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JANUARY  
& FEBRUARY 2024



Happy New Year and welcome to our January/February newsletter...

We have had a brilliant start to the term, our older children have come back in really well and we are helping our new children to settle in.

**A last reminder for families of children who will be starting Primary School in September 2024 - applications to admissions close on 15<sup>th</sup> January.**

**A direct link to Durham County Council has already been sent to families.**

*New friends joining us this month... a very warm welcome to Kylo, Ruby, Nancy, Raydon, Milo, Isaac and Benito - we hope you will all be very happy here at Aclet Close Nursery - exciting times ahead!*



We would like to wish a Happy Birthday to Harmony-Rose, William, Harriet, Anastasia, Beau, Indie and Mrs Jenkins who are celebrating their birthdays in January and Amaani, Ellis and Mrs Metcalfe, who have their birthdays in February.

*Working with families/working with partners in the local community/charity work/getting out and about*

**Nativity...** We had one or two children with a bit of stage fright, but we were so proud of them all and it was lovely to see so many of you.

Trip to Hall Hill Farm to see Santa... Despite the very chilly weather, everyone had a wonderful time - thank you for your support and feedback. This trip was subsidised by school fund.

**Bishop Auckland Town Hall...** some of our older children had a lovely time at the Panto, watching Aladdin. Tickets were subsidised by school fund and **King James 1 Academy** kindly supported us with transporting some of the children to the Town Hall in their mini-bus.

**Christmas Party at Bamboozles Soft Play...** Once again we held our Christmas Party at Bamboozles and a good time was had by all. This event was subsidised by school fund.

**Woodhouse Leisure Centre...** Our first group of older children loved their swimming lessons and all made excellent progress! Our next group will swim this half term and we are currently organising our next group to start next half term.

**Auckland Youth Community Centre...** We were over the moon to be invited to the 'Winter Wonderland' organised by AYCC staff and funded by **Bishop Auckland Town Council**.

**Little Chefs, Big Chefs...** continue to provide us with bakery items and treats from local supermarkets to prevent them from going to landfill. Please help yourselves from the green crates - items can generally be frozen if not eaten on the day.

**Angel Trust...** We were very grateful to receive some gifts through their Christmas Toy Appeal again this year.

**This term we will have lots of lovely opportunities including an event for Grandparents and stay and play sessions. More information to follow.**

**School Fund...**

On behalf of staff and children, we would like to say a very big 'thank you' for your donations to our School Fund. You have paid for the children's healthy daily snacks and also subsidised our Christmas party, family trip to Hall Hill Farm and Panto trip as well as the children's Birthday gifts, Christmas gifts and crafty bits for the children's keepsakes. Contributions are received into School Fund via ParentPay but please let us know if you would prefer a code to take to the shop to pay your contribution.

*Lisa Jenkins and Mrs Staines - Head Teachers*

**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. Please refrain from parking on the grass/mud - parking in the laybys is much appreciated.

Thank you for your continuing support.

**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.

**Class Dojo app...**

This is our online platform which we use to share information with Parents and Carers and to celebrate children's achievements. Most other enquiries can be dealt with by Mrs Beal in the office on 01388 603006.

**Easy Fundraising...**

Do you shop online? Since November 2020, some of our staff and supporters of the school have been using a fundraising website/app called Easy Fundraising. Lots of retailers donate a small amount of commission to us (at no extra cost to you) and it soon adds up for us! So far we have raised over £690.

It is really easy to register with them and search for us (Aclet Close Nursery School)

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

You just shop as you usually would, but always click on Easy Fundraising first. The most commonly used ones are Amazon, Screwfix, Etsy, Studio, Gap, Sainsbury's Groceries, Just Eat, H Samuel, John Lewis, Marks & Spencers and Ebay. There's lots of other retailers there... feel free to ask your friends and family to support us too. Every penny adds up and is spent on nice things for the children 😊

**Dates for your diary**

- **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January:** Deadline for applications for children starting Primary School in September 2024.
- **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February:** School breaks up for half term
- **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February:** School reopens after half term
- **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March:** World Book Day (more info to follow)
- **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March:** Children break up for Easter break
- **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March:** Staff training day (4)
- **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April:** School reopens after Easter
- **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May:** School closed/Staff training day (5) building used for elections
- **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May:** School closed for Bank Holiday
- **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May:** School breaks up for May Half Term
- **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June:** School reopens
- **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July:** School closes for Summer break
- **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September:** School reopens

**Useful website...**

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

**Governors' news...**

Happy New Year and welcome to our existing and new families.

**Monitoring...**

During the Autumn term, the following areas have been monitored:

Behaviour, Early Years Pupil Premium and swimming, safeguarding audit, our Curriculum work and opportunities for children.

During the Spring term, Governors will be updating the Special Educational Needs Policy and our Schools Financial Value Standard will be drafted.

Curriculum and Finance Committees as well as the Full Governing Body will be meeting this term.

You may remember that Mrs Dixon stepped down as Chair of Governors before Christmas; we currently have a new Chair 'in progress' and we have a vacancy for a Co-opted Governor. Training and support is provided. Please ring the office for a chat with Mrs Jenkins if you are interested.