



Acton CE Primary Academy

Parents' Newsletter 5

Monday 17th January 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Happy New Year. I do hope that this Year may be a little more 'normal' than the last and that the dreaded covid does not impact us all too much. The staff are working extremely hard to make sure that we keep everything as normal as we possibly can.

Covid updates

A separate letter has been sent Sunday 16th January to explain the new updates which come into place January 17th.

Laptops and data

If you need any support with technology to support with remote learning, please contact the office. We will be more than happy to support you. This includes the hiring of laptops of requiring WIFI data. Please be aware laptops are limited

Residentials

We are pleased to inform you that the Year 5 and 6 residential to White Moor lakes is confirmed to take place 30th March -1st April. A further letter has been sent about this.

As we want to ease our younger children back into residentials and being away from home, we are slightly changing our offering for this year. We will be holding a Year 3/ 4 onsite residential on 28/29th April. The residential will be led by Outdoor Adventures and will include a range of wonderful activities such as camping, toasting marshmallows, climbing wall and other wonderful activities. Further information on how to book this will be sent very soon. For our Reception, Year 1 and 2 children, we will be taking them out on a fabulous day adventure to Bewilderwood! Again, further information will follow.

Drop off and Collection times

As no doubt you agree, parking around Acton is very limited. In order to ease the parking on the village car park and Wilbraham Road, can I ask you to keep to your allocated drop off and collection times.

Drop Off

8.40am KS2

8.50am KS1 and Reception.

Collection

3.20: KS2

3.30: Ks1 and Reception.

It has been noted by parent council that some parents are coming a little too early and this is taking up the parking spaces for the parents who need to collect their children first. I appreciate parking is not wonderful around Acton, which is something I am addressing with the new Trust and the highways agency. Please continue to not park outside of school on either side of the main road. Any abuse towards staff or parents about this matter will not be tolerated. I will continue to work with parent council in dealing with the parking issues around school.

Choir- Singfest

Choir will be joining a mass rehearsal on Thursday 27th January at Malbank. This is to get ready for the live concert on 22nd March 2022. Further details will follow.

Testing

It seems that the DFE are continuing statutory testing this year. Year 6 will take their SATs from 9th May – 12th May. Year 2 will take part in their SATs in May. Year 1 children will take their phonics screening assessments in June. Year 4 will be taking their multiplication assessments in June. Class teachers will provide further information as to what these tests entails. I cannot stress enough that I do not want anyone to worry about these assessments and that we certainly will not be adding any extra stress on the children prior to these dates.

Staffing News

We are pleased to welcome Miss Glover, Mrs Kaziewicz and Mrs Southgate to the team. Miss Glover will be working in EYFS, Mrs Kaziewicz will be supporting children throughout the school and Mrs Southgate will be joining our mid-day team.

Overseas Link

We are pleased to announce that we are now have a confirmed partnership with The Ahafo-Ano South District schools, Ghana. This is an amazing opportunity for children to have close links with children overseas and develop their understanding of the wider world. Year 3 will be reading and responding to letters and our older children will be taking part in a live Google meet with the children in Ghana. We are also hoping that the staff at the school will have the opportunity to come and see us over at Acton.

Volunteers

If you could offer some time to listen to readers in the school or do a bit of gardening, please do get in touch. We are always excited to see new faces.

Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year takes place on Tuesday 1st Feb. Each Year group will