Mrs Clarke

School News

Thank you to Dr Mike Fabricius

We'd like to thank Mike for his dedicated service as Chair of Governors as his term has now come to an end. During his term, Mike has been instrumental in the continued journey of school improvement at Acomb and his work and strategic oversight has been greatly appreciated by all. Sincere thanks from all children, staff and governors.

Newly Appointed Chair of Governors

Mrs Julie Robson has been appointed as our new Chair of Governors, we'd like to give Julie a warm welcome and look forward to her continued support and expertise as Chair.

Safeguarding

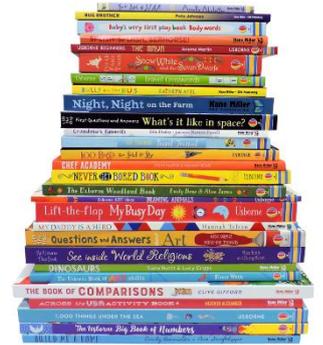
Mrs Clarke and Miss Dunlavy are our schools designated Safeguarding Leaders. If you have concerns about a child please contact one of them.

Income based free school meals

Children in receipt of free school meals will be receiving a £50 Huggo voucher for the holiday period as part of the ongoing Local Authority support. The voucher will have an expiry date of **31st January 2022.**

Books

We have had our huge delivery of Usborne books and there are so many boxes, we have not ever had this many new books in school at once! We are still unpacking and stamping our new books – we hope to have the Hexham Courant visit soon so we can share our amazing achievement in the press. Thank you again to everyone for the amazing effort!



Class Movies

As well as class Christmas parties each class will have a movie afternoon next week. Movies selected are usually rated U, however if children chose a PG rated movie we will seek permission from parents via Tapestry first.

Reception: The Smurf's Christmas Carol
Class 1: Elf
Class 2: Christmas Chronicles

Children in Need

Once again, a huge thank you for supporting this charity. Every donation helps to make a difference. **The grand total raised was a massive £265.39!**



Christmas Dinner

A huge thank you to Jill and Kylie for the delicious Christmas dinner which both children and staff thoroughly enjoyed!!



Thank You 

School Milk

If you would like your child to have school milk in the spring term, please indicate on the 'Form' within ParentMail by **Monday 13th December**.

Milk is free to pupils under 5 and becomes payable in the term in which they turn 5. Pupils entitled to income related free school meals are also entitled to free school milk.

The cost for the whole of the spring term will be £15.00. Payment is via Iris+Pay and you will be notified when this payment is due.

A message from Mr Reed – Music Teacher

My name is Jack Reed and I am fortunate enough to have been teaching ukulele and singing with the whole school, in their respective years, since September.

I feel that in these times of Covid, that it is more important than ever to make use of the collaborative spirit and morale boosting benefits that music can bring to all ages.

We have been working on a Christmas song to be performed on video and in separate classes (unfortunately not in person this year) to highlight some of the skills the children have developed in the relatively short time we have spent learning together.

I'm sure it will bring you all some much-needed festive cheer!



A Christmas Message from Teachers

Miss Dunlavy

Reception have had a great half term and have particularly enjoyed writing their letters to Santa and going down to post them. They were super sensible out on our walk down and were able to talk about, and show, lots of ways that they could keep safe.

They have also been very excited recently as our naughty elf has returned to cause mischief. Let's hope he goes back to the North Pole soon and tells Santa how great we've been!

Merry Christmas Reception!

Miss Johnson

I cannot believe it is the end of the term already, I am so proud of how everyone in Class One has continued to work extremely hard and try their very best every day.

I am so excited to start our new topic in January and I know you will all love the exciting things I have planned.

I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Miss Strachan

Class 2 have been extremely busy finishing off their work for the term. We have been focussing on completing brilliant diary entries in English and finishing *How to Train Your Dragon*.

We have been finishing off our dragon eyes project in art and our final pieces are looking amazing! Class 2 has been loving the Christmas spirit around school and we enjoyed our Christmas dinner and writing Christmas poems!

We have also been joined in class by Elvis the Elf this week who has been making mischief. He has been setting us STEM challenges to complete including racing reindeers! We are all looking forward to our last week at school, especially our Christmas party on Wednesday.

Merry Christmas!

PTA NEWS

Class 1 PTA Cake Stall

Thank you so much to everyone that contributed to the cake stall.

We raised an amazing grand total of **£94.20**.

Once again, thank you for your continued support.



Christmas Hampers

Thank you so much for your kind donations for the PTA hampers. We're so grateful for every donation. We're going to start selling the raffle tickets in the yard this week and via Parentmail until **Wednesday 15th December at 6pm**. Tickets will be sent home in children's book bags.

Children can also purchase tickets in school –
please send money into school in a named envelope
and tickets will be sent home in book bags.

Tickets cost £1.00 each or £5.00 per strip.

Thanks very much - Acomb First School PTA



School Admissions – Reception

The Online admissions portal opened on 1st November for applications for school places please follow the link below for details of how to apply online:

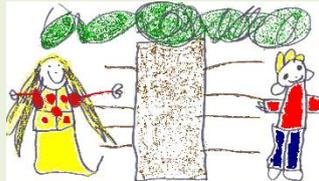
http://schadm.northumberland.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/en

Please contact the Admissions team on schooladmissions@northumberland.gov.uk if you have any questions.

