

JUNE/JULY 2021



We hope you all had a lovely half term holiday. This is our last half term of the academic year as we break up for the Summer on **Friday 16th July**.

Opportunities for children and families...

Zoolab... Just before half term we were delighted to welcome Rob from Zoolab into our main Nursery room so that our older girls and boys could have the hands on experience with the creepy crawlies. The children loved it and of course, lots of learning was taking place! Thank you for your monetary donations towards the cost; school fund subsidised this activity.

Durham Resilience project... Our school is taking part in this project based on staff and children's well-being and resilience. A small group of our older children did a great job of talking to Jack via a TEAMS meeting about what they like in nursery and who can help them. (There wasn't anything they don't like about Nursery☺)

Little Chefs, Big Chefs... You may have noticed that sometimes we have green crates with baked goods and treats set out in our car park. These foods have been donated by supermarkets and though they may have a best before date on, are still perfectly safe to eat. Please help us to stop food going to landfill by taking what you can use/freeze. A big thank you to Jo for organising this with us and to Neale who has just started to deliver it so Mrs Jenkins doesn't need to collect it. We are also very thankful to Jo's Dad, who has donated lots of flowers and vegetables for the children to look after.

Improvements... Over the Summer break, we will continue to develop our indoor and outdoor play areas. Significant work will take place on our main playground including gardening work, jet washing and new surfacing, remedial work to our fixed equipment (climbing frame, sand pit and pirate ship) and new resources for the children to play with! Our sunken sand pit will also be emptied and refilled - we estimate it will take 2 tonnes of sand to fill it up. Capital grant funding, school budget and a cheque for £100 from Tesco Bishop Auckland (Thank you John) has enabled us to plan this. Mrs Beal has also applied for some grants (fingers crossed) and we have also been successful in our application for the Tesco blue token scheme once restrictions ease. Inside the Nursery, after our usual Summer deep clean, we will have some new furniture and resources arriving.

Ice creams... Mrs Staines has arranged for an ice cream van to visit Nursery on the morning of Tuesday 13th July and the afternoon of Thursday 15th July. School fund will pay for this treat.

Mini graduation for July 21 school leavers... Information has been distributed to families for this event which will take place in small groups in our Secret Garden.



We would like to wish a very warm welcome to Ralph who has recently joined us... Exciting times ahead!



The following children will be celebrating their birthdays in June - **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to Archie S, Isla, Eliza, Tommy, Ada, Francesca, Benson and Harper S. In July, Autumn, Ayan, Leyah, Archie B, Carter and Aicha will be celebrating their birthdays whilst Murphy, Bennie and Aliza-Rose will celebrate their birthdays in August. We hope you all have a fabulous time!

School Fund...

We would like to say a very big 'thank you' for your voluntary £1/£2 weekly donations to school fund. Last month you paid for the healthy daily snacks and resources for the children including planters, compost and flowers for our gardens, birthday gifts, new buckets and spades for the sand pit, storybooks, footballs, a tent for our sensory area and gifts for the children leaving us to go to Primary School. We have also organised for the ice cream man to visit before we break up too.

Most of our families are donating using bank transfer now, this makes it much easier for us - details below.

Nursery Sort Code: 20-09-44 Account number: 20101478 Reference: use your child's name

Easy Fundraising...

Our supporters have now raised over £110 just by clicking on our Easy fundraising link before they complete their online shopping! Our school receives a very small amount of commission at no extra cost to you and it soon adds up. More information on our website/here: [Easy Fundraising \(acletclose.durham.sch.uk\)](http://acletclose.durham.sch.uk)

Parent/carer consultations

In the Summer term we like to offer an additional appointment with key workers for parents and carers who request one.

Please ring the office no later than 9th July if you would like a telephone appointment - we will organise a convenient time to ring you.

Class Dojo...

This is our online platform where we share photographs and information about your child with you.

The children can earn 'dojos' for things like being kind to others, persevering if they get stuck with something or trying new ways to solve problems.

Please ring the office if you are not yet signed up.

Toddler group...

In the past we have ran a toddler group which has been a great way for the children and families to meet us and also each other. Over the last 4 weeks (with support from Jilly at Auckland Project) we have been able to trial having 3 children with one parent each in our outdoor classroom.

Spaces for September 2021...

Almost all families that contact us about a Nursery place for their child have been recommended by current or past parents and carers - thank you! We have some availability for private and funded 2, 3 and 4 year olds in September and application forms can be completed online at: [Starting Nursery \(acletclose.durham.sch.uk\)](http://acletclose.durham.sch.uk) over the telephone with Mrs Beal or by paper application form. We can signpost working parents to financial support with fees.

