



## Introduction

Hello and welcome to the start of the new school year at Acomb Primary School. Although the past three and a half terms and summer holidays have put a strain on everyone, I hope that you are reading this in good health and are confident that your child is feeling safe and happy in school now they are back.

Having now spent near enough a full week back at school, I must say that I am so proud of the way the children have returned and how happy I am to hear the classrooms, corridors and playgrounds filled once more with the sound of children working hard and having fun whilst doing so. Our school, like all those around the country, has very much been a ghost town, populated by a handful of staff and children, and to see it full again is wonderful.

I'd like to take the opportunity at this point to extend a very special welcome to all 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.

On my morning walk rounds, it has also been wonderful to see and chat to parents and carers. From talking to many of you, it has been lovely to hear what great experiences your children have had over the past four days already and how well they have settled back in such a short amount of time. I also sensed the relief from many of you about not having to worry about home schooling anymore!

I look forward to seeing you all next week.

Mr White

## Staffing

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

- Mrs Costa Alves is now teaching in Year 3
- Miss Cochrane has been appointed to support KS1 classes
- Miss Carty has been appointed to teach in Year 4

Although you will have seen Mrs Costa Alves and Miss Carty before, in different roles, they have now got classes of their own so well done to both of you on your successful appointments.

## Risk Assessment

We will continue to review all aspects of our risk assessment during the coming weeks. Although everything in relation to this seems to be running smoothly so far, naturally, there are a few things that could be improved. I have outlined these below.

- School is no longer operating a 'one way system'. There seems to have been some confusion with this but this has not been in place at all this academic year.
- Although tempting to get close to one another, please maintain a 2m distance between yourself and other adults at all times.
- Remember that we are operating a one parent per family (on site) system.
- Please leave the school site immediately after you have seen your child into their class.
- At drop off times, please ensure that you are on site no earlier than 8.35am



- Please ensure that your children's hands are washed thoroughly on site before they enter their classrooms. Many of you are doing so as you leave your homes which is great. However, it is important that this is done immediately prior to entering their classrooms using the school wash stations provided. In this instance, the use of hand sanitising gel is not as effective I am afraid.
- At pick up times, please ensure that you are not on site much earlier than 2.40pm

We've also taken on board feedback in relation to wash stations and you will be pleased to know that we have a plan to make this better over the coming weeks.

## Visitors in School

As a reminder, we can't routinely have visitors in school at the moment. If you do need to speak to your child's class teacher an appointment can be made. The best way is to phone or email the school office to arrange this. Staff can then call you back or arrange a time to meet outside school hours.

## Welcome Meetings

We are unable to host our usual welcome meetings this year so are putting together short presentations of key information for each year group which we will share via the school website as soon as possible.

## Diary Dates

We are currently finalising dates for the Autumn term and will send these out next week. These will include dates for some events which we may not be able to hold in the usual way such as the nativity. We are exploring alternative ways of working these events as we would love to be able to do something if we can. We will keep you informed of our plans, but please be aware that we may not be able to organise anything within the guidelines.

## Parents' Evening

We are unlikely to be able to host parents' evenings in the usual way this year. Instead, we are going to offer 10 minute telephone appointments later this half term for the class teacher to talk to you about how your child has started the school year academically and socially. We feel this is better than putting it off until November. We will use the usual booking system – more details to follow of how to do this.

## After School Club

Just a quick reminder to go straight to the hall's fire exit doors when picking your child up please. We have had a number of parents walking around the school building to do so but this is not necessary.

## Absence Forms

If you need an **absence form** they are in the reception area near the school office (just inside the main entrance). When completed, please leave them in the box provided and they will be collected.

## School Reading/Library Books

Thank you to all those families who have returned school reading/library books that you have found at home! Please continue to leave any you find in the box (as above).



## Warm Clothing

It is a requirement that we have as many open windows and doors as possible to ensure adequate ventilation. As a result, some of the children have said they have felt cold this week. Please remember to send them in adequate layers of clothing, for indoors and outdoors.

## Change of Address

If you have changed your address, phone number or email address, please let us know by emailing [office@acomb.pmat.academy](mailto:office@acomb.pmat.academy) and we will update our records. It is, however, your responsibility to update your details on ParentPay.

## Message from School Liaison Officer at North Yorkshire Police

We have had a concern reported to us of young people forming group chats on snapchat with people that they have befriended on Roblox, leading to verbal conversations with other people that they do not know – please can a message be sent to parents to encourage them to talk to their children about the internet. If parents are unsure on age limits for games and social media they can find them on [www.net-aware.org.uk](http://www.net-aware.org.uk)

## New Under 7's Football Team – Message from York RI AFC

Every football career starts somewhere. Do you have a little football fanatic in your family? Who would love to start playing football as part of a team? Well our new Under 7's team would be perfect. Come and be part of a new, exciting football adventure. York RI AFC is a proud FA standard charter club based in Holgate. With fantastic facilities and superb coaches, we're a great local choice for all football players. Please make contact via email to [yorkriafc@gmail.com](mailto:yorkriafc@gmail.com) for full details and timings.

## Flu Immunisation Date – Advanced Notice

We have been advised that the immunisations will take place at school on Tuesday 24th November 2020. We will share the online booking link with you as soon as it is available.

## Pathfinder Newsletter

Please find this week's newsletter attached.

## Year 6 Secondary School Engagement Opportunities

All Year 6 parents will be getting a separate email today outlining new procedures for applying for a secondary school place and what will be happening instead of open evenings this year.