Please note that you have until the 15th January 2022 to apply.

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 OLDS OR ABOVE

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB (includes snacks and meal usually served after 5pm)

£5.25 PER HOUR FOR 2 YEAR OLDS

£5.00 PER HOUR FOR 3 YEAR OLDS & ABOVE

£4.00 PER HOUR FOR SECOND CHILD

£3 PER HOUR FOR THIRD CHILD

Any enquiries please call 01434 613422



Northumberland

County Council

Your ref:
Our ref:
Enquiries to:
Email:
Tel direct:
Date: 8th December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We wanted to write to you to thank you for all you have done to support our schools since their return in October.

It has been a difficult time for children, young people and their families, but it is thanks to your continued support that our schools have been able to continue providing much-needed learning.

Unfortunately, the pandemic is not over and the rate of positive cases in school age children remains high, meaning schools need to maintain the measures put in place after half-term.

Recently a new variant of the virus has been identified which has resulted in the Government reintroducing some additional measures within our communities and in Middle, Secondary and High schools.

Symptoms and testing

To further help reduce transmission within our communities it remains critical that anyone showing symptoms gets a PCR test and isolates.

The symptoms to look out for are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If your child is showing any of the above symptoms, or you are unsure please do book a PCR test for them. This will provide you with some reassurance, but also further protect



Wellbeing and Community Health Services Group
County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 2EF
T: 0345 600 6400 E: contactcentre@northumberland.gov.uk
www.northumberland.gov.uk



your family and those you or your child are in contact with should you receive a positive result.

Please also continue to follow the basic guidance such as regularly washing hands, giving people space and opening windows and doors for better ventilation in buildings.

Guidance to schools

Due to the new variant of the virus and increased cases across Northumberland we are advising schools to think about the measures they have in place for school events such as parents' evenings, assemblies, Christmas parties and performances.

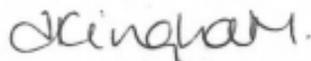
We are advising schools to not invite external visitors, including parents and carers into schools for these occasions. We understand this is disappointing, but our schools have a duty to protect all children and staff as a priority.

We are supporting schools in ensuring measures are in place to ensure the safety of pupils and staff.

We want your children to enjoy the last few weeks of term and for you as a family to be able to enjoy your Christmas break and spend time with loved ones, but to do so we must all take the necessary steps to protect ourselves and others.

Once again, we thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Audrey Kingham
Director of Education & Skills



**Interim Executive Director for Public
Health and Community Services**

Acomb First School

2021-2022 School Calendar

September 2021						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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October 2021						
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31						

November 2021						
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28	29	30				

December 2021						
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

January 2022						
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30	31					

February 2022						
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27	28					

March 2022						
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27	28	29	30	31		

April 2022						
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30

May 2022						
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29	30	31				

June 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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26	27	28	29	30		

July 2022						
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

August 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



School Closed/ Holidays



Teacher Training Day (no school for students)



Bank Holidays

Notices & Local Events

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:





A SERVICE OF:



MAGPIE

HOLIDAY CLUBS

DATES	VENUE	TIMES
20th - 23rd December 2021	CORBRIDGE CC	10AM-2PM


&


PRICE
£25 PER DAY
OFFER 25% OFF:
BOOK BEFORE
SUNDAY 12TH DECEMBER

BOOK IN NOW FOR OUR CHRISTMAS COACHING SESSIONS:

ALL DAYS RUN 10:00AM-2:00PM
 EARLY DROP OFF & LATE PICK UP
 AVAILABLE AT 9:00AM (£5) & 3:00PM (£5)
 EARLY AND LATE DROP OFF RATES ARE PER FAMILY

FOR AGES:
5-13 YEARS
(RECEPTION-YEAR 7)

BOOK NOW:
MATTIE: 07801821112
CHRIS: 07988736340
info@magpiesportsltd.com



ALL COACHES HAVE COMPLETED AN
 ONLINE SOCIAL DISTANCING AT
 WORK COURSE

Annual Carols Round the Christmas Tree

Please come and join in festive carols round the Christmas tree at the Pant on Friday 17th December at 7.00 pm, followed by mulled wine and refreshments in the village hall.

Carol singing will be led by Rev. Gareth Sherwood, our new Methodist Minister, and Little Oaks Nursey and Acomb First School will decorate the tree beforehand.

Many thanks to:
 Egger for again donating a tree to the village
 Acomb WI for providing refreshments
 Resident Jim Wright for putting up the tree
 Mulled wine donated by the Parish Council

Organised by ActionAcomb who wish the whole community a festive and happy Christmas and New Year.



Give Us A Hand

SUPPORT THE LOTTERY TO SUPPORT OUR CAUSE

- By giving a little you will help out a lot!
- £1 a week means our cause keeps going
- Buy a chance at a prize and know you're making a difference
- Win by helping us to drive change in our community



Play now and support us. Go to:

www.northumberlandlottery.co.uk

and search for: Acomb First School



Supporters must be 16 years of age or older.



