

APRIL 2017



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 have an agreement in place for you to use the Aclet Public House car park)

Thank you for your continuing support.

Special Ladies... A big '**THANK YOU**' to everyone who joined us for our 'Special Ladies Stay and Play' last month; it was lovely to see you all and we are over the moon with your feedback. (If you haven't yet returned your feedback sheet, we are happy to print another for you)

This time we did things a little differently - we thought you might like to see how the children play in the Continuous Provision (the areas we have all the time for the children) and also our areas that have been developed more recently, for example, the mud kitchen, water collection and investigation shed.

The children practised their special song and 'Fantastic Mum' had been our story of the week - we hoped you enjoyed them both.

Some of you told us you would like to know more about your child's learning and how you can help them. After the Easter break we have Parent/carer consultations coming up - you will be invited to discuss your child's attainment and progress with their key worker. Please do not hesitate to speak to your child's key worker at the beginning or end of any session; you can also take your child's learning journey home overnight or for the weekend.

We will also be holding some workshops for parents of children who are leaving us to go to Primary School in September. Do let us know if there is anything you would like us to focus on. So far we thought you might like to know more about how you can support your child to have a smooth transition and Phonics (learning sounds and early reading) and writing.

Ofsted Inspection... Earlier this month, we were inspected by an Early Years specialist from Ofsted. Since the Nursery's last inspection in 2014 there have been lots of changes... The Ofsted inspection framework, the Senior Leadership Team, most of the Governing Body and of course the Nursery environment, both indoors and out.

The inspector confirmed that we have prioritised for development effectively and efficiently; our school development plan already details the recommendations in our final report. You should have already received a paper copy... we have spares in the black folder in the children's cloakroom. It is also available on our school website:

<http://www.acletclose.durham.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/190/2014/07/Aclet-Close-Nursery-School-Ofsted-2017.pdf>

Thank you for your continuing support and a special thank you to those who took the time to email, spoke to the inspector directly either in a group or on their own or completed the online survey. It really is our privilege to work in partnership with you.

Swimming... We are delighted that so many of you are interested in the swimming sessions (for 3 and 4 year olds) at Woodhouse Close Swimming Baths. As you will know from Mrs Staines' recent letter, we are currently finalising risk assessments and details with the swimming baths; there was also a list of what your child will need with them for each session. Please note that girls need a swimming hat. We are hoping to start sessions on **Wednesday 26th April** - we will confirm as soon as we can. Please note that Nursery will be open as normal for children who aren't taking part.

A very warm welcome to Kai who has joined our 2 year olds' provision and Leon, Jenson, Willow, who will be joining us in our 3 & 4 year olds' provision in April; exciting times ahead!



The following children will be celebrating their birthdays this month.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Hollie, Nathan, Heath who will all be 4 years old,
as well as Caleb who will be turning 3.

On behalf of staff and children I would like to say a very big 'thank you' for your donations to school fund last month.

We have bought:

- Our daily healthy snacks
- Story books: Little Red Hen and Little Red Hen makes a pizza
- Pizza making ingredients
- Some of the prizes for the Easter Raffle
- The bus for the Bowes Museum trip (3 & 4 year olds) was subsidised too!



Dates for your diary...

We break up for Easter on
Friday 7th April and return
on Monday 24th April.

We will be closed on Bank
Holiday Monday, 1st May.

Zoo Lab will visit school on
Wednesday 3rd May.

We will be closed for one of
our staff training days on
Thursday 4th May.

3 and 4 year olds will visit
Hall Hill Farm on Wednesday
10th May. (Visit to local
farm for 2 year olds TBC)

We break up for half term
on Friday 26th May and
return on Monday 5th June.

We break up for Summer on
Thursday 20th July as we
have a staff training day on
Fri 21st July.

School reopens on Tuesday
5th September 2017.

Children's Centre... Remember to keep an eye on opportunities for adults and children at Woodhouse Close Children's Centre... during the Easter break they have Spring Stay and Play sessions and a trip to Tweddle Farm that is very reasonably priced. Ring 03000 266 390 for more information/to book places.

Did you know?

We have a couple of Mums who work for Body Shop and Temple Spa. If you would like to hold a pamper party or buy any products, please speak to Mrs Jenkins who will be happy to point you in their direction.

Governor news...

The Full Governing body and Finance Committee have met this term. Mrs Dransfield and Mrs Courtney supported our Special Ladies' Stay and Play and accompanied staff and children to the Bowes Museum Trip. Miss Marley also supported the stay and play session.

Mrs Courtney has attended 'New governor training' and 'Budget and finance' training. Mrs Dransfield has attended cluster meetings for Bishop Auckland Governors.

Our new governor, Mrs Jago, has been welcomed to the Governing body - she was previously a Head Teacher of a large Primary School, so will bring a wealth of experience to our Governing Body. Mrs Jago will join the Curriculum Committee and Head Teacher appraisal; she will also be the designated Governor for Safeguarding and will check that our website is compliant with statutory requirements.

Chair of Governors, Mrs Dixon, continues to support and challenge Mrs Jenkins to ensure strategic direction of our school.

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