



Acomb First School Fortnightly Newsletter

Summer 1 2022 Week 3

Upcoming dates

Monday 16th May –
Reception heights and weights

Thursday 19th May –
KFC style special lunch

Monday 23rd May-
Queen's Jubilee week.
Children dress in red,
white and/or blue
clothing for school.

Wednesday 25th May
– Jubilee crown
making deadline.

Thursday 26th May –
Queen's jubilee family
celebration afternoon.
Children dress as
royalty or in red, white
and/or blue.

Friday 27th May – Last
day of term.

Monday 6th June –
School reopens after
half term

Tuesday 7th June –
Tempest photography
class photographs

Monday 20th June -
Enterprise week in
school.

Saturday 25th June –
11am -1pm School
Fair

Miss Williamson's message

I cannot believe I am already writing my second newsletter to you all. This half term seems to be flying by. The last two weeks have been wonderfully busy in school and I finally feel like I am not only remembering some names but becoming part of this wonderful school community.

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for your support with my request for children to wear full school uniform. Research shows that when children wear uniform there is a greater sense of pride and belonging and it impacts positively on their listening in class. The children are all looking fantastically smart and proud of themselves in school so we have definitely seen the positive impact! Thank you.

I would also like to thank everyone who took the time to respond to our school vision questionnaire. It was fantastic to get your thoughts and feelings about our school. I also really appreciate your honesty. As part of our visioning activities I have now gathered views from yourselves, the children, the staff and governors. The staff team and I will now collate all of these responses to create a clear vision for Acomb First School that we can all feel part of. Your aspirations for your children really aligned with those of the whole school team. I will share the vision statement with you all once we have some wording we are all happy with.

As a school, we will next be reviewing our behaviour policy to ensure a consistent approach across the school and I would appreciate your views on this also. Please watch out for my questionnaire before half term.

It is my intention that, rather than sending out frequent messages on ParentMail, as much information as possible will be communicated via our fortnightly school newsletter. I would love it, in future, to include news from our wider school community so please do get in touch if you have requests for anything to be included. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at school or by email:

hannah.williamson@acomb.northumberland.sch.uk

Thank you.
Miss Hannah Williamson

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Plans update

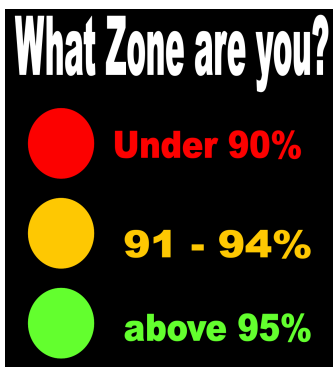


We have more plans set in place now for our school Jubilee event day. Firstly, the children are welcome to come to school in red, white and/or blue on **Monday 23rd May** to launch our special week. On **Thursday 26th May** (our big family event) we are inviting children to come dressed as royalty or again in red, white or blue if they would prefer.

For the family Jubilee afternoon we would like to welcome families into the school field from **1pm** so we can begin the celebrations. As I mentioned in my last newsletter, bringing along a picnic blanket and/ or camping chairs might be a good idea if you want to avoid sitting on the grass.

In addition to this, we will be having a jubilee crown making competition and would like families to work together to create a Jubilee crown and bring these into school by **Wednesday 25th May**. These will be displayed on our family jubilee day for all to admire. We will select a winning crown from each year group.

Attendance and holidays



I have received a large number of holiday request forms in the last few weeks. It is important to note that I cannot authorise holidays (unless there are exceptional circumstances) and would kindly ask, if at all possible, you keep these holidays to school holiday times. The DFE have given advice to headteachers about holidays: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-attendance>

I do realise some of these are as a result of Covid cancellations which I know often limit the dates they are rearranged to.

It is really important that children are in school as much as possible. We are all aware that Covid has really limited children's learning and social opportunities over the last couple of years. Being in school will allow us to ensure all children catch up from the school closures as quickly as possible. Not to mention that we love seeing their lovely, smiling faces every day.

In the coming week I will be sending out an attendance report for every child so you know what your child's attendance is currently.



Reading breakfasts

We have now had 2 wonderful reading breakfasts to celebrate children reading regularly at home. The lucky children whose names have been picked out of the pots have loved enjoying a special breakfast and talking about the books they have read, their favourite authors and more! I am over the moon with how many raffle tickets have been earned by the children over the last few weeks. I also really appreciate your support with listening to children read at home. It will make a huge difference to them, their reading skills and their love of reading.



Reception new starters for September

We are delighted that we have a full cohort joining us in September in Reception. We have already started some transition work with the children in Little Oaks. Small groups have started to come through in to Reception to get to know Miss Dunlavy and have enjoyed spending some time exploring the Reception classroom. Miss Dunlavy has been delighted to have quality time with the children. This will continue for the rest of the term to ensure the children feel confident and happy about their move into Reception. I will be keeping you updated with other transition opportunities coming up.

Class names



Following a request from staff, we have reviewed the class names with staff and children. We felt it was very important that the names linked strongly with Little Oaks because our relationship with them is so important and this is the place which gives the vast majority of our children such a wonderful start to their school life. In addition to this, we wanted to celebrate the importance of our environment and our commitment to and love of forest school.

Reception is now Willow class

Class 1 is now Maple class

Class Two is now Chestnut class

We will be getting some beautiful signs made for each class with their new names to display proudly on each classroom door very soon.

We would love to create some wooden, sustainable signage for each class with the class name and the leaf of their tree displayed upon them to help the children identify their class tree. If anyone has any links with people or companies who could help with this we would really appreciate you letting us know.

Staff news



As Mrs Robson (the Chair of Governors) shared with you before I arrived, Miss Johnson will be leaving us in July. We will, of course, make sure she gets a good send off from the staff and children. I know the staff, parents and children will join me in wishing her every success for the next stage in her career.