



### Introduction

Welcome to the start of the new school year. I hope that you all had a restful, safe and enjoyable summer. I'm delighted to have seen the positivity with which the children have returned to school. It is such a lovely time of year, seeing children in their new uniforms excitedly ready to learn. I'd like to extend a very special welcome to all of our new children and parents who have joined the Acomb Primary family this week. We're welcoming new children not only in reception, but also in other year groups as families have moved into the area. I hope your child's time at our school is happy and successful.

This is my tenth year as headteacher and I am as proud today as I ever have been to lead such a vibrant and thriving school community. We have many successes of which we are very proud - including our whole school performances of Shakespeare last summer, winning sporting awards for our impact on sustainable travel and our children's attendance last year which at 97% puts us well above the national average.

We are also very proud of our children's strong outcomes when they leave us in Year Six. Last summer, 82% of our children met the expected standard in all three tested subjects of reading, writing and maths (putting us in the top 7 schools in York), with 23% working at a higher standard in all three areas (putting us 5<sup>th</sup> in York). Our children's progress in writing was the 4<sup>th</sup> best in York (the top 4 schools are all in Pathfinder MAT). Our aims of 'putting children first' and 'always aiming high' are clearly ones we strive towards in all that we do.

Over the last 18 months, in particular, we have been able to flourish even more as part of the Pathfinder Multi Academy Trust - there will be many things that happen behind the scenes that you don't notice, but the support from the trust means we are able to continue to be an individual school with our own identity, whilst being part of a strong group of 10 schools, with collectively over 4000 students from 2-19 and over 580 staff.

The school newsletter will be sent out each Friday and will contain information about upcoming dates and events that are happening in school. If you have any questions about anything in it, please get in touch.

### Staffing

As well as welcoming almost 50 new children to the school, we have several new members of the staff team to introduce.

- Mrs Chesters is working in Year One, alongside Mrs Walker. Mrs Chesters is covering Miss Storey's maternity leave and is working Tuesday and Wednesday (and Thursday for the first few weeks).
- Mr Baldwin is teaching in Year Three in one of the outside classrooms.
- Mrs Costa Alves is working alongside Mr Dennis in Year Four and will be teaching the class from time to time.
- Miss Swanson is working alongside Mrs Stevens in Year One/Two and will also be teaching the class from time to time.

As well as these new staff, I will be working for Pathfinder Multi Academy Trust for two days each week (usually Wednesday and Thursday) as the Strategic Lead for Primary Schools so won't always be at Acomb. Mr White will work as Head of School in my absence. He will be able to answer any of your queries while I am out of school. Should you have any specific queries or concerns, please contact Mrs Forrest in the school office.

### Keeping our children safe

*If you have any concerns regarding the safety or welfare of a child at school please contact Miss Johnson or Mr S White, our Safeguarding Leads.*

## Summer News

It has been another busy summer at school. The Courtyard Area has had a huge makeover and is now a really useable and useful space that many classes have already been making the most of. Thank you so much to the Friends of Acomb Primary School for fundraising for this and also for all of the planning that went into making this project happen.

You will already have seen the gates to the playgrounds have had a long awaited upgrade too. The new gates are twice the size of the old ones and should make things much easier for those of you with pushchairs and will reduce the bottlenecks at busy times.

A reminder that some of our classes have moved too. The classes all have signs in the cloakrooms so you will know which class is which from the outside when collecting your children.

## Reading Challenge

The summer reading challenge ends on **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September** so there is just over a week for the children to go to the library and tell the staff about the books that they read over the summer. It only takes a few minutes and the children will get prizes, including a medal and certificate for taking part.

Please send certificates (not medals please) to the office as soon as possible as we will hold a special assembly to present them in a few weeks' time.

We really want to retain the trophy again this year and are facing some tough local competition, so let's all have a final push to make this happen.

As an added incentive, the class with the most completed challenges will be given £100 to spend on books for their class bookshelves.

## Clubs

**Ignite Sports** have a number of clubs running this term. **Please see the flyer at the end of the newsletter**

### Choir

This is led by Nicola Betts and is open to all KS1 and KS2 children (Years 1-6) and will run from 3-4pm on Wednesday during the autumn term. There will a drink and a biscuit provided at every session. We start on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> September and finish on Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> December. The children will perform at a Christmas Choir Concert to be held at the Gateway Centre in Acomb. Date and details to follow.

BOOKING: Choir is very popular, so to secure a place for your child, please email Nicola as soon as possible at [nicolabetts@yahoo.com](mailto:nicolabetts@yahoo.com)

COST: £25 (Nicola will email her bank details to you for an online payment. Alternatively, a clearly labelled envelope with a cheque or cash payment can be left at the school office **once you have booked a place** by email).

PLEASE STATE IN THE EMAIL THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- 1) Child's name and surname
- 2) Year group and class
- 3) Is your child being **collected** from choir at 4pm, going to **after school club** or **walking home unaccompanied (Y5 & Y6 only)**
- 4) Does he/she have any dietary requirements?