'Tis The Season To
Make A Difference Today

PLAY

WIN a £1,000 DECATHLON voucher to spend on 70+ sports, nutrition & body care products as well as weekly cash prizes up to £25,000 all for £1 a week!

- Help our cause help the community
- A ticket purchase will help us make winter warmer
- It's a win-win, helping us whilst buying chances at weekly prizes!
- Choose to help us today, we really need the support



Make A Difference Today

To start supporting, visit:
www.northumberlandlottery.co.uk
and search for: **Acomb First School**



Supporters must be 16 years of age or older* See website for Terms & conditions. Enter by 1st Jan 2022

DECATHLON



Christmas greetings from St John Lee and Acomb Methodist church

All Welcome at our Services over the Christmas season

19th December 10.30 am Christmas Service Acomb Methodist Church

6.00 pm Jubilate Carol service St John Lee

24th December 3.30pm Crib service St John Lee

11.30pm Midnight Mass St John Lee

25th December 10.00am Christmas Service St John Lee

10.00am Christmas Service Stagshaw Church



Hexham **Holiday Club**



HAPPY CHRISTMAS

— from Hexham Holiday Club —

Come and join in as we return next Summer

25th-29th July, 2022

meeting daily at the Bandstand
with a full programme of fun
and faith-based activities at
our age-group venues



In the meantime why not discover with your family
the message of Christmas by following the

Hexham Nativity Trail

Monday 20th December from 2pm

Christmas Services in Hexham for all the family

Hexham Abbey, Beaumont St, Hexham NE46 3NB

Messy Church Christingle Service	Sun 19th December	3pm
Carols by Candlelight*	Wed 22nd December	6pm
Carols by Candlelight*	Wed 22nd December	8pm
Carols by Candlelight*	Thur 23rd December	6pm
Carols by Candlelight*	Thur 23rd December	8pm
Crib Service for children & families*	Fri 24th Christmas Eve	1pm
Crib Service for children & families*	Fri 24th Christmas Eve	3pm
Midnight Mass	Fri 24th Christmas Eve	11pm
Christmas Parish Eucharist	Sat 25th Christmas Day	10am

*Ticketed Service, tickets available from the Abbey Shop

Hexham Community Church, Beaumont St, Hexham NE46 3LS

Christmas Messy Church	Sun 12th December	10.30am
Carol Service	Sun 19th December	6.30pm
Christmas Day Celebration	Sat 25th Christmas Day	10.30am

Trinity Methodist Church, Beaumont St, Hexham NE46 3LS

All Age Nativity Service	Sun 19th December	10.30am
Carol Service	Sun 19th December	7pm
Communion	Fri 24th Christmas Eve	4pm
Christmas Morning Worship	Sat 25th Christmas Day	10.30am

West End Methodist Church, Shaftoe Leazes, Hexham NE46 3DF

Carol Service	Sun 19th December	10.30am
Christmas Day Celebration	Sat 25th Christmas Day	10.30am

St Aidan's United Reformed Church, Hencotes, Hexham NE46 2EG

Christmas Gift Service	Sun 19th December	10.30am
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St Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Hencotes, Hexham NE46 2EG

Mass**	Fri 24th Christmas Eve	4pm
Mass**	Fri 24th Christmas Eve	6pm
Mass**	Fri 24th Christmas Eve	8pm
Mass**	Sat 25th Christmas Day	8am
Mass**	Sat 25th Christmas Day	10am

**Booking required; open from 13th Dec www.heavenfieldpartnership.org.uk

St John CofE Church, Hexham, NE46 4PE

Christmas Carols led by Jubilate	Sun 19th December	6.30pm
Dressing The Crib	Fri 24th Christmas Eve	3.30pm

Diary Dates

Date	Event	Time	Notes
December 2021			
Monday 13 th December	Christingle Workshop in classes - please send children with one large orange		Children to wear Christmas jumpers.
	Music with Mr Reed – film performances for parents /carers. Children to wear Christmas jumpers.		Performances will be uploaded to Tapestry
Tuesday 14 th December	Class One Christmas party- school will provide party treats		Children to wear party/Christmas clothes to school with sensible shoes
Wednesday 15 th December	Class Two Christmas party - school will provide party treats		Children to wear party/Christmas clothes to school with sensible shoes
	Queen’s Hall Performance –The Remarkable Robin Armstrong’s Extraordinary Christmas adventure	Time TBC	The Queen’s Hall are sending a recorded version to show in each class.
Thursday 16 th December	Reception Christmas party - school will provide party treats		Children to wear party/Christmas clothes to school with sensible shoes
Friday 17 th December	Christmas Jumper day		
	Carols around the tree and Christingle service with Reverend Jeremy Thompson	TBC	No swimming for Class 2.
January 2022			
Monday 3 rd January	Bank holiday Monday		School closed
Tuesday 4 th January	School reopens		
February 2022			
Friday 18 th February	Staff training Day		School closed to pupils
Friday 8 th April	Additional Bank Holiday for Queens Platinum Jubilee		School closed



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