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March and April 2024

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

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

**Grandparent Stay and Play - 6<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> February...**

It was lovely to welcome some of our grandparents into Nursery, to join in with a selection of crafts focused on the theme of 'Love'. We had the support of 'Age UK County Durham', and both children and grandparents had a great time! If you haven't already returned your feedback forms, can you please do so as soon as you can - thank you in advance.

**World Book Day - Thursday 7th March...**

The children here love stories and books - they had a lovely day, visiting the library and having fun with their friends and teachers. Thank you to all who joined in with our 'Book Swap'! 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)...**

Our older children have shown great progress with their swimming sessions and we look forward to welcoming those who haven't already attended, in the forthcoming weeks. 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 Tuesday 16<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 24 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 24 to start Primary School. Dates and times to follow. We will also be holding a 'Mini Graduation' - save the date - **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July**.

**Hartbeeps - 11<sup>th</sup> March...**

Our 2 year olds were very excited to be invited to a Hartbeeps session. It was a fun-filled highly interactive musical class with nursery rhymes, songs, gorgeous puppet characters, dress-up, props and lots more...A big thank you to **Great North Early Years Stronger Practice Hub** and **Hartbeeps Durham, Bishop Auckland & Consett** for this fabulous opportunity!



The following children will be celebrating their birthdays in March and April: Xavier, Mikey, Jack and Ivy L, 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 Lily, Sophia, Sofia, Caspian, Ollie and Freya... exciting times ahead! 😊

**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 for your continuing support.**

**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, playdough ingredients, 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.

**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 £750. 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.

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...**

- **Thursday 7th March:** World Book Day (Book Swap)
- **Wednesday 27th March:** Children break up for Easter break
- **Thursday 28th March:** Staff training day (4)
  
- **Monday 15th April:** School reopens after Easter
- **Thursday 2nd May:** School closed/Staff training day (5) building used for elections
- **Monday 6th May:** School closed for Bank Holiday
- **Friday 24th May:** School breaks up for May Half Term
  
- **Monday 3rd June:** School reopens
- **Wednesday 3rd July:** Family sea-side trip (more info to follow)
- **Wednesday 17th July:** Mini-graduation for July 24 leavers
- **Tuesday 23rd July:** School closes for Summer break
  
- **Wednesday 4th September:** School reopens

#### **Governors' news...**

We are delighted to inform you that we have a new Chair of Governors, Dr John Redman. Dr Redman brings with him, a wealth of experience, as he was a previously a Bishop Auckland based Head Teacher.

#### **Monitoring...**

During the Spring term, both committees have met as well as the Full Governing Body and Governors will be continuing their monitoring roles, and finalising our budget for the coming financial year. Our Schools Financial Value Standard has been completed.

#### **Vacancy...**

We currently have a vacancy for a Co-opted Governor. Training and support is provided.

Please ring the office for a chat with Mrs Jenkins or Mrs Staines if you are interested.