



# Acomb First School Fortnightly Newsletter

11<sup>th</sup> November 2022

## Upcoming dates

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November**  
Chestnut class Cake Stall  
after school.

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November**  
**3.15 - 4pm**  
Coffee and cake drop in

**14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> November**  
Road Safety Week

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November**  
Children in Need – dress up

**6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> December**  
Parents Evening 3.30-  
6.00pm

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December**  
Christmas Jumper day

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December**  
Whole School Pantomime at  
The Queen's Hall

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December**  
Nativity performances  
**(No Swimming)**

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December**  
Christmas dinner day

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December**  
Christmas carol service  
10.30 – 11.30am  
**(No Swimming)**

## Miss Williamson's message

This half-term has to be one of the best times to work in a school. The anticipation of Christmas is just lovely to witness in the children and I am sure you will soon start to hear lots of Christmas songs being sung at home too.

Our school is such a happy place at the moment with great behaviour and attitudes from our children – long may that last! The children just seem so eager and keen to do their very best. We really do have some great ambassadors for our school.

Again, our amazing community has been hard at work! The Phillipson family have spent many hours of their weekend building another shed for us on the field, the PTA excelled themselves for Halloween and a member of my family has also built the most brilliant mud kitchen for our Reception outdoor provision – even with running water! I cannot express how grateful we are for the help we get. It makes a huge difference and really makes school an even better place.

You will all receive a parent questionnaire from me today. As you know, I am keen to work collaboratively with you and I really do value the feedback I get from you. I sent a parent questionnaire in the summer and from the feedback I got from parents, I was able to make improvements. One example of this is how we communicate with you about your child's learning as many of you said you were unsure about this. As a result, we now send out knowledge organisers for each new topic. I was also able to share all of the wonderful comments with the staff team which they really appreciated. I am hoping to do the same with this. Please do take the time to complete it, it will only take a few minutes of your time.

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](mailto:hannah.williamson@acomb.northumberland.sch.uk)

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,  
Miss Hannah Williamson



### Halloween

A huge thank you to the amazing PTA for all of the wonderful activities and face painting they did to enhance the children's Halloween on the first day back. This really was a brilliant way to start the half term. The support from the PTA really is invaluable. If anyone else is keen to support school I know the PTA are keen to recruit further members. Mrs Collingwood can give further information to anyone who is interested so please do get in touch.



### Visits for Potential Reception New Starters

We know that many Nursery parents are trying to decide which primary school to apply to for their child for September 2023. We will be offering tours of the school to any interested families so they can have a look round during the school day. Just email the school office and we will get back to you with some suggested dates. Choosing the right school for your child is probably one of the biggest decisions you will make for your child, therefore it has to be the right one! If you know of anyone who has a child and are looking for a school place please feel free to pass this information on to them. We will also be displaying some flyers in a variety of places and sending them out to parents of Little Oaks Nursery.



### Children in Need Day

We will be holding a non-uniform day in school on **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November** to support Children in Need Day. You will be able to make donations direct to our charity page:

<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=9552>

or if you prefer, you can make a donation in cash at any time too. We are asking children to come to school dressed in bright colours, spots or Pudsey merchandise as it is also the end of Road Safety Week and it acts as a reminder to children to dress appropriately now the darker nights have come, in order to be seen in the dark.



### Chestnut Class Cake stall

The PTA are organising the first cake stall of the year. I have heard these are always a huge success! Any cake donations would be very welcome (please ensure there are no nuts). Cakes can be purchased for a donation on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November.

# Road Safety Week



## Road Safety Week

Road Safety Week 2022 is from the **14<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> November** and this year's theme is Safe Roads for All. We will be doing some work around this in school and are asking all children to come into school on **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November** in their brightest clothes possible as a reminder of how important it is for pedestrians and cyclists to be bright and be seen by drivers, especially at this time of year.



## Coffee and cake afternoon drop in

As I mentioned in my last newsletter, I have decided to offer a coffee and cake afternoon where parents can stop by to enjoy an informal chat with some staff and governors. This will hopefully give you the opportunity to get to know new staff and governors a little more. You can also use the opportunity to have a look around the beautiful learning environments including our new library and outdoor continuous provision. Coffee, tea and cake will be available for a small donation.



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## Christmas Dinner

Our annual Christmas Dinner is taking place on **Wednesday 21st December** for all children who are in school at lunchtimes - if your child is usually on packed lunch, your child is welcome to join us for this festive feast.

If your child is in Reception - Year 2, this is free. For pupils in Year 3 and Year 4, the cost is £2.20 (unless you are in receipt of free school meals.)



## Holidays

I would just like to draw your attention to the holiday dates attached with the newsletter and can also be found on the school website in the school community – parents' section. The holiday dates for both this year and next year are listed and it is important to especially note the date for October week which is almost a week later than usual. In 2023, we break up on **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023** and return to school on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023**



## Reverse Advent Calendar

We all have an expectation of how Christmas should be but are all too aware that for many families, it is a time of added stress on already over-stretched budgets. Families that struggle from day to day suddenly have to try to stretch further to provide a Christmas dinner and presents for children and many simply cannot.

Our school is co-ordinating a huge reverse advent calendar and are asking parents and carers to check their cupboards or if possible to purchase an extra item of food in their weekly shopping from the list below. Items can be brought into school via the School Office, or sent in with your child.

The food items needed for the hampers are:

**Sweet Snacks:** Biscuits, Chocolates, Sweets

**Savoury Snacks:** Crisps, Nuts, Cheese Biscuits

**Pudding Items :** Sponge, Christmas Pudding, Cake, Mince Pies

**Drinks:** Squash, Fruit Juice, Fizzy Drinks (non-alcoholic), Tea, Coffee, UHT Milk

**Breakfast Items:** Cereal, Breakfast Biscuits, Marmalade, Jam, Part Baked Bread

**Tinned Items:** Baked Beans, Pasta Sauces, Tuna, Soup, Veg, Custard

**Sanitary Items:** Handwash, Shampoo, Shower Gel, Soap

**Packet Mixes:** Stuffing, Custard, Jelly, White Sauce, Gravy

**Food Cupboard Staples:** Pasta, Rice, Noodles, Cooking Oil

***Please make sure all items donated are in-date***

These items will be used to make up hampers to deliver to needy families in the local area, with any extra being donated to the local Foodbank. If you know of any family who would appreciate one of these hampers, please let me know. It can be done confidentially by emailing me at:

[hannah.williamson@acomb.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:hannah.williamson@acomb.northumberland.sch.uk)



## Key dates for 2022 – 2023

KS1 Statutory Assessment Tests (for Year 2 children) – May 2022

Year 1 Phonics Screening Check – Week Beginning Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Year 4 Multiplication Test – Week Beginning Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022