



Acomb First School Fortnightly Newsletter

20th January 2023

Upcoming dates

Wednesday 25th January

Phototronics

Individual & sibling photos

Every Friday

Breaktime & after school

Tuck Shop

Miss Williamson's message

Firstly, I would like to wish you all a very happy new year! I hope you all had some precious family time over Christmas. The children have returned to school having enjoyed all of the lovely things they had done with you all.

It has been a wonderfully busy first fortnight back at school. There has just been a general buzz amongst the children who are so pleased to be back in school, all of this has helped to make up for the really abysmal weather! The weather was very much appreciated by the children when they were able to head out into the snow on the field for a number of days – this was a big hit with them all!

I am sure you are all aware that the teaching union NEU has some planned strike action in the coming weeks. I am currently gathering information and have a meeting with the Local Authority early next week to discuss it so as soon as I have any information for you regarding this I will be in touch.

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



A message from our Chair of Governors

A Happy New Year to you all and I do hope you enjoyed the Christmas break.

At the first meeting of the Governing Body for this academic year we welcomed two new Parent Governors, Will Johnson and Louise Morshead. We look forward to working with them. At the same meeting I was re-elected Chair and Kate Massey was elected vice-Chair for the year. Governors received copies of the School Development Plan, our School Improvement Partner's latest report as well as several policies to approve and reports of several governor monitoring visits. The staff are working incredibly hard and are committed to providing the very best for the children of Acomb. Last term was a very busy one and no doubt this term will be likewise!

With my best wishes,
Julie Robson

Join the PTA!



A message from the PTA

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Please make supporting Acomb First School PTA on #easyfundraising your 2023 resolution! It's easy, FREE and makes such a BIG difference to us. Over 7,000 brands will donate to us every time you shop online. Plus, once you've raised your first £5, easyfundraising will double it! Sign up here: https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?invite=WE8H9V&char=206913&referral-campaign=c2s&utm_campaign=newsletter-2023



Parent Knowledge Organisers

A new term means new, exciting learning experiences for your children! You will have received your parent knowledge organiser last week which tells you all about what your child(ren) are learning this term. It also gives you ideas about things you can do at home to develop their understanding further. This information is also available on our website in the curriculum area.

I am sure the children will love this term's topics just as much as last term and I cannot wait to see more of their fantastic work!



School Council – tuck shop information – every Friday

The School Council have certainly come back from the holidays raring to go! We had our first meeting of 2023 last week and their ideas were incredible! The first of which is beginning today (huge apologies for the short notice – I had intended to get a letter out to you yesterday but due to unforeseen circumstances I could not). The School Council will run the tuck shop at break and the end of school every Friday and each item will be 50p.

They were very keen to provide children with a healthy snack during school and also for on their way home. The snacks on offer will change each week so we can gain an understanding of what is most popular.

Through this the school council will also be working with Mrs Collingwood to do stock takes and cash sheets – what a great experience!



Safeguarding

Keeping children safe from harm is our number one priority. The Designated Safeguarding Lead in school is me (Miss Williamson) and our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is Miss Dunlavy. If you do have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact us.



Dates for your diaries

Many parents told me how useful the dates for the diary were last term so I am going to produce this for you each term going forward. I am hoping to get this term's out to you next week.



Over the counter medication free through minor ailments scheme

Many parents are unaware that chemists have a 'minor ailments scheme' where for particular children's medication you can fill in a form and get the medication for free. This includes Calpol, antihistamine and much more. This is offered at all chemists. You just have to ask for it. You can find out more information here:

<https://www.boots.com/nhs-services/minorailments>

Attendance Matters



Every Day Counts....

Attendance

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

Again, I would like to ask that you book holidays outside of school time. We have a lot of holidays across the year and when children miss chunks of time due to holidays they miss out on significant learning which is often unable to be caught up. As I have mentioned previously, Headteachers are strongly advised against authorising holidays.

When a child's attendance drops below 90% they are classed as a 'persistent absentee'. I will always request a meeting with the families of children who fall below 90% to discuss this and look at how we can work together to improve attendance.

Days off school add up to lost learning

175 NON SCHOOL DAYS A YEAR

175 days to spend on family time, visits, holidays, shopping, household jobs and other appointments

