

DECEMBER 2019



Welcome to our December newsletter...

The last half term has been a very busy one with lots of opportunities and new experiences for the children. Our Nursery is beginning to look very Christmassy and we have lots more lovely things to look forward to.

We had very positive feedback about the Christmas photographs (taken by local photographer, Val Fairhurst, this year). We will let you know as soon as your orders arrive back into Nursery.

On behalf of the Aclet Close Nursery team,
I would like to wish you all a
very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

We have no new children joining us this month. In January we will be welcoming more new children and families - we hope you will all be very happy here at Aclet Close Nursery School - exciting times ahead!



We would like to wish a Happy Birthday to Jackson and Mrs Hughes who will be celebrating their birthdays in December.

Working with partners in the local community/Charity work

Unfortunately, the **Big Purple Playbus** had to postpone their visit to us due to essential work to the bus being completed. Graeme will be in touch in the New Year to set a new date.

A small group of our older children have really enjoyed working with the staff from the **Auckland Project** as part of their Parkland Explorers project. We volunteered to try out their sessions with a view to them being offered to other schools. The children and staff loved it and we hope to plan more sessions for other children to take part too.

We also had our collection box and poppy items from the **British Legion**. The box has been collected though we don't have a total amount raised yet. We will keep you informed.

Thanks to a successful application for funding from **Believe housing**, we have been able to buy cooking resources and ingredients to enable some of our older children to take part in a six week 'cookery club' over six weeks. We saw the children's confidence and cooking and baking skills increase over the 6 weeks and we envisage that we will continue this with other groups of children. If your child took part in this club, we would love to have some feedback from you (and hope that you enjoyed the tasters they brought home!)

In our local area, the children distributed mini food parcels to **our elderly neighbours** living in the bungalows close by. We dropped a note in beforehand so the residents knew they were coming. A lot of them took the time to come out - they were delighted to see our little ones and grateful for your donations. Thank you.

Some of the elderly residents didn't want to come to the door so we donated the remaining food items to our local food bank based at **Woodhouse Close Church**; these were also very well received.

We were one of nine schools to decorate a tree as part of the start to the **Bishop Auckland Parish** festive celebrations at **St Anne's Church in Bishop Auckland**. There are some lovely photos on our Facebook page, which can be accessed by searching for 'Aclet Close Nursery School' or through our school website at: www.acletclose.durham.sch.uk

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On behalf of staff and children, I would like to say a very big 'thank you' for your voluntary donations to school fund. You have paid for the children's healthy daily snacks as well as helmets so the children can play safely on our balance bikes, books for the children's Christmas and birthday gifts, cooking and playdough ingredients as well as a few creative bits and pieces for our Christmassy stay and play sessions. School fund is also subsidising our trips to see Santa at Hall Hill Farm and the entertainer, party food and prizes for games at our Christmas Party which will be held in Nursery this year.

Please remember to mark your donation off in the folder (to help us with auditing) next to the Mickey Mouse money box or ask us to if you are in a hurry.

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 be mindful about our neighbours when parking.

Thank you for your continuing support.

The children are working hard, practising their songs for our Nativity on **Wednesday 18th at 10.30am at Woodhouse Close Church**. Afternoon children and those who don't usually attend Nursery on Wednesdays are very welcome to meet us there, no later than 10.15am. You are very welcome to join us for a cuppa and mince pie afterwards.

School uniform... is optional and available from Cre8tive (12 Peel Street, Bishop Auckland Tel: 01388 664097). You can call in the shop at your own convenience throughout the year. Business cards are available from the office. Our school colours are red or navy blue.

Dates for your diary

- Our advent window at Trimmers will be unveiled at Trimmers, Bishop Auckland at 11am on **Wednesday 4th December at 11am**. Everyone is welcome to attend - we will be taking some of our older children on the public bus - you will have received a letter already.
 - A Christmas themed Stay and Play session will take place on the afternoon of **Wednesday 4th December (1pm - 2.30pm)** Please pop your name on our list if you are intending to join us.
 - Our trip to Hall Hill Farm takes place on **Wednesday 11th December**. The bus leaves the Aclet Pub at 9.15am and returns for 2.30pm.
 - School will be closed to children due to being used for Elections on **Thursday 12th December**. This day will be utilised as our 4th staff training day this academic year.
 - Our Nursery Nativity will be on **Wednesday 18th December at 10.30am** at Woodhouse Close Church.
 - Our Nursery Christmas party will be on the **morning of Thursday 19th December (9.30am - 11.30am)** 'Afternoon children' will be able to swap to the morning session so that they can join in the fun too. The cost of the entertainer, party food and games prizes are being subsidised by school funds so it is just £2.50 per child.
- *Please confirm and pay for your child place ASAP***
- We break up on **Friday 20th December**. We return to school on **Tuesday 8th January**. (Monday 6th January is our 5th/final staff training day)
 - Swimming will restart on **Wednesday 22nd January**.

If you haven't already organised your child's Christmas cards... in the interest of time, money and the environment, we encourage your children to send just one card to all of their Nursery friends. ☺

GOVERNOR NEWS...

On the last day of term we will be saying 'Goodbye and good luck' to Miss Stamp, who has completed her year's contract with us; Miss Newton, who will be leaving to have her first baby and also to Mr Bromley and Miss Ward who have completed their teaching placement from Sunderland University with us. We wish them all the very best with their next adventures.

Miss Ellis has worked with Mrs Jenkins to monitor our safeguarding procedures and paperwork has been updated in line with new requirements.

We have one vacancy for a Parent Governor. Training and support is provided. Please pop to the office for a chat with Mrs Jenkins if you are interested.

Governors wish all children and their families a Merry Christmas and a healthy and very happy 2019.