



Newsletter

No. 1

Friday 7th September 2018

Introduction

It's my pleasure to welcome you all to the start of another school year. It is lovely to see everyone who has returned ready to start learning in a new class and year group and also to welcome lots of new faces to the school - 45 children in reception and several others in other year groups. We now have 323 children in school which is more than ever before. It's great to see so many children and families here being part of our community.

I am sure we will share many happy memories during the year and see the children grow not only academically but in all areas of their development.

Upcoming Events

September

Thursday 20th: Welcome Meetings
Reception & Year One 5.00pm

Years Two, Three and Four 5.30pm

Tuesday 25th: Welcome Meetings

Years Five & Six 5.00pm

Friday 28th 2pm: Macmillan Coffee
Afternoon

October

Monday 1st-Friday 5th: Places of worship
week

Tuesday 9th (pm): Parent 'Crafternoon'

Friday 12th: Non-Uniform day (Friends of
Acomb)

Thursday 25th: School closes for half term

All dates are available online at: www.acombprimary.org.uk/parents/calendar-dates/

Important Updates

Staffing

A warm welcome to our new staff members who have also started this week:

Mrs Macey: Teaching Assistant in reception

Miss Brookes: Teaching groups in Y5/6

Miss Carty: Taking various classes for cover

Miss Wilkinson: Working in the Acorns Club

Miss Booth: Student teacher working in class EST.

We have staff vacancies for two MSAs (lunchtime staff). Please contact School Business Manager Ruth Collins on rcollins@acomb.pmat.academy for more information.

Sharing Good News

If your child achieves something out of school and wants to share it, please send in certificates etc. to the school office - we share these at our Friday celebration assemblies.

Uniform

There are a number of children in older year groups who have returned to school not wearing school uniform in school – especially jumpers, jackets, hoodies and cardigans. Please ensure your child has the correct uniform to wear – they will be asked to remove these incorrect items inside school.

Reminders from each phase

Foundation Stage (Reception)

From next week, milk will be given (free of charge) to all children in Reception unless you have said your child does not like milk.

Key Stage One (Y1 & Y2)

Year 2 Minster Trip – Monday 1st October

On Monday 1st October Classes TD and DHSW will be visiting York Minster to link to our upcoming work on the Minster fire and with places of worship week. We will be **travelling by coach** and will arrive there around 10am. **All children will need a packed lunch and a drink (no glass bottles or nut products please)**. The children should all wear school uniform, sensible footwear and a coat. If any parents could help on this trip, please speak to Mr Dennis, Mrs Hatch or Mrs Wragg. We will ask for a donation, via ParentPay, towards the workshop and travel costs at a later date.

Upper Key Stage Two (Y5 & Y6)

Year 5/6 Trip to York Food Festival

On Thursday 27th September, classes CJ, EJ/MB and OB will be attending York Food and Drink Festival, where they will participate in a range of workshops.

We will leave school immediately after registration in order to be in town for a 9:45 registration at the Festival's Food Hub. We will be walking to and from York so pupils will need comfortable walking shoes, school uniform and a suitable jacket or coat. The workshops will run between 10am and 12pm, meaning that every child will need a packed lunch on this day. We will have lunch when we return to school. We would greatly appreciate a donation of £2 per child, via ParentPay, towards the cost of the workshops. Also, if any parent helpers can accompany us on this trip - please speak to Miss Bevins, Miss Johnson, Mrs Batey or Ms Jackson if you are available. Thank you for your support.

PMAT News

As part of our work in the Pathfinder Multi Academy Trust, I have been asked to support Badger Hill Primary School one day a week. The school is improving well but needs some additional leadership capacity to support this journey. In addition to this work, I have a weekly headteachers' meeting and carry out occasional inspections in my role as an Ofsted Inspector (usually around 3-4 days per term). None of this leaves Acomb less well off in any way - in fact it is an excellent opportunity for other staff to lead the school on those days that I am away. I am also able to bring these experiences and skills back to Acomb to help our continued journey towards excellence.

Lunchtimes

Because of the number of children in school, we have had to make some changes to lunchtimes. For children in Years Three to Six, this means they will go into the hall to eat at a slightly later time (12.20 for Y3 & Y4, 12.40 for Y5 & Y6). Lunchtime has also been extended to an hour for KS2 to accommodate these changes. There are always teething troubles with any new system, rest assured we will iron these out and no child will be unnecessarily rushed through; ultimately we are trying to make the dining experience more pleasant and sociable for the children as well as solving the logistical problem of feeding so many.

