

JANUARY
& FEBRUARY 2021



Happy New Year and welcome to our January/February newsletter...
Unfortunately, we have not had the start to the year we hoped for due to Co-vid19 but we will continue to make the best of a bad situation!

A last reminder for families of children who will be starting Primary School in September 2021 - applications to admissions close on 15th January.

A direct link is available on our Nursery Face Book page; you can scan the QR code below to be taken directly to it.



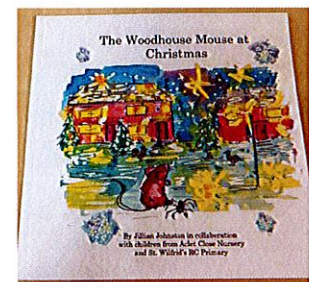
We would like to wish a Happy Birthday to Arosa-Leigh, Valencia, Jensen, Leo and Seth who are celebrating their birthdays in January and Alex, Nevae, Ava, Harry and Charlie-Joe who have their birthdays in February. Have a lovely time ☺

We were due to have more new friends joining us this month... we will look forward to offering a very warm welcome to Hayley-May, Valana, Kayden, Evie, Willow and Aspen when they join us very soon. We hope you will all be very happy here at Aclet Close Nursery - exciting times ahead!

Working with partners in the local community/charity work

Due to restrictions we have been unable to get out and about in our community. However, we did have a couple of very small groups of children work alongside **Jilly from the Auckland Project** which involved a community project to write a Christmas story based on Woodhouse Close, 'The Woodhouse Mouse at Christmas'. Every child attending our Nursery in December was gifted a book, though unfortunately the publishers could not get them to Nursery before we broke up for Christmas. Once we get back to some normality, we will make sure you all get your copies which you could put away for a stocking filler for next year. We are very grateful to the funders who enabled Jilly to work with us again and for all children to get their own copy - it really is a lovely story.

The Woodhouse Mouse at Christmas



Class Dojo app...

This is our new(ish) online platform which we originally set up to provide a better way to keep in touch with Parents and Carers and to celebrate children's achievements. We are now using it to provide remote learning and we have been blown away by your engagement and lovely comments - a big thank you to you all and also to our staff who have learned very quickly how to use it! If you aren't on Class Dojo yet, please give us a ring - we just need to have your permission to add you to the system and you are welcome to dip in and out of it when you want, no pressure at all.

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 and also be mindful of our neighbours. Thank you for your continuing support.

Aclet Close Nursery School, Aclet Close, Bishop Auckland,
Co. Durham DL14 6PX

Tel 01388 603006 e-mail acletclose@durhamlearning.net

www.acletclose.durham.sch.uk



School Fund...

On behalf of staff and children, I would like to say a very big 'thank you' for your voluntary donations to our School Fund. You have paid for the children's healthy daily snacks and also subsidised our Christmas party (games prizes and party food) as well as the Christmas books, chocolate reindeers and crafty bits for the children's keepsakes. Thanks to your generosity, sales of our Christmas cards/photographs boosted school funds a little but it is now a bit depleted!

Children currently attending school can pay their weekly contribution directly into our school bank account: Account number: 20101478 Sort code: 20-09-44 We suggest contributions of £2 per week for children attending 30 hours and £1 per week for children attending 15 hours or less.

Easy Fundraising...

Many thanks to those of you that are supporting us when online shopping. Since setting our account up, just before Christmas, our supporters have raised over £36 already. It is really easy to sign up and you just click on a link before choosing your online retailer (all the big names are on there).

The donation to school is often just pennies but it does add up!

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/acletclosenursery/>

School uniform...

is optional and available from Cre8tive (12 Peel Street, Bishop Auckland. Tel: 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.

Useful website...

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people>

Dates for your diary

- **Friday 15th January:** Deadline for applications for children starting Primary School in September 2021. (see info on front page of this newsletter)
- **Friday 12th February:** School breaks up for half term
- **Monday 22nd February:** School reopens after half term
- **Thursday 4th March:** World Book Day
- **Monday 8th March onwards:** Parent/Carer consultations - an opportunity to chat with your child's key worker to find out about their progress
- **Friday 26th March:** School breaks up for Easter break
- **Monday 12th April:** School reopens after Easter
- **Friday 30th April:** School closed for 3rd training day
- **Monday 3rd May:** School closed - Bank Holiday
- **Thursday 6th May:** School closed to children - building used for elections
- **Friday 28th May:** Schools breaks up for half term
- **Monday 7th June:** School reopens
- **Friday 16th July:** School closes for Summer break

Governors' news...

Co-vid19 and partial school closure...

As you are already aware, our school is currently only open to a very small group of Critical Workers. As a Local Authority Maintained Nursery School, Governors have been advised that we must continually update our risk assessment to ensure that we keep our families, staff and local community as safe as we can.

The data dashboard tells us that Bishop Auckland is an area of concern, having the second highest increase in cases in County Durham - over 520%!

The new variant of the virus is able to spread much quicker and we are also aware that the NHS are very much struggling with current demands.

Staff will look forward to welcoming children and families back, when it is safer to do so. In the meantime, we will continue to provide a high quality remote learning offer through Class Dojo.

Thank you for your ongoing support and feedback.

Monitoring...

During the Spring term Governors will be continuing their monitoring roles, looking at how Early Years Pupil Premium funding is being spent and completing the School's Financial Value Standard as well as reviewing how we support our children with Special Educational Needs including reviewing our 'Supporting Children with Special Educational Needs' Policy.

Lisa Jenkins Head Teacher