



Acomb First School Fortnightly Newsletter

15th September 2023

Upcoming dates

See Diary dates sheet attached to the Parentmail.

Miss Williamson's message

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been so lovely to welcome back all the children this term and see them come skipping and running into the building. To see all those happy and excited faces each morning is just so special. Long may it continue! I have been exceptionally impressed with our new Reception children who have settled in brilliantly!

Welcome to all our new families – this is the start of a long and happy partnership. We are here to help you all and answer any questions. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or need any support.

This term is a long term but also one filled with lots of learning and events. We are planning different opportunities for parents over the coming term so please take a good look at the dates for the diary document (and print it off and stick it on your fridge!) as that will give you advanced notice of lots of events.

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



Uniform

It has been wonderful to see the children return to school looking so smart in their uniforms. The change where children come into school in PE kits is working well and it means that they all get a much longer PE lesson too.

However, please make sure that every single item of clothing has your child's name on it. We are determined this year to reunite lost property with their owner at the end of every day but can only do this if it has a name. Thank you!



Parent workshops

We are really keen to support parents so we have planned a number of workshops for you this term. Miss Derby will be running workshops about Phonics, Tapestry and Accelerated Reader. These workshops are to help you understand the systems we use in school and enable you to support your child so please do try to attend. A form for these workshops will be sent out for you to sign up to. We are initially running an evening workshop for all of these. If you cannot make this time but would like the information, please do get in touch and we will try our best to accommodate you.



Jobs for children

We are delighted to have appointed this year's school council. We have lots of exciting opportunities coming up for them and I know they will be fantastic ambassadors for our school.

We are in the process of interviewing all of the children who have applied for the other roles in school (Reading Champions, Digital Leaders and Sports Leaders). Once we have made the appointments we will be sharing the news on our Facebook page and website so please keep your eyes peeled!



Harvest Festival

Our first whole school event is the Harvest Festival at St John Lee. (Please see the dates for the diary sheet).

We are excited to have our first family event. Like last year, we will be collecting donations for the West Northumberland Foodbank (in Hexham).

The foodbank are in need of the following items (red items are particularly needed)

Cereal	UHT Milk
Tinned Meat	Cook in Sauces
Tinned Fish	Tinned Pasta
Tinned Fruit	Tinned Desserts
Tinned Veg	Tinned Tomatoes
Tinned Soup	Baked Beans
Microwave Rice Pouches	Biscuits
Instant Noodles	Coffee
Instant Pasta	Dried Pasta
Sugar	Deodorants
Toothpaste	

Attendance Matters



Attendance

As you know, good attendance is hugely important in ensuring your child has the best chance of reaching their full potential in school.

I have had a number of holiday requests this term. I do ask that you book all holidays during the 13 weeks each year the children have off school. When children miss chunks of school this can have a lasting impact so please do be mindful of this.

Our whole school average attendance up to this week is 96.77%.



Sports

I am so excited to have appointed our first sports apprentice – Miss Hamilton. I have a real passion for sports and PE and became very aware of the limited opportunities we had at Acomb. Miss Hamilton is now running lunch time clubs each day, supporting forest school and NUFC. We have also signed up to our first festival – a girl’s football festival. I will continue to promote sports and I am sure we will become much more involved in a range of sporting opportunities for your children now that we have Miss Hamilton to support us.



Contact Details

It is absolutely essential that we have current contact numbers and email addresses for all parents and carers of children in school. There are times when a child is poorly in school or has an accident and if we only have one contact number and there is no answer, it leaves us in a vulnerable position. Please ensure you give us all updated information.



Parent Teacher Association

We are very keen to find some new members of the PTA. We are looking for members who can volunteer before and during events to support us and also for people who would like to be part of the running of the PTA.

The group is a wonderful, welcoming group of parents who are working really hard to support our school. If you could give any time, even if it is just the odd hour here and there, please get in touch. We need as many willing volunteers as possible!

The work of the PTA really does impact on the children. Their fundraising last year enabled us to buy the most amazing furniture for the home corner in Willow class and provide high quality maths resources for all classes. They also supported school to purchase a range of high quality reading books.



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