Birthdays

Remember that children can wear non-uniform on their birthday if they wish. If their birthday falls on a weekend or during a school holiday, they can choose to wear non-uniform on the Monday or Friday closest to this.

We do ask you not to send children with sweets, cakes or other treats for the class on their birthday though. We stopped as there are a number of children who can't have the sweets for various reasons, including allergies and religious beliefs. It is also an unnecessary financial and time burden on parents.

Food in School

Please remember that we are a nut free school. We do have children with serious allergies in school and need to ensure we can keep them safe at all times. This means, no-one should bring nuts or products containing nuts into school at any time, including on school trips. Because of the changes to lunchtimes for children in KS2, you may find that your child needs a morning snack to eat at breaktime (around 10.15). If this is the case, please send them with **a piece of fruit**, not crisps, biscuits or chocolate.

Welcome Meetings

We would like to invite you to our welcome meetings as outlined above. The meetings will take place in the classrooms. Here we will talk to you about routines and expectations as well as sharing some of the topics and themes for the year and giving you a chance to look round the classroom. It would be best if you don't bring your children with you as space is limited and it is easier to hear everything without distractions.

Other Reminders

PMAT Results:

As part of the Pathfinder MAT, we are pleased to celebrate the results of all schools – primary and secondary. We will shortly be publishing these on our website and via this newsletter.

Punctuality:

A reminder that with the exception of reception classes, doors will be closed at 8.50am. Teachers do the register electronically now, so children arriving after this need to be signed in at the school office. If you wish to speak to the class teacher it may be best to do this at the end of the school day or via the school office also.

Volunteering in school:

We are always looking for more volunteers to help out in school, we would especially love you to come in to hear readers - please get in touch with the school office if you could spare some time. We may ask you to undertake a DBS check which is a quick (and free) process – Mrs Forrest or Mrs Collins can tell you more about this.

Summer Reading Challenge 2018:

There is still time to sign up and complete the Summer Reading Challenge. The Challenge finishes on 16th September so the children have time to go to the Library to sign up and/or tell them about the books that they have been reading. Please send your child's certificate to school for assembly. We are very keen to win the trophy as we won it in 2016 and 2017! Thank you.

Summer updates:

We have had some work carried out over the summer break – new boilers installed, upgraded Wi-Fi and have purchased additional Chromebooks for the children to use.

Safeguarding:

Any visitors to school, including parents, must sign in at the school office and be issued with a lanyard to wear if going round school. Parents bringing children to school after registration must not go round school to take the children to class – Mrs Forrest will do this.

Frequently Asked Questions:

We have a section on our website for FAQs which may help if you are new to the school or if you have a query about how something works at school.

www.acombprimary.org.uk/about-us1/frequently-asked-questions/

School Crossing Patrol

Please note, there will be no school Crossing Patrol on Acomb Road at 3pm on Thursday, 13th September.

GDPR forms

Please return all completed forms as soon as possible. Every child received one last term and copies were posted to the new Reception children during the summer holiday

Breakfast Club

This will be in the Hall on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and in the Out of School Club room on Thursdays and Fridays.

Training day:

The training day in November will be on Monday 19th November (not 12th as previously planned)

All Pupils in Reception to Year 5 - 2018 / 2019 Influenza Programme

Children will be immunised in school on Wednesday, 5th December but only with parent/carer's consent. To do this, parents/carers MUST visit www.hdft.nhs.uk/flu-consent using access code G97MU.

Milk for the Autumn Term (for pupils in Y1-Y6):

If your child would like to have milk for the whole term, the cost is £14, payable via ParentPay **before** Monday, 10th September. To do this, just log in to ParentPay and select and pay for milk. We are unable to refund payments if your child is off school for any reason. If your child is entitled to (income related) free school meals, there is no charge, so please contact Mrs Forrest (office@acomb.pmat.academy) if he/she would like milk.

Pathfinder Trust Board Vacancy***Are you interested in taking a leading role in the governance of our Multi Academy Trust?***

As you know, our school is part of Pathfinder Multi Academy Trust, a partnership of nine church and community schools serving more than 3,500 pupils across York.

The Trust is currently looking to recruit a Trustee to sit on the Multi Academy Trust Board and as a parent/carer at our school, they would like to offer you the opportunity to apply. The Trust are looking for people with skills and experience in the areas of governance, primary school improvement, charity law, finance, procurement and bid writing.

For more information, please visit <http://www.pathfindermat.co.uk/new-vacancies-holder/>

If you would like to apply, please email info@pmat.academy with your CV and a covering letter explaining the skills and experience you could bring to the Trust Board. The closing date for applications is Friday 12 October.