

March and April 2023

**Welcome to our March/April newsletter!**

**Opportunities for our children and families ...**

**World Book Day - Thursday 2nd March.** The children here love stories and books - they had a lovely day... staff shared some of their favourite books from their childhood and some of the children brought theirs too! We were also delighted to receive a pack of books from **Angel Trust**. If you haven't yet picked up a £1 World Book Day voucher, please ask Mrs Beal in the office.

**Swimming lessons (older children only)...**

Lessons will continue and we have adapted groups as the children have become more confident and a few more children have joined in. A quick reminder that the lessons need to be paid for by 4pm on a Tuesday so that we can organise our staffing and let the Leisure Centre know how many children will attend. Please share your thoughts/feedback with us; we'd love to have some more recent comments on our website.

**Zoo Lab...** we have organised for **Zoo Lab** to bring their insects and creepy crawlies in to Nursery on the morning of **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April**. This will be an experience for our older children in main Nursery. We will be asking families to pay a small amount and the full cost will be subsidised by School Fund. (Details have been shared on ParentPay)

**'School Readiness and Phonics' workshops... July 23 Primary School leavers...**

Before we know it, our big girls and boys will be leaving us to start Reception Class in Primary School! Mrs Staines will be holding 2 workshops, School Readiness and Phonics, which will support parents/carers of children who will be leaving us in July 23 to start Primary School. Dates and times to follow.

We will also be holding a 'Mini Graduation' - save the date - **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July**.

**King's Coronation Stay and Play...**

Parents/Carers are invited to come and join in a King's Coronation focused stay and play session. We will offer a selection of dates and times between Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> and Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May. Look out for a text/Survey Monkey survey to book your slot. (A reminder that school will be closed on Bank Holiday Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May)

**Easter raffle...**

Tickets, costing £1 are on now on sale, via ParentPay. There are 3 prizes to be won and we are grateful to **The SPAR, Bishop Auckland and John and colleagues at Tesco, Bishop Auckland** for their donations. Tickets will be sold until Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March and will be drawn on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup>. (All proceeds will be spent on the children)



The following children will be celebrating their birthdays in March and April: Harlyn, Mikey, Imogen, Arthur, Franklin, Ralph, Joshua-Jay, Oliver, Ryleigh-Jane and Mylah as well as Miss Garvey, Mrs Staines and Mrs Barraclough.  
**HAPPY BIRTHDAY to you all!**

**WELCOME!**

Soon we will be extending a very warm welcome from the Aclet Close Nursery School family to Anastasia, Xavier, Vinnie and Sofia... exciting times ahead! ☺

Lisa Jenkins Head Teacher

**School fund...** Thank you very much for your donations to School Fund. You have paid for our twice daily snacks as well as birthday gifts for the children, some new outdoor equipment including footballs and stilts as well as playdough ingredients, spring plants and pancake ingredients and toppings! Our visit from Zoo Lab will be subsidised and we have also ordered caterpillars to hatch into butterflies - they are due to arrive in a few weeks.

For children who attend 15 hours or less, the suggested donation is £1 a week and for children attending 30 hours, the suggested donation is £2 a week.

Please use the payment category 'School Fund' on ParentPay.

**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 use the laybys and be mindful about our neighbours when parking - **please avoid their driveways and the grass verges**. Please remind all adults that drop off and collect your children. Thank you ☺

**Easy Fundraising...** Many thanks to those of you that are supporting us when online shopping. Since setting our account up in November 2020, our supporters have raised over £550. It is really easy to sign up and just click on a link before choosing your online retailer.

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

The donation to school is often just pennies, but it does add up and it is all spent on the children.

**Dates for your diary...**

- **Thursday 2nd March:** World Book Day
- **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March:** NEU member strike planned
- **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March:** NEU member strike planned
- **Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March:** School breaks up for Easter break
- **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April:** School reopens after Easter
- **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April:** No swimming lessons today
- **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April:** Zoo Lab (creepy crawlies) in school for older children (details on Parentpay)
- **Monday 1st May:** School closed - Bank Holiday
- **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May:** School closed to children - staff training day 4<sup>th</sup> of 4
- **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May:** School closed - Bank Holiday (King's Coronation)
- **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> - Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May:** Stay and play sessions (information to follow)
- **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May:** Schools breaks up for May half term
- **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June:** School reopens
- **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July:** Mini graduation for our 2023 Primary School Leavers (information to follow)
- **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July:** School closes for Summer break

(We also hope to organise a Family trip to the seaside in July)

**Governors' news...**

**Long Service...**

Governors would like to thank our caretaker, Mrs Barraclough, for keeping the Nursery safe and clean for the last 20 years!

**Meetings and Monitoring...**

Governors' Full Governing Body meeting has already taken place this term.

During the Spring term Governors will be continuing their monitoring roles, and finalising our budget for the coming financial year. Our Schools Financial Value Standard has been completed.

**Governor vacancies...**

We currently have vacancies for a Parent Governor and a Co-opted Governor.

Training and support is provided. Please ring the office for a chat with Mrs Jenkins if you are interested.