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## Dates

We have lots of important dates throughout the school year and keep our school calendar up to date on the website. It is a Google Calendar and will sync easily with your phone or tablet.

You can see this calendar at: <http://www.acombprimary.org.uk/parents/calendar-dates/>

We are sending out a dates for the year booklet with this newsletter too and will **send a printed copy with your child as well on Monday.**

## Coming Soon:

### September

Mon	2	Staff Training Day – school closed to children	
Tue	3	School opens for all children at 8.45am	
Mon	16	Sponsored event for NSPCC	NSPCC is our school charity of the year
		Welcome Meetings:	
Mon	16	5.00pm – Y2 (EST, DHSW), Y3 (DB, RS) 5.30pm – Y6 (EJMB, OB)	A chance to find out about routines and expectations for the year ahead as well as to have an early look round the classrooms.
		Welcome Meetings:	
Tue	17	5.00pm – Reception (KB, EP), Y1 (AWLC, EST) 5.30pm – Y4 (TD, KJSW) & Y5 (KJSW, CJ)	
Fri	27	MacMillan Coffee Afternoon 2.00pm School hall	Each class will be making something to sell.

### October

Thu	10	Open Afternoon	A chance to work alongside your child in their classroom.
Fri	11	Non-uniform day for Friends of Acomb Primary	To raise money for the tombola at the Christmas Fair. Donations to be sent on the day. No theme for dressing up.
Mon-Fri	14-18	Walk to School Week	
Tue	22	Y6 Parents' Meeting about Bewerley Park	To go through final arrangements, kit list, etc.
Thu	24	School closes for half term	
Fri	25	Staff Training Day – school closed to children	

## Welcome Meetings

We are holding welcome meetings for all classes on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> of September as above. Please come to the outside classroom door for these meetings at the times listed above.

## NSPCC

This year we have chosen NSPCC as our school charity of the year. Whilst we will do some other fundraising events during the year, our main efforts will be focussed on this charity. We have some visitors from NSPCC coming to school to run assemblies for the children and will be holding a sponsored event in a few weeks' time – watch this space for further details.

## Reception Children

Please could all Reception children bring in a photograph of themselves as a baby and also a recent family photograph. Please remember to add the child's name to the back of each photo. Thank you. K. Bradley and E. Peggs

A reminder that the children will be staying for lunch next week. Milk will also be available during the morning for those who want it. (There is no charge for milk in Reception).

## Lunch Menu and Milk

Please note, for Week 1 of the cycle, salmon fillets will be replaced by salmon fishcakes due to the high cost of the fillets. If you would like to order milk (commencing next week) for your child, please pay via ParentPay by 6pm on Sunday. If your child has (income related) free meals, milk is free but please order by emailing [office@acomb.pmat.academy](mailto:office@acomb.pmat.academy). Thank you.

## Keeping our children safe

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September 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

Please see the table below for a list of sports clubs for Autumn Term 1 delivered by Mr Shimmin.

Day	Time	Sport	For	Dates	Cost	Places	Where?	Collection Point?
Tuesday Lunchtime	12pm – 12.30pm	Netball	YR 3-6	10/09/19 – 22/10/19 7 weeks	£14	24	Playground	N/A
Tuesday After school	3pm – 4pm	Multi Skills	YR 1&2	10/09/19 – 22/10/19 7 weeks	£24.50	24	Hall / Field Playground	HALL
Wednesday Lunchtime	12pm – 12.30pm	Girls Football	YR 3-6	11/09/19 – 23/10/19 7 weeks	£14	24	Field	N/A
Wednesday After school	3pm – 4pm	Football	YR 5&6	11/09/19 – 23/10/19 7 weeks	£24.50	24	Field	YR6 CLASS OB
Thursday After school	3pm – 4pm	Tag Rugby	YR 3-6	12/09/19 – 24/10/19 7 weeks	£24.50	24	Field	YR6 CLASS OB
Friday After school	3pm – 4pm	Dodgeball	YR 3-6	13/09/19 – 18/10/19 6 weeks	£21	24	Hall / Playground	HALL

To book please visit the following website and click BOOK NOW -  
<https://www.ignitesportscoaching.co.uk/>

***We can now accept childcare vouchers as payment!***

**OUR OFSTED NUMBER - 2505893**

Sodexo – 901733

Edenred – P21249559

Co – Operative – 85119968

Fideliti – IGN001C

Kiddivouchers – Our Ofsted number 2505893

Computer Share - 0026423394

Government Tax Free Childcare Scheme - Our Ofsted number 2505983 and our postcode is YO24 4ES

**\*\*\* PLEASE NOTE, WE ARE ALSO RUNNING A MULTI SPORT DAY ON FRIDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> OF OCTOBER, THIS IS DUE ACOMB STAFF HAVING A TEACHER TRAINING DAY \*\*\***

Many thanks for your support.

Mr J Shimmin

Ignite Sports Coaching



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