

March 2021



From 8th March, we will have the majority of our children and families back in school!

We can't thank you all enough for your patience and understanding as we have navigated our way through the last year. It is a big relief that local rates of Co-vid are now much lower and there is some light at the end of the tunnel.

Class Dojo has been a very effective way of keeping in touch and it has been lovely for us to see what you have all been up to at home. Due to staff capacity, our remote learning offer will stop on Friday 12th March.

Going forward, we will speak directly to families of children who may need to self-isolate with regards to what we will provide for home learning. Class Dojo will continue to be a great way of us sharing information about your child and vice versa.

Opportunities for our children and families ...

World Book Day - usually we would take some of our older children to visit WHSmith in Bishop Auckland to exchange their world book token for a book. Unfortunately, the shop has now closed and despite Mrs Beal's best efforts, we have been unable to find a bookshop that could help us to receive the books in school on the children's behalf. We do have the vouchers and will distribute them for you to be able to exchange in the supermarkets.

Parent Consultations - dates to be confirmed

In order to allow time for the children to be settled properly, we will delay parent consultations until after Easter. We know it isn't the same as a face to face conversation, but planned telephone appointments/conversations seemed to work really well last time. We will be in touch to let you know when staff will be available.

'School Readiness and Phonics' workshops... Mrs Staines will lead some sessions to help parents and carers of our July 2021 leavers with some tips to help with a smooth transition to Primary School. At present we are investigating the best way to do this and will let you know of dates.

We usually invite Reception Class staff from our feeder Primary Schools to come and see the children in Nursery but will need to wait and see if our risk assessments allow - we will keep you informed.



The following children will be celebrating their birthdays this month...

Jean, John-Ronnie, Elijah, Lillie-Mae, Wainey-Joe, Skylar, Joseph, Freddie and Preston. HAPPY BIRTHDAY to you all!

Miss Stout, Mrs Staines, Mrs Barraclough and 2 of our teacher trainees, Miss Eldrett and Miss Dunn will be celebrating their birthdays too. ☺

WELCOME!

A very warm welcome from the Aclet Close Nursery School family to...

Hanley, Valana, Hayley-May, Kayden, Willow, Aspen, Lyhla, Autumn, Henry, Evie, Bobby B, Francesca and families - we hope you will be very happy here... exciting times ahead! ☺

Now that we have most of our children back we are asking for a weekly donation to pay for snacks and 'extras' for the children.

For children who attend 15 hours, the suggested donation is £1 a week and for children attending 30 hours, the suggested donation is £2 a week.

Where possible, please use bank transfer (weekly or monthly is fine!) to minimise contact at the door.

Sort code: 20-09-44 Account number: 20101478

Our funds are somewhat depleted at the moment and we thank you in advance for your support.

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. Please also be mindful of our neighbours.

Thank you for your continuing support

Lateral flow tests for families...

All households with children attending Primary, Secondary School or College can now get 2 rapid COVID-19 tests per person per week.

If you cannot get tested at your workplace, or are unable to go to a test site or collect test kits, you can order a home test kit online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

Dates for your diary

- **Thursday 4th March:** World Book Day
- **Friday 26th March:** School breaks up for Easter break
- **Monday 12th April:** School reopens after Easter
- **April:** Dates to be confirmed: staff available for telephone Parent/Carer Consultations to discuss children's development and progress
- **Friday 30th April:** School closed for 3rd training day
- **Monday 3rd May:** School closed - Bank Holiday
- **Thursday 6th May:** School closed to children - building used for elections
- **Friday 28th May:** Schools breaks up for half term
- **Monday 7th June:** School reopens
- **Friday 16th July:** School closes for Summer break

Corona Virus...

We continue to follow advice from Public Health Agency, DfE and our Local Authority. Our risk assessments are updated weekly and staff are voluntarily taking tests twice weekly.

Please continue to encourage your family to 'catch it, bin it, kill it' when coughing/sneezing.

We expect our families to:

- Wear a mask on school grounds (please bring your card if you are exempt)
- Distance from other families on the path and staff at the door (wait behind the table)
- Use our one way system
- Send one consistent adult
- Ensure a quick handover of children at the door

*We have been advised to expect an inspection to ensure we meet current expectations.

Governors

Finance and Curriculum committees have already met this term and Governors are in touch weekly for updates about children and staff.

The School Financial Value Standard has also been completed.

We still have 1 place for a Parent Governor on our Full Governing Body team.

Please speak to Mrs Jenkins if you are interested; we require you to attend 1 meeting per term and to work with Mrs Jenkins once during the year to monitor an agreed area e.g. health and safety, safeguarding. Attendance at appropriate training is also encouraged.