

JUNE/JULY 2022



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 **Thursday 21st July**.

Opportunities for children and families...

Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations...

It has been such a long time but we were delighted to welcome you all back into Nursery and what a great afternoon we had, despite the rain! We have received some lovely feedback - please feel free to drop us a line using Class Dojo, school email or comment on our Facebook post(s). We continue to reflect on what we offer our families, so please share any suggestions too.

We didn't ask for any financial contributions from families as we were successful with a bid from Livin housing; Tesco (Bishop Auckland) donated some cupcakes and Angel Trust supplied crowns and running medals. They also asked us to decorate our own school flag, which is now being displayed in NO 42, in Bishop Auckland Market place. (We hope to take some of our older children on the bus to see it over the next few weeks)

In addition, some of our older children visited King James Academy's Art Department to make the large letters spelling out 'PLATINUM JUBILEE' that were in the window of our outdoor classroom.

Some of you made comments about the delicious food. It was purchased from Gregory's, Bishop Auckland and having received many donations for events over the last few years, we were delighted to support this local business. We cannot recommend them highly enough; everything - from our initial enquiries, to receiving the food on the day was superb.

We are very grateful to you all and to everyone else that supported us.

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.

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 delivers it so Mrs Jenkins doesn't need to collect it.

Family sea-side trip to South Shields...

We are delighted to let you know that this year we will return to our annual family seaside trip on Wednesday 13th July. Basic information has been shared on Class Dojo and more information will follow, once we have completed risk assessments and paperwork. Please note that Nursery will remain open to families that need us.

*We would like to wish a very warm welcome to Bryson, Oscar and Jude who have recently joined us...
Exciting times ahead!*



The following children will be celebrating their birthdays in June - **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to Majesty, Frances-May, Tommy, Ada, Francesca, Ivy, Louis and Henry E.

In July, Autumn, Kobe and Leyah will be celebrating their birthdays whilst Louie, Murphy, Archie G, Lucie, Aliza-Rose and Jesse will celebrate their birthdays in August. **We hope you all have a fabulous time!**

Nursery Places for September 2022...

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://StartingNursery.acletclose.durham.sch.uk) over the telephone with Mrs Ellis or by paper application form. We can signpost working parents to financial support with fees.

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 as well as new buckets and spades for the sand pits, storybooks, and gifts for the children leaving us to go to Primary School. We also utilised some school fund towards our jubilee garden party - garden games, the bubble lady, ice cream van and food for our jubilee celebrations.

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...

Since November 2020, our staff and supporters have now raised almost £360 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://EasyFundraising.acletclose.durham.sch.uk)

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.

GOVERNOR NEWS...

Improvements...

Over the Easter break, we continued with our improvements by having some of the play surface replaced in our 2s outdoor area - the work was completed by DCM, who also completed the surfacing work last Summer in our main Nursery playground. The area looks so much bigger now.

Over May half term, we have had the oak floor in our outdoor classroom stripped and sealed by Johnson flooring - it was starting to look scuffed and worn but now looks and smells great.

Capital grant funding and school budget have been utilised to enable these works to be completed.

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. Training is provided.

July 22 School leavers...

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. Mrs Staines will share information and tips in our 'School ready' parent workshops on Monday 13th and Thursday 16th June.

Mini graduation on Wednesday 20th July for children leaving us to start Reception Classes...

We are still in the planning stages and will let you know when we have finalised arrangements.

(More details to follow)

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 and would really appreciate your feedback and suggestions.

Overdue fees...

We are asking for any overdue fees to be paid no later than Monday 18th July. Like most 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...

JUNE:

- **Monday 6th:** School closed to children - Staff training day (5)
- **Tuesday 7th:** School reopens to children
- **Monday 13th:** 9.15am - workshop for Parents of July 22 leavers - school readiness
- **Thursday 16th June: 3pm** - workshop for Parents of July 22 leavers - school readiness

JULY:

- **Wednesday 6th:** Last swimming lesson
- **Wednesday 13th:** Family seaside trip (more details to follow)
- **Wednesday 20th:** Mini Graduation for July 22 leavers (more details to follow)
- **Thursday 21st:** School closes for Summer break

SEPTEMBER:

Monday 5th: School closed to children - Staff training day (1)

Tuesday 6th: School reopens to children

OCTOBER:

Date to be confirmed: swimming lessons recommence

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.

Please remind all adults that drop off and collect your children.

Thank you ☺