

Acomb County First School

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Headteacher Miss Hannah Williamson

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Acomb First School!

I hope you have all had a wonderful summer and have managed to enjoy some time together. We are really looking forward to opening our doors again and welcoming the children back for what promises to be another busy, exciting and happy year at Acomb.

A very special welcome goes to our new Reception children and their families. Starting school is such a big milestone and we are delighted that you are joining our Acomb family. We cannot wait to get to know you and to see the children settle in, make new friends and begin their school journey with us.

We also want to wish our former Year 4 children lots of luck as they begin middle school. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of them and hope they have a fantastic start to their next adventure. We know they will take everything they have learned at Acomb with them and continue to make us proud!

A positive year ahead

At Acomb, we want school to be a place where children are happy, feel that they belong and are excited to learn.

As we begin a new year, our message to our whole school community is a simple one: be positive, work together and always try your best.

We know that the very best outcomes for children come when families and school work together. We really value the support our families give us and look forward to continuing that partnership throughout the year.

Our Parent Code of Conduct is attached to this letter. We ask everyone to take a few minutes to read it as we begin the new school year. It helps us to make sure that Acomb continues to be the friendly, respectful and supportive community that we are so proud of.

Sharing our plans with you

We have lots of exciting plans for the year ahead!

We will soon be sharing our School Development Plan with all parents and carers. This sets out clearly the things we will be working on and developing as a school this year.

We think it is really important that our families know what our priorities are and can see the journey we are on together. We will keep you updated throughout the year so that you can see the progress we are making and celebrate our successes with us.

Helping you get ready for the new term

We know how busy the summer holidays can be – and how easy it is for a letter sent home in July to disappear somewhere along the way!

To make life a little easier, we will resend class welcome letters at the beginning of term. These contain lots of useful information about your child's class and the year ahead.

You will also receive your child's Class Parent Knowledge Organiser, which clearly sets out what your child will be learning this term. These are a great way of knowing what is happening in the classroom and helping you to chat with your child about their learning at home.

No PE kits are required this week; PE lessons will start from next week.

This year Mrs Shaw will now be known as Miss Jameson.

Don't forget that there is also lots of information on our school website, including curriculum information, policies and useful information for families. Please have a look and check back regularly throughout the year.

Allergy safety at Acomb

You may have seen information over the summer about Benedict's Law and the national focus on improving allergy and anaphylaxis safety in schools.

This is something we feel particularly passionate about at Acomb. Through our involvement in the Beat Anaphylaxis Trial and our work to become an Exceptional School, we have already done a great deal of work in this area and have the necessary procedures and systems in place.

We are really proud to have been ahead of these developments and will continue to make sure that allergy awareness and children's safety remain a priority across our school.

Packed lunches and water

Our Whole School Food Policy is also attached. Please have a read before the children return.

We want lunchtime to be an enjoyable part of the day and to help all of our children develop positive, healthy habits around food. If your child brings a packed lunch, please aim to provide a healthy, balanced lunch that will give them plenty of energy for their busy school day.

Please also take particular care to follow the allergy and food-safety information within the policy. We really appreciate everyone's support with this as it helps us to keep all of our children safe.

Children should also bring a clearly named bottle of plain water to school each day. They can refill their bottles during the day whenever needed.

Keeping in touch

Please make sure that you continue to check Arbor and your emails regularly. We use these to share important information, reminders and updates, so keeping an eye on them is the best way to make sure you don't miss anything.

We will also continue to send out our Dates for the Diary sheets. We know family life is busy, so please pop these somewhere handy and keep checking them. There is lots happening this year and we don't want you to miss out!

We're always here to help

If you have a question, something you are unsure about or a concern, please come and talk to us. You are always welcome to make an appointment to speak to your child's class teacher or to me.

The only thing we ask is that parents avoid trying to catch teachers for conversations at the beginning of the school day. Mornings are an important time for teachers to welcome the children, help them settle and get learning underway promptly.

Teachers are happy to have a quick chat at the end of the school day, or, if you need a little more time or privacy, Mrs Collingwood can arrange an appointment with your child's teacher or with me.

We would always rather you came and spoke to us so that we can help.

Forest School is back!

One of our favourite parts of the Acomb week will be returning very soon – Forest School begins in Week 2 for all classes!

Please make sure your child is ready to enjoy being outdoors whatever the Northumberland weather decides to throw at us!

Children will need:

- Wellies or suitable outdoor footwear
- A waterproof coat
- Waterproof trousers
- Plenty of warm layers
- Clothes that you don't mind coming home wet, muddy and looking as though they have had a brilliant time!

Please make sure that everything is clearly named – it makes reuniting stray wellies and waterproofs with their owners much easier!

Here's to a fantastic year!

Most of all, we want everyone to be excited about coming back.

We have so much to look forward to this year: new learning, new experiences, Forest School adventures, trips, visitors, celebrations and plenty of opportunities to make memories together.

Our children are at the heart of everything we do, and we are incredibly lucky to have such a supportive school community around them.

So, as we begin another year, our message is simply:

Let's be positive. Let's work together. Let's support one another. And let's all try our very best.

We cannot wait to see the children and hear all about their summer adventures.

Welcome back, everyone – here's to a fantastic year at Acomb!

Warmest wishes,

Hannah Williamson
Headteacher