

# Acklam Whin News



Wednesday 15th July 2020

f @acklamwhin

163 days until Christmas

[www.acklamwhin.co.uk](http://www.acklamwhin.co.uk)

## End of Term

Well that year did not turn out like we had hoped! It all started with so much promise and then COVID19 arrived and everything changed! I think we have all taken both positive and negative experiences from this unique and challenging time.

We are looking forward to welcoming all pupils back full time in September and like you, we can't wait to get some normality back into all our lives. The children from Years 1 to 6 will return after the Summer Break on **Thursday 3rd September** and Nursery and Reception will be informed of their start dates in a separate letter.

You now should have your child's report and know which class they will be moving into. If you have not received this, please contact the school office asap.

## Fond Farewells

It will be a sad farewell to our wonderful Y6s who leave us today. They will be a huge loss to the school. I'm so sad that we have not been able to complete their final year at Acklam Whin in the normal way. This year's leavers have been a credit to themselves and their parents for not only how they have coped through the pandemic, but also for their commitment and attitudes throughout their whole time at Acklam Whin. We could not be prouder of their attitudes, hard work, dedication, maturity and inspiration to others – they truly are our Acklam Whinners.

## Mac Friday

This Friday, Miss Mac - Ruth McMaster leaves us after a wonderful 33 years at Acklam Whin to start her well-deserved retirement. The ultimate matriarch of the Acklam Whin family, she will be a huge loss to our school. On behalf of all the staff, children and families of Acklam Whin, I'd like to say a huge thank you for 33 incredible years of teaching. From NQT to Assistant Head – and everywhere else in between - thank you for taking the time to listen, encourage, love, inspire and share. You made a real difference in the lives of every pupil you taught and nurtured. Congratulations and wishing you and John every happiness in your retirement together. You will always be part of the Acklam Whin family.

## Hello and Goodbye

We will also be saying goodbye to Mrs Wilson who has been working in Year 6 this year as she moves on to new pastures and we thank her and wish her success in her new position. We welcome Mrs Sellers to our school who will be teaching in Y2 from September and wish Miss Davies all the very best as she leaves for her maternity leave at the end of the Summer holiday.

## A New Plan

Looking forward to September, we are reluctant to over-plan as Covid19 has taught us our plans can change in an instant. However, to help you organise your academic year here are some important dates so that you can plan that long-awaited holiday without eating into your child's education.

Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd September 2020	<b>PD Days</b>
Thursday 3rd September 2020	School Re-opens
Monday 26th – Friday 30th October 2020	October Half term
Monday 21st December – Friday 1st January 2020	Christmas Holidays
Monday 4th January 2021	<b>PD Day</b>
Tuesday 5th January 2021	Spring Term begins
Monday 15th – Friday 19th February 2021	February Half Term
Monday 29th March – Friday 9th April 2021	Easter holidays
Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June 2021	Spring Half Term
Friday 16th July 2021	School closes today for summer holidays

The staff are already planning a recovery curriculum and appreciate that all children will return with differing experiences from their time in lock down. The main priorities, for the first few weeks, will be to address the children's wellbeing, building up their resilience and stamina and their attitude to learning.

As a school we have decided to operate bubbles, either class, year group or phase to allow us to deliver the excellent curriculum we pride ourselves on, in order to best support your children and help to close any gaps that may be there due to COVID19 and our extended school closure. Please be assured that all necessary risk assessments have been carried out, to ensure that we can run the school as we have been doing, in the safest possible way.

Our planned bubbles are as follows - Nursery Bubble - Nursery AM and PM, Bubble 1 – Reception, Bubble 2 – Year 1 & Year 2, Bubble 3 – Year 3, Bubble 4 – Year 4, Bubble 5 – Year 5 and Bubble 6 – Year 6.

In line with the guidance, we will do everything we can to minimise the mixing of these bubbles in September. This means that lunch and break times will still need to be carefully managed and staggered. There will be no daily whole school acts of Worship together. Within the class Bubbles, there will no longer be the requirement for strict social distancing between children, although hygiene guidance will still be followed.

