



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



28th January 2021

Dear Families,

On Tuesday evening, the Prime Minister announced that the death toll has now surpassed 100, 000. This is truly shocking news and we know that some of you and your families have been affected; you are in our thoughts.

The Government have also advised Primary and Secondary Schools that they 'hope' it may be safe enough to open fully for face to face teaching from 8th March.

Keeping children, families, staff and the community safe is our priority and we continue to update school risk assessments regularly. The Co-vid19 rates for Bishop Auckland and the surrounding areas have been some of the highest in County Durham and when we have seen decreases in other areas, Bishop Auckland rates have increased.

This information, coupled with information received by the school regarding how many Durham school staff and children have contracted the virus (despite schools being partially closed) leads us to the decision that it is not yet safe enough for Aclet Close Nursery School to fully reopen before February half term.

The amazing efforts you are going to at home to juggle your 'normal life' and your children's education is hugely appreciated by us all, as we all play our part in adhering to the Government restrictions - reducing contacts, slowing the spread of the virus and keeping each other safe. There may be times when things may not flow as well as they could. We are all craving routine and normality; it really is one day at a time at the moment.

It is inevitable that we may have some days where we feel 'flat' or overwhelmed. I would like to draw your attention to a new 'Mental Health and Well-being' section of the school website that is in the 'About us' section:

<https://www.acletclose.durham.sch.uk/about-us/mental-health-well-being/>

Do have a look, there are lots of resources and useful links and even training opportunities that you can access – some of the information is aimed at Parents and Adults and some is aimed at supporting children and young people. (There is more information on the right hand side of the page too)

Staff are working hard behind the scenes to suggest appropriate learning activities for the children through Class Dojo, the school's online learning platform. I must

Mrs Lisa Jenkins
Head Teacher



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stress that taking part is optional and you are very welcome to dip in and out of it and don't worry if your child is not showing an interest – you know them best.

I must remind families that are currently accessing a Nursery school place that this place is offered only on condition that your family is adhering to the current Government restrictions that include not visiting other people's homes or having people visit your homes. The number of adults dropping off and collecting your child from Nursery should be very limited and one consistent person, wherever possible. It simply would not be fair to the other families or our staff to risk bringing the virus into school.

We also asking that you continue to social distance on the approach path to Nursery and wear a mask when dropping off and collecting the children; some of our staff are having to wear a mask all day in school – a swift handover of your child to staff should take less than a minute. The posters on the path up to the school entrance will remind you.

School currently awaits delivery of lateral flow test kits which will provide the option for staff to take twice weekly tests. Should any staff test positive, this may result in short notice disruption for our critical worker families that are accessing a school place – please ensure that school has your most up to date contact details at all times.

Lastly, staff have told me that your messages of support, best wishes, photos and video clips have brought them big smiles and really lifted their spirits - thank you for taking the time to do this, it is very much appreciated. If you do have any concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Mrs Jenkins at school on 01388 603006 or by email on: acletclose@durhamlearning.net

There will come a time when we will reflect on this incredible period in history and wonder how we did it – but we will get there!

Kind regards,

Mrs C Dixon
Chair of Governors
Aclet Close Nursery School

**Mrs Lisa Jenkins
Head Teacher**