

ACOMB FIRST SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

November 2025 | Newsletter

A Message from Miss Williamson

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to take a moment to reflect on what has been a fantastic and memorable first term at Acomb First School. The past few weeks have been filled with energy, enthusiasm and wonderful learning across the school. We are so proud of the children's achievements and grateful for the continued support of our families.

Harrison Wellbeing Hub

We are delighted to share that the Harrison Wellbeing Hub is now open and already proving to be a hugely valuable space for our children. The hub offers a calm, nurturing environment where pupils can regulate, talk, reflect and receive support when needed.

We are thrilled to see this space being used so positively and are grateful to everyone who helped make it possible.



Remembrance Day

A huge thank you to our school community for coming together to mark Remembrance Day. The children decorated the Pant so thoughtfully and respectfully, creating a meaningful, reflective space that allowed everyone in the village to pause and remember. It was a powerful moment of unity and shared respect.



Autumn Term Reports

Autumn term reports will be coming home to parents today. These provide an overview of how your child has settled into the year, including their early progress, attitudes to learning and suggested next steps.

This report is a snapshot, and we will explore your child's learning in more depth during Parents' Evening, where you can speak directly to class teachers and ask any questions you may have.

We are extremely proud of every child and the fantastic start they have made this year. Their enthusiasm and hard work are a joy to see.



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KS2 Trip to the Hindu Temple

Our KS2 pupils enjoyed an inspiring and educational visit to the Hindu Temple, which really brought their RE learning to life. They explored the space respectfully, asked thoughtful questions and experienced aspects of Hindu worship first-hand. The trip created lasting memories and a deeper understanding of the world's religions.

Did You Know?

Religious education builds empathy, cultural awareness and critical thinking—all skills that are valued in many North East careers, including:

- Community and youth work
- Social services and family support roles
- Teaching and education
- Charities and humanitarian organisations
- Police, NHS and local government
- Interfaith and community cohesion work

Understanding different cultures and beliefs helps prepare our children for a wide range of meaningful and rewarding roles in the future.

Dates for the diary

This term is exceptionally busy, with lots of exciting events and opportunities taking place across school. Please take a moment to check the diary carefully so that you are aware of everything coming up. Keeping an eye on the calendar will help ensure you don't miss any key dates.



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A Focus on Reading at Home

We have noticed a decline in the number of children reading regularly at home, and we want to take a moment to highlight just how important this simple habit is for your child's progress.

Earlier this year, following parent feedback, we streamlined our homework expectations so that families could focus on what matters most. As a result, the only regular homework children receive is:

- Reading at home, and
- One termly project.

With homework reduced, reading at least three times a week at home is essential. This small routine has one of the biggest impacts on children's learning, confidence, and long-term outcomes.

Why reading at home matters

Research consistently shows that children who read regularly at home make significantly more progress than those who do not. For example:

- Reading for 20 minutes a day exposes children to around 1.8 million words a year, building vocabulary, background knowledge and fluency.
- Children who read several times a week can be up to a year ahead in reading age by the end of primary school.
- The OECD found that reading enjoyment is a stronger predictor of future educational success than family income or parents' education.

Reading at home doesn't need to be lengthy or formal. A bedtime story, listening to your child read, or discussing a book together all make a huge difference. What matters most is consistency.



How You Can Help

- Build reading into the weekly routine—little and often.
- Talk about characters, settings, new vocabulary and story ideas.
- Celebrate effort and progress to build confidence.

Thank you for helping us keep reading at the heart of learning. Together, we can foster strong reading skills and a lifelong love of books.



Thank you

Thank you, as always, for being such a kind, supportive and enthusiastic school community. You help make Acomb First School a truly special place to learn and grow.

Warm wishes,
Miss Williamson
Headteacher