



### Introduction

Winter has certainly made an appearance this week!

Please make sure children have indoor and outdoor shoes with them each day so they can continue to access the field. All children should also have a coat with them in this cold weather and ideally hats/gloves too – please make sure all items are named though as they are easily dropped and misplaced.

### Upcoming Events

*February:*

5<sup>th</sup>: Safer Internet Day; School Council Trip

21<sup>st</sup>: Crafternoon

22<sup>nd</sup>: School Closes for Half Term

*March:*

4<sup>th</sup>: School reopens

4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>: Mudpie Arts workshops for book week

6<sup>th</sup>: Book Fair in School

8<sup>th</sup>: 8.45am Stay and Read Session (see below)

18<sup>th</sup>: Training Day – School Closed to children

19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>: Parents' Evenings

All dates are available online at: [www.acombprimary.org.uk/parents/calendar-dates/](http://www.acombprimary.org.uk/parents/calendar-dates/)

### Parent/Carer Survey

Attached to the email with this newsletter is a copy of the outcomes from our survey that we carried out at the end of the autumn term. We have taken time to analyse the data and read and respond to the comments. We will incorporate these into our improvement plans going forward. I am delighted for the overwhelming support and praise for the school that the results show.

*The winner of the prize draw will be contacted individually.*

### Menu Change

On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February, to celebrate Chinese New Year, the menu will be: sweet and sour chicken, chow mein, rice, noodles and prawn crackers. All dietary variations will be catered for.

### Parking and Driving

We have had a further complaint from a resident of Nursery Drive asking parents to drive and park with greater care and consideration. The sender has seen many near misses with children and has been unable to access her own property at times. For the safety of our children, please park considerately.

In addition to this we have received complaints regarding vehicles who keep their engines running for half an hour or more whilst waiting near the school. We realise that in the cold weather you want to keep warm but we are trying to teach the children about sustainable travel and keep the air clear particularly around school and this certainly doesn't help.

<https://www.yorkpress.co.uk/news/17400816.york-drivers-could-be-fined-20-for-leaving-engines-running/>

### Friends of Acomb Primary

Letters about our Pig Racing event are going out shortly.

If anyone works for or knows of any local businesses who might be willing to donate a prize for one of the races please get in touch. A HUGE thank you to those who have donated so far!

Details about our Treasurer vacancy were sent out in last week's newsletter. Please get in touch if you think this is something you can get involved with, we urgently need some help, thank you.

### Collection from School

If you are late to pick up from school, please call the school and we will pass on the message to the teacher. Similarly, if you have contacted another adult to collect your child because you are running late, please let us know so that we have your permission to let your child go home with another parent/carer. Thank you

## Safer Internet Day – Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February

Following on from last week's newsletter I would like to share some more information about keeping your child safe online. Next week children will be getting some specific lessons about e-safety in addition to their usual curriculum coverage of this topic.

I read with sadness the article on the BBC news last week about a young girl who committed suicide and whose father has linked this to use of Instagram. I am aware that many children in our school have accounts with social media sites including Instagram and I cannot say strongly enough how much, as both a parent and a headteacher, I would advise against this. There are clear age limits on these sites and they are there for a reason – one of which is that children at Primary School age, no matter how mature they seem, are not able to deal with certain issues and them being at risk of exposure to these can be a real problem. It isn't simply a case of making accounts private and blocking strangers, but more about the things children can, quite innocently, find via social media – like in this sad case information about suicide and self-harm.

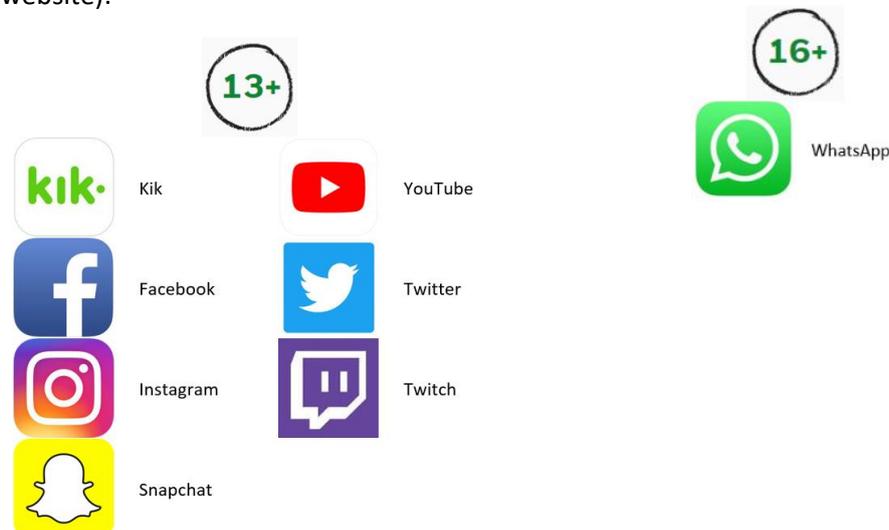
**The following links are to two recent BBC news articles about this subject – please note they contain distressing details about self-harm and suicide.**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-46966009/instagram-helped-kill-my-daughter>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-47077003/saving-my-daughter-from-instagram-self-harm>

While I am not suggesting at all that we should avoid these issues – in fact we should talk to children about them when they are ready to understand – this is something that parents need to manage in order to ensure that children aren't exposed to information that is incorrect, disturbing or that encourages or reinforces certain behaviours.

As a useful piece of information, here are the age limits for popular social media sites (taken from the NSPCC website):



As a reminder, here are the links shared last week:

[Resources for Parents and Carers](#)

[Safety Tools for Social Networks](#)

[Parental Controls for Home Broadband](#)

[E-Safety Tips for Parents](#)

[Lots of Easy to use guides for Parental Controls](#)