

# Acomb County First School Newsletter



Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020

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## **Head Teacher Message**

Welcome back to a new school year and a very warm welcome to our new Reception children and their families, we are delighted that you have chosen Acomb First School and we hope you will be very happy here. A warm welcome also to our new children and families across school – it is lovely to welcome new families to the school community and we hope you have managed to settle in well.

Thank you for sending such smartly dressed children, they look fabulous and I know they will do a super job of representing our school throughout the year and make us all proud!

Please remember, if you are unsure of anything or if you need our help in anyway, don't hesitate to call the school office on 01434 603870 or email [admin@acomb.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:admin@acomb.northumberland.sch.uk)

We like to work closely with parents, and despite this year being different in the way we operate, we hope the level of support we can offer and the regular contact that we have with you will not change.

We hope that with the introduction of Tapestry across school you will continue to be an important part of your child's education whilst also benefiting from regular updates from Class Teachers. Please do contact us if you have not yet managed to activate your account.

We are busy developing our online/home learning plan so that we can ensure continuation of learning in the event of children needing to isolate. You will have received a short Google Form questionnaire via ParentMail, please could you complete and return the form by Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September. Thank you.

Finally, as a team we have been astounded at how well the children have settled back into school this year. There is nothing better than seeing a child walk onto the yard or into school smiling brightly. We are very lucky to have such fantastic children and supportive families!

Wishing you a lovely weekend,

Mrs Clarke

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## **Welcome meetings**

Due to the current guidelines we will be unable to hold Class welcome meetings this year as we normally would in September. Teachers are busy preparing presentations which will be sent out via ParentMail next week which should contain all of the information you need.

## **School lunches**

The summer term menu continues next week; the autumn menu has been uploaded to the school website and will be sent out via ParentMail soon. The new menu begins week

beginning 21<sup>st</sup> September. Children are welcome to have a school dinner whenever they would like one – we no longer need two weeks' notice. All payments are now through **PlusPay** as we are no longer able to accept cash payments.

### **Data Collection Sheets**

Data collection sheets have been sent home this week for you to update and return to school in the envelope provided. Please return the forms to school by Monday 14th September. Please ensure that you have updated the contacts section and all relevant phone numbers.

### **PTA**

The PTA are currently setting a date for their virtual AGM and are looking forward to seeing new members at the meeting this year. Further information about the AGM and opportunities for new and existing members will be sent out soon. Sadly, cake stalls, discos and other large events to raise funds will form part of the PTA funding

### **Swimming**

We are still awaiting an update from Wentworth regarding swimming. The swimming coordinators have returned from furlough and are in the process of restarting after school swimming lessons. Following that they will begin planning school swimming lessons. We will update you as soon as we are able to.

### **Snack**



Children in Reception and Class 1 continue to receive a free snack at break time as part of the Government Fruit and Veg Scheme. Children in Class 2 may bring in a healthy snack from home. Please can this be fruit or veg rather than fruit /cereal bars. Thank you.

### **Walking home – Year 4 children only**

Children in year 4 are permitted to walk home independently with written permission. Please email [admin@acomb.northumberland](mailto:admin@acomb.northumberland) stating your permission. If we already have your permission, you don't need to do anything. We would also ask that you notify Miss Strachan of the days that your child will be walking home.

### **Social Distancing**

We'd like to remind all parents and carers to observe social distancing guidelines on the school yard. We have been notified that there have been some occasions this week where social distancing measures have not been observed. Please continue to be as vigilant as possible during drop off and pick up and observe social distancing measures at all times. To minimise risk further please stick to the allocated drop off and collection times, this will prevent parents and carers from waiting on the yard unnecessarily and maintain our staggered system. Please do not arrive on the school yard any earlier than **8.45 am** in the morning or **3 pm** in the afternoon. We thank you for your cooperation and understanding with this.

A reminder of the staggered start and end time are below:



Timings for the beginning of the day are as follows:

- Reception - from 8:45am (Please take your child straight into Reception class via the ramp).
- Class 1 – 8.50am
- Class 2 – 8.55am

Please arrive promptly, observing social distancing measures at all times.

Children will be escorted into school via separate entrances to keep the class 'bubbles' separate.

Our timings for the end of day are as follows:

- Reception - 3:05pm
- Class 1 - 3:10pm
- Class 2 - 3:15pm



### **Hand cream**

Due to the enhanced hand washing procedure at school and home it may be that children start to notice their hands become dry and sore, especially as winter arrives. We'd like to prevent that from happening. We have purchased some E45 moisturiser for each class for children to use if they feel they begin to get dry hands. Please email [admin@acomb.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:admin@acomb.northumberland.sch.uk) if you do not want your child to use it. We will ensure that the dispenser is used by an adult or sanitised between children.

### **Birthday Cakes**

Due to the current guidelines we are no longer able to accept birthday cakes in school to share amongst children. Thank you for your understanding with this.

### **Coats**

Please ensure your child has a warm, waterproof coat every day as we make the most of playtimes and outdoor learning whatever the weather!

### **Reading books**

Following an overhaul of our reading scheme over the summer we are now using stages/levels rather than colour bands which is a much easier system to follow! Teachers are currently issuing reading books to children; do not be alarmed if your child's reading stage has changed or gone down a level. It is important they are reading a book confidently and fluently, it is normal to see a change in children's reading ability following the six week summer holiday – this year the break has been much longer for some children so we fully expected to see a dip. We will be reading as much as possible in the coming weeks, please may we request you do the same – let's get off to a flying start!

## School Admissions - Year 4

The Online admissions portal opens on the 12<sup>th</sup> September for applications to Middle School, details of how to apply online have been sent to Year 4 children via Parentmail. Please contact the Admissions team on [schooladmissions@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:schooladmissions@northumberland.gov.uk) if you have any questions.

The following link will provide further information and guidance including access the portal:

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Education/Schools/School-admissions-places-appeals-1/Yr-5-Middle-Yr-7-Secondary-Yr-9-High-entry-applica.aspx>

**Class news** – We are now posting regular Class updates on Tapestry directly for parents and carers. We are also using Tapestry instead of the Class pages on our school website.

Date	Event	Time	Notes
<b>September</b>			
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September			
Wed 9 <sup>th</sup> September	Class 2 Multisport Club - Week 1	3:15 pm – 4:15 pm	Running for 7 weeks
<b>October</b>			
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	NHS Nasal flu vaccinations	am	Please returns forms by Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> September
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Teacher Training Day		School closed to pupils
<b>Autumn half term holiday</b>			
<b>November</b>			
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	School reopens to pupils		
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	Class 1 Multisport Club - Week 1	3:15 pm – 4:15 pm	Running for 7 weeks
<b>December</b>			
<b>January 2021</b>			

We have uploaded all of the current diary dates to the calendar and will continue to update pages with information regularly. Please note: It is occasionally necessary to change dates and times of events. Where a date or time changes, we will let you know as soon as possible.



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