



Acomb First School Fortnightly Newsletter

Newsletter 2 Autumn 1 2024

Miss Williamson's message

We have had a brilliant start to this half term. The children have settled really well, our new buddies and leaders are getting to grips with their new roles and the learning taking place in classes has been excellent.

Sadly, this year we will be unable to hold our usual Harvest festival due to the changes at the Church however we have now booked in the Christmas carol concert and all of the following years events. I met the new Vicar - Ollie, who is a lovely man and is really keen to work with us so I know our links with St John Lees will continue to go from strength to strength. Please ensure that you check the dates for the diary sheet which will be sent out with my newsletters as we will update these as the year goes on and new events are organised.

The school council will however be collecting for the West Northumberland Food Bank. More information about this is later in this newsletter.

As always, 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

Hannah Williamson



Non- uniform day on Monday 14th October

Please remember that we are hosting a non uniform day to raise donations towards our adult and children's tombolas at our upcoming bingo night. Please send in donations appropriate for the stalls (examples below). These should not be used items please.

Children's tombola - toys, sweets, books, vouchers, stationary etc

Adult's tombola - alcohol, gift sets, toiletries, candles, calendars/diaries, plants



Bingo night

Tickets will go on sale on Monday. This is always a hugely popular event and tickets sell out quickly so please do buy tickets asap if you would like to come. You can send money into school with your child in a labelled envelope or pop into the office to pay by card. The poster for the night is attached for your information.



Reception open morning

On Saturday 12th October we are holding a reception open morning for children who are starting school next September. Please pass on this information to anyone who may be looking for a school place for next year. It will be a fun morning with face painting, ukulele sing alongs and tea, coffee and cakes for the adults.



Arbor

We now have Arbor up and running. Mrs Collingwood has been sensational in her commitment to taking on this new system and solving the different problems we encounter. I don't know what we would do without her! Thank you to those who have been in touch when things have not worked. We are still on a bit of journey and will no doubt encounter other glitches but please do reach out for help if you need it.

Could you please ensure you have completed all of the consent forms which appear in a list on the left of the app. These are vitally important and must be completed for all children. There are a number of people who have not filled these in at the moment.

We have just signed up to a further part of the offer which means payments will be easier from now on (you will be able to pay with Apple Pay and should not have to re enter card details each time). In addition to this we are working on a way to have the meal choices all on Arbor too. Hopefully, this will mean you only have to access one system .

Achievement points

You will also notice on Arbor that you see your child has been given achievement points. These now replace our Class Dojo (again keeping everything in one place for you). When you click into the achievement points you can see the reason your child has received these.



Mini medics

I was delighted to invite in a first aid company who trained our staff to come in and work with Maple and Chestnut class. The children had a fantastic morning learning all about staying safe and how to help others. This is such an important life skill to have and I know they loved every second of the session.

Chestnut events

We have had lots of fantastic opportunities for Chestnut class already this term. They had an amazing opportunity to 'Learn with the Lords'. This involved talking to Baroness Lister about the role of being a member of the House of Lords and how she got her job.

Today they have had another excellent opportunity with the STEM Hub. The children had the opportunity to learn about the different career paths into space, they talked to people in a range of roles in space and had the chance to think about their own aspirations.

Children's jobs

We now have all children appointed in their new roles. Our roles in school include:

- School council
- Reading Buddies
- Digital leaders
- Sports leaders
- Eco warriors (new role this year)

To gain these positions the children had to apply for the jobs and have an interview. I was blown away by their professionalism and fantastic answers.

Sports leaders have already taken part in a fantastic training day in Haltwhistle where they learnt about why it was important to stay fit and healthy and they also learnt how to lead games with other children.

Other roles will also have different opportunities across the coming year. Keep your eye out on our website to see which children have these wonderful jobs.