

Head of School's Introduction

In case you weren't aware, the government have made two crucial announcements over the past week. Firstly, they have told us that the February half term holiday will remain and secondly, that they aim for children to begin to return to school from Monday March 8th. In relation to the latter, we recognise that this is very much an estimate rather than a certainty at the moment and will keep you informed of any updates as we get them.

Feel rest assured that we want children back as soon as we are able but recognise the need to make sure that is only possible when it is safe to do so.

Thanks once again for your continued support.

Mr White

Weekly News

Word of the Week – Responsibility

I can't quite believe the amount of children who have taken up the opportunity to take on something at home to be responsible for this week. I'm so pleased with the response to the assembly so thank you for engaging with this so well. We always love to see how children get on with our word of the week at home so please keep posting to Twitter, Tapestry or Google Classroom so we can see this interaction.

Watch Monday's assembly to find out what next week's word is.

New: Children's Mental Health Week and Inside Out Day

Next week it is 'Child Mental Health Week' with the theme of 'Express Yourself'. We all recognise how important this is currently with the children in our care so please watch out for specific work related to this next week in your Tapestry and Google Classroom.

We also encourage you to take part in 'Inside Out Day' on Wednesday 3rd February. Inside Out Day is an awareness campaign that aims to enable young

people to start talking about their mental health. How someone looks on the outside doesn't necessarily reflect how they are truly feeling on the inside, so it is important to always be kind and think of others.

If you would like to, why don't you encourage your child (and yourself) to turn your clothes inside out to get important conversations started. No one should be embarrassed about how they feel. Schools across the country are urged to support 'Inside Out Day' – a simple premise, easy to implement and a meaningful way to engage pupils in discussions around emotional well-being.

It's important that children know that it's OK not to be OK. No one is perfect, even though they may look so from the outside.

If you decide to take part, why don't you tweet a picture showing your 'Inside Out Day' attire, tagging us (@acombprimary) and adding the hashtag #ChildrensMentalHealthWeek to your tweet. As always, you can also add your pictures to Tapestry or Google Classroom if you prefer.





If you would like to do some extra work on this, the [Children's Mental Health Week](#) website offers a variety of resources to support you with this.

New: Emailing Staff

We love to hear from parents and carers on a day to day basis and staff are fine with you emailing them with any thanks or questions about their child's work. Could I remind you that if your email is sent after 5pm it is more than likely that the teachers will not respond to you after this time and they will pick this up the following morning. If your email provider has a schedule send function, why not set this to 8am the following day so that it goes into a teacher's inbox straight away.

New: Menu Change

During the last week of the half term (on Tuesday, 9th and Wednesday 10th February) the kitchen will be serving Chinese food on both days to celebrate Chinese New Year. This will include sweet and sour chicken, chicken chow mein, spring rolls, prawn crackers, dim sum, noodles and rice. All dietary variations will be catered for. Please remember, if your child alternates between dinners and packed lunches, to let us know by the end of Thursday, if your child wants school meals the following week. Thank you.

New: Parent Governor Election

Thank you to everyone who voted in the election and thank you to the two candidates who stood for this. I am pleased to announce that Mrs Jennifer Garbutt has been elected. We look forward to working with her as part of our governing body.

Curriculum Updates Maths

Sentence STEMS

Sentence STEMS are given sentence structures that support meaningful mathematical conversation. They give pupils the opportunity to respond in full sentences and provide scaffolding to help them do so when speaking, writing and reasoning, without the added pressure of thinking about how to correctly formulate a response. They have many benefits:

- Reinforce and encourages the use of mathematical vocabulary for pupils
- Can give the teacher details about prior knowledge from previous lessons or year groups (I understand that....I already know that....)
- Supports peer discussion in a structured way
- Can scaffold steps when problem solving (I will start by adding.....then I will divide by answer by.....I can check if I am correct by....)

Here are some examples of sentence STEMS relating to number facts for year 4:

- One tenth can be written as 0.1, so ____ tenths can be written as ____.
- ____ is the previous whole number. ____ is the next whole number.
- One thousand more/less than ____ is ____
- We can exchange one _____ for ten _____. (thousand, hundreds etc)
- If the hundreds digit is four or less, we round _____. If the hundreds digit is five or more we round ____.
- I say ____ - point - ____, but I think ____ and ____ tenth(s).



Regular Updates Telling School about Covid related symptoms

Just a reminder that it is still relevant for you to let school know if you or your child has any Covid related symptoms. Please do so by either emailing the office or ringing the school to inform us. You should also send screenshots of any Covid test results to office@acomb.pmat.academy. Thank you.

New: BT Broadband

BT Broadband are offering free Wifi vouchers to those families that are in need of support with access to the internet. If you feel that you could be entitled to this, please contact school and we will endeavour to support you gaining this access.

New: Indoor Shoes in School

Please remember that all children need a change of footwear, for indoors, every day. During the winter they will need something suitable for playing outdoors, both on the field and the playground. Shoes suitable for PE/sport are also needed every Friday during lockdown.