July 21 School leavers...

Mini graduation on Friday 16th July...

An envelope of information has been distributed to families and though the ceremony won't be exactly what we wanted for the children, we will be doing our best to give the children a good send off! We hope you like the photographs; please place any additional orders as soon as possible.

Transition to Primary Schools...

Some staff from Reception Classes have already visited the children in our garden to observe and talk to staff about the children's interests and their progress and achievements whilst other schools have been in contact by phone. 'Getting ready for school' packs have been distributed and Mrs Staines' will be sharing information and tips via Clasdojo which we hope will help you to support your child with a smooth transition to their new school.

Exit surveys...

We continually reflect on our practice and make improvements where they are needed. When children leave us to go to Primary school, we ask parents & carers to complete an exit survey. We are particularly interested to know your thoughts about how we have communicated with parents during Co-vid times. Our Risk Assessment has prevented families from coming into the building and our staff have missed the face to face conversations with you all - we have some ideas of how we can do things differently in September (should restrictions ease) and would really appreciate your feedback and suggestions.

Overdue fees...

We are asking for any overdue fees to be paid no later than Wednesday 14th July. Like all maintained schools, any debts are transferred to the Durham County Council debt recovery team.

Gifts for staff...

Over the last few years it has become almost a 'tradition' for families to buy gifts for staff working in schools. We want you to know that although they have always been very much appreciated, there really is no need and certainly not expected by the staff here at Aclet Close.

Dates for your diary

- **Friday 16th July:** Graduation for July 21 school leavers - details have been sent home
- **Friday 16th July:** School closes for Summer break
- **Wednesday 1st September:** Staff training day (1)
- **Thursday 2nd September:** School reopens for children
- **Friday 22nd October:** School breaks up for October half term
- **Monday 1st November:** Staff training day (2)
- **Tuesday 2nd November:** School reopens for children

GOVERNOR NEWS...

We are delighted to inform you that we have recently been recruiting and have secured 3 permanent members of staff to start in September. You will be advised if your child's keyworker will be changing once all the necessary safeguarding checks have been completed.

Unfortunately, we will be saying goodbye to Miss Stout, Miss Hamilton, Miss Todd, Miss Smurthwaite, Mrs Emberson and Miss Wardhaugh who have all been working with us on a temporary basis. They have all been a great asset to the permanent staff team at Aclet Close and we wish them all the best with their next steps that include new jobs, a first teaching post at one of our local feeder Primary Schools ☺, teacher training and a baby!

Our Governing Body still needs a parent representative - it is so important for you to have a say in how the school functions. Please speak to Mrs Jenkins if you are interested.

Co-Vid19

It was a disappointment, though probably not a surprise, to us all to hear that easing of Co-Vid19 restrictions will be postponed for a further 4 weeks.

Nationally, confirmed cases are increasing and on 17th June, the Durham data dashboard showed that County Durham had the 2nd highest number of confirmed cases (106.6 per 100,000 cases) compared to the other local authorities on there. The direction of change for all of the Bishop Auckland area is 'UP' and Bishop North and Coundon have seen the highest increases in County Durham. (314.9 cases per 100,000)

In order to keep all children, families and staff safe we must all remain vigilant and alert to the symptoms of the Co-Vid19 virus.

- **High temperature** - this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **A new continuous cough** - this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes within 24 hours
- **A loss or change to sense of smell or taste** - this means that you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything or things taste different to normal. Most people with symptoms have at least 1 of these.

If your child has symptoms - you, your child and anyone else you live with should stay at home and not have visitors until you get the test result - only leave your home to get the test.

In line with the national guidance, please arrange a PCR test via www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or by calling 119. If you have difficulty accessing a PCR test please contact the Community Hub for help on 03000 260 260 or email: communityhub@durham.gov.uk

Please note that a Lateral Flow Test is not sufficient when symptoms are present (though they can identify the virus in those that display no symptoms)

Please continue to keep you and your families safe by social distancing as much as you can.

If your child is unwell we ask that you don't bring them to Nursery and thank you for your support - we have sent several children home this week who thankfully have all tested negatively.

If you get a positive test result, it is important to let us know as soon as possible so that we can start the track and trace process - the school email is checked several times each weekend:
acletclose@durhamlearning.net Thank you

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 be mindful of our neighbouring residents by parking in the lay-bys whenever you can and avoid parking actually on the green.**

Thank you for your continuing support.