The Local Authority have helpfully clarified that there are four key protective measures that schools must take. Where one measure cannot be adhered to strictly, then one or both other measures should. These measures are:

1. Bubbles – keep groups of children separate/not mixing wherever possible
2. Hygiene – extra hand washing, cleaning, sanitizers, catch it-kill it-bin it
3. Distancing – 1m+ if possible.
4. Staggered starts/end of day and break times.

Our opening time for children will be staggered during the first part of the term. We welcome children into school from **8.45 until 8.55** at their normal drop off points. Any child arriving after that time will need to come through the school office. Please remember to respect the social distancing rules on entry to the school grounds. Can we also ask that only one adult accompanies the children onto the school grounds? Nursery hours will remain the same, however – please allow extra time for drop off and collection as staff will only be allowing a certain number of parents into the building at any one time.

### Pick Up Times

	Pick-up Time	Collection Point
Reception, Y1 & Y2	From 3.05pm	Rec, KS1 Playground for Y2 and Y1 Classroom.
Years 3 - 6	3.15pm	KS2 Playground
<i>Parents with children in Reception, Y1 and Y2 can pick up siblings from the relevant KS2 classroom door.</i>		

We ask that all parents assist us with the transition back to school by adhering to strict attendance and punctuality. As you can appreciate, getting the children back into a routine is of the utmost importance to ensure we can start the new year on the right track.

Parents will be welcome to visit the office from September but should limit this to only urgent matters and **use email or phone for the majority of communication**. Please can we ask parents to continue to stick to social distancing guidelines while waiting outside to drop off or collect children.

### School Uniform

We are asking the children to be in full uniform as normal from September. The only difference is that we would like the children to wear trainers or footwear they are able to go outside in and take part in physical activity. This will save time and reduce movement around school. **The change in footwear expectation will be reviewed at Christmas**. The children will still need a full PE kit in school. Never has it been more important to have your child's name labelled in all school uniform and PE kit. Non-essential belongings, including a school bag, will not be allowed, and we ask that items such as pencil cases are not brought into school.

## **Attendance**

Attendance - DFE guidance states: School attendance will be mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term. This means from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply:

- parents' duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age;
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence
- the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct

Where a child is unable to attend school because they are complying with clinical and/or public health advice, we will immediately offer them access to remote education. Where a child is unable to attend school because parents are following clinical and/or public health advice, absence will not be penalised. All other pupils must attend school.

I feel your pain over this however it is essential children are back in school to help fill their gaps in learning and get them back on track. If you do take your child out on holiday during term time, not only will you jeopardise their curriculum recovery, but you will also continue to face fines from the LA that are beyond our control.

## **Dinner Money**

Lunches will return to the usual arrangements in September. As you may have seen in the local press Middlesbrough Council will apply an increase in price from £1.90 to £2.05 per meal from 1 September 2020.

Please can you ensure that your account is kept in credit at all times. Can I also remind parents that any changes to lunch arrangements must be made with one weeks' written notice.

## **Parkway Support**

**Parkway will be up and running from September 2020 offering breakfast, after school and Nursery provision.** They will start back on **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September** for the children and will be available for enquires from 1<sup>st</sup> September. If you need to speak to Parkway over the Summer, please contact Rachel on 01642 577316 or email [info@parkwaydaynursery.co.uk](mailto:info@parkwaydaynursery.co.uk).

**Anyone wishing to apply for the 30 hours provision you must do so by the 31<sup>st</sup> August to be eligible for September.**

**Contact Parkway for more details. You can also visit their website: <http://www.parkwaydaynursery.co.uk/>**

Finally, I would like to personally thank all the staff, parents, carers and pupils for everything you have done to get us through this national crisis at Acklam Whin. I often talk about the importance of the Acklam Whin family and the strength, togetherness and love from that family has really shone through these past few months. I would also like to say thank you for the incredible support and particularly for all the lovely presents, cards and kind words, myself and the staff have received, you are so very kind. Miss Mac also passes on her thanks for all her lovely messages and gifts.

The Government have stated that on 11th August, they will make a final announcement around the schools reopening fully. We are not expecting any major changes, but we will be in touch with you on Tuesday 1st September with more detailed information and reminders.

Until then, I would like to wish you and your families, on behalf of all the staff and governors at Acklam Whin, a fun filled, safe and happy summer, you all deserve it.

Mr Gamble