

ACOMB FIRST SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

September 2026 | Newsletter

A Message from Miss Williamson

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderfully positive start we have had to the new school year at Acomb First School! It has been fantastic to see the children return with such enthusiasm, confidence and readiness to learn, and they have quickly settled into excellent routines across school. I must start this message recognising how brilliantly all of our new Reception children have settled into school. They have slotted in so well to our Acomb family and I am so proud of every one of them. Another one of the highlights of the term so far has been seeing children apply for a range of school jobs, take part in interviews and successfully secure their new roles, developing confidence, communication and an early understanding of the world of work. We have also introduced our new Year 4 Learning Leaders, who will help support learning across school, gather pupil views and play an important role in helping us continue to improve. Music has got off to a brilliant start too, with Miss Williamson's mam joining us to lead singing sessions with our younger children and ukulele lessons with Chestnut Class. Our Forest School sessions have also provided some amazing experiences, including den building, exploring, creating artwork, communicating using walkie-talkies and developing teamwork, resilience and problem-solving skills. Most importantly, I have been incredibly proud of how well the children have settled into school life and the positive, purposeful atmosphere that can already be felt throughout Acomb. Thank you, as always, for your continued support — it really has been a wonderful start to the year.

Little Oaks After-School Club

We are incredibly lucky to have Little Oaks providing high-quality wraparound care for our children after school. The club offers a warm, nurturing and engaging environment where children can relax, play and enjoy time with friends at the end of the school day.

A real highlight is the incredible food on offer. Children enjoy delicious, freshly prepared meals that are both nutritious and filling, making Little Oaks a fantastic option for busy families.

If you are looking for reliable, high-quality after-school care where your child will be well cared for, well fed and happy, we would strongly encourage you to consider Little Oaks.

Healthy school lunches

We have also been really pleased with the positive response to our focus on healthy school lunches this term. Thank you to all of our families for the care and effort you are putting into providing balanced packed lunches that support our school food policy and healthy eating guidance. The children have responded brilliantly too, and it has been lovely to see them trying different foods, talking positively about healthy choices and beginning to understand how what we eat can help us to feel well, learn and stay active throughout the day. We are very grateful for your continued support in helping us to promote healthy habits for all of our children.

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Music lessons are back!

Music at Acomb is well and truly back, and we are delighted to have Miss Williamson's mam in school again, filling the classrooms with music and singing. We are also incredibly grateful to Miss Williamson's parents, who have very kindly bought ukuleles for the school, with her stepdad even making some especially for our children. Thanks to their generosity, every child in Key Stage 2 can take home their own personalised ukulele to practise what they have been learning in school. It is lovely to see the children so excited about music, and we hope they enjoy sharing their new skills at home too!

Forest School

Our whole-school Forest School sessions have been amazing so far, with the children loving every second of their time outdoors. Alongside having lots of fun, they are developing so many important skills, including teamwork, communication, problem-solving, resilience, creativity and independence. As many families will be aware, school budgets are increasingly stretched and schools simply do not have the same level of funding they once had to provide additional opportunities and experiences. To help us continue making Forest School as exciting and memorable as possible, we are asking families for a voluntary contribution of £11 per child for the whole year. This contribution will go directly towards ingredients for cooking activities in the forest, replacing consumable resources and helping us provide those extra experiences that make the sessions so special. Any contribution will be very gratefully received and will directly support the children's Forest School experiences throughout the year. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Our support of Charities this year

Our School Council has again chosen West Northumberland Foodbank in Hexham as our local charity. We will collect donations up to our Harvest Festival, before School Council delivers them with Miss Williamson the following week.

Most-needed items:

Cereal, UHT milk, tinned meat/fish, coffee, teabags, soup, biscuits, pasta, sauces, tinned fruit/veg, rice pouches, jams/spreads, toothpaste, deodorant, toilet rolls, shower gel, shampoo, razors, washing powder/tablets, bleach, washing-up liquid, cleaning sprays, baby wipes and pull-ups (sizes 5-7).

The children have also chosen Macmillan Cancer Support as our national charity and Action for Children as our inclusion and diversity charity. These choices will help us support people both locally and nationally throughout the year.

Thank you for your support.

Pupil Premium – check your eligibility

From September 2026, free school meal eligibility has changed, with all children from households receiving Universal Credit now able to receive free school meals. However, Pupil Premium funding is still linked to specific eligibility criteria and requires families to make a claim.

This funding gives school additional money to support children's learning, wellbeing and wider opportunities. Even if your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 and already receives a free school meal, please check and apply if you think you may be eligible.

A document is attached to this newsletter email with further information about the changes, eligibility and how to apply. Please contact the school office if you would like any support.

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Learning Leaders

Our Year 4 Learning Leaders earned their roles through an application and interview process, where they shared their ideas, confidence and enthusiasm for helping others learn. Throughout the year, they will gather pupil views, support younger children, celebrate excellent learning and take an active role in assemblies and school improvement. The role gives them a valuable opportunity to develop leadership, communication, teamwork and responsibility while helping to shape learning across Acomb.

Our Learning Leaders have taken part in special training with Picture News to learn how to confidently lead assemblies for the whole school. They explored how to speak clearly, ask thoughtful questions, encourage discussion and help other children think about important issues happening in the world around them.

School Council

Giving children a genuine voice in school life is an important part of Acomb, and our new School Council will help make that happen. Representatives were chosen by their classmates and will bring forward ideas, opinions and suggestions from across the school. They will meet regularly to discuss what is working well, what could be improved and which projects they would like to take forward. This year, they will also play an important role in supporting our chosen charities, helping to organise fundraising and community activities, and making decisions that reflect the views of other pupils. Being part of the School Council gives children the chance to develop confidence, responsibility, teamwork and leadership while seeing that their ideas can make a real difference.

Eco Warriors

Caring for our environment is at the heart of the Eco Warriors' role. These pupils were selected to help lead our work on recycling, reducing waste, saving energy and making greener choices across school. They will look at ways we can improve our school environment, encourage other children to think about the impact of their choices and support projects linked to sustainability and the wider community. Their work will also include thinking about greener travel, reducing unnecessary waste and helping to make our school a more environmentally responsible place. Taking on this role gives pupils the opportunity to develop communication, problem-solving, teamwork and leadership skills while helping everyone at Acomb understand how small actions can make a positive difference.

Digital leaders

Technology plays an important part in learning at Acomb, and our Digital Leaders will help pupils use it safely, confidently and creatively. They will support others with digital tools, promote key online safety messages, share useful tips and contribute to the development of computing across school. They will also help staff and pupils explore new technology and think about how digital tools can make learning more effective and engaging. As the year progresses, they will have opportunities to share their knowledge with others and take responsibility for small digital projects across school. This role will help them strengthen their communication, problem-solving and leadership skills while becoming confident digital role models.