

DECEMBER 2020



Welcome to our December newsletter...

The last half term has been a very busy one with lots of opportunities and new experiences for the children. Our Nursery is beginning to look very Christmassy and we have lots more lovely things to look forward to.

We will be taking our Christmas photos this week so look out for your Christmas card and further information is attached if you'd like to buy more copies.

*On behalf of the Aclet Close Nursery team,
I would like to wish you all a
very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.*

Leo M has joined us this month and in January we will be welcoming more new children and families - we hope you will all be very happy here at Aclet Close Nursery School - exciting times ahead!



We would like to wish a Happy Birthday to Hope, Liam-Junior and Mrs Hughes who will be celebrating their birthdays in December.

Due to Co-vid we can't do everything we'd like to, but we are hanging on to as many of our Nursery traditions as we can!

- **Christmas cards...** as usual, in the interest of the environment, time and cost, your child is welcome to bring one Christmas card for everyone in the Nursery. There is a box at the Nursery entrance - we will empty it on Monday 7th December and display the cards in Nursery.
- **Christmas gifts for staff...** over the years it has almost become a tradition for children to give their Teachers a Christmas gift. Whilst very much appreciated, our staff do not expect this and we would rather you spent those few pounds on your families!
- **Christmas cakes...** at the moment we aren't able to bake with the children but if any of you would like to have a go at home, we have attached the recipe (we usually use a baked beans tin to make the smaller versions)
- **Theatre visit...** In January of each year we offer our oldest children a trip to Theatre Hullabaloo (Children's theatre in Darlington) This year we have paid for a school ticket to watch a live screening of the Gruffalo theatre production on the morning of **Friday 11th December**. *Please note this isn't suitable for our 2 year olds. We are asking for a donation of £1 per child which can be paid cash on the day or by bank transfer. (Bank details at bottom of this page) Older children who don't usually come to Nursery on a Friday morning are welcome to come too - please see separate letter.
- **Christmas Party...** This year our Christmas party will take place on the morning of **Thursday 17th December**. The children will play party games and a Christmas picnic will be provided. We are asking for a donation of £1 per child which can be paid cash on the day or by bank transfer. (Bank details at bottom of this page) Children who don't usually attend on a Thursday morning are very welcome to attend - please see separate letter.
- **Christmas jumpers...** Your child is very welcome to wear a Christmas jumper/t-shirt at any time and especially during our last week of Nursery (Monday 14th - Thursday 17th December)
- **Christmas Nativity...** Unfortunately, we won't be able to have our Nativity up at Woodhouse Close Church this year but we have taken advice from the Local Authority as to how we can still go ahead whilst minimising risks. The children have been learning songs and will 'perform' them in Nursery - we will share this with you through Class Dojo, our online platform.

Bank details: Sort Code: 20-09-44 Account Number Please use your child's name as a reference

Lisa Jenkins Head Teacher

On behalf of staff and children, I would like to say a very big 'thank you' for your voluntary donations to school fund. You have paid for the children's healthy daily snacks, wrapping paper for the children's gifts as well as Christmassy bits and bobs and fairy lights.

School fund is also subsidising our Gruffalo theatre performance (live streaming in school) and our party food and prizes for games at our Christmas Party which will be held in Nursery this year. You are welcome to donate through bank transfer - this is working well for quite a few of our families or we can take cash.

Your child's safety is very important to us...

Please avoid driving down the approach to the school as this puts other children and parents at risk. We would also appreciate it if you could use the laybys and be mindful about our neighbours when parking - please avoid their driveways and the grass verges.

Thank you for your continuing support.

School uniform... is optional and available from Cre8tive (12 Peel Street, Bishop Auckland Tel: 01388 664097). You can call in the shop at your own convenience throughout the year. Business cards are available from the office. Our school colours are red or navy blue.

Class Dojo... this is our new online platform and our preferred way of keeping in touch and sharing positive news about your child. We now have 67% of our families signed up - once you have given us permission, by completing the survey monkey link that we have texted you, we can send you an invite from Class Dojo. Thank you for the responses and feedback so far, very much appreciated.

Dates for your diary

- **Friday 11th December:** Live theatre screening of *The Gruffalo* in Nursery (older children in Main Nursery only) £1 donation per child.
- **Last week of term:** Children's Christmas 'performance' will be uploaded to Class Dojo, our online learning platform.
- **Thursday 17th December (9.30am - 11.30am)** Afternoon and Beginning of the week children will be able to swap to the morning session so that they can join in the fun too. The cost of the party food and games prizes are being subsidised by school funds so we are asking for a donation of just £1 per child.
- **Thursday 17th December:** We break up from school for the Christmas break (Friday 18th is our 2nd staff training day)
- **Monday 4th January:** School reopens after the Christmas break.
- **Friday 12th February:** School breaks up for half term.
- **Monday 22nd February:** school reopens after half term

GOVERNOR NEWS...

Almost all of our School policies have been updated over the Autumn term - these are available on our school website under our newly created 'Statutory Information' - 'Nursery Policies' section.
<http://www.acletclose.durham.sch.uk/statutory-information/>

Miss Ellis has worked with Mrs Jenkins to monitor our safeguarding procedures and the necessary paperwork has been completed.

Mrs Garfield has worked with Mrs Jenkins to discuss children and staff's well-being - we are finding that the majority of children are coping well and are demonstrating high levels of resilience. ☺

We have two vacancies for Parent Governors. Training and support is provided. Please ring the office for a chat with Mrs Jenkins if you are interested.

**Governors wish all children and their families
a Merry Christmas and
a healthy and happy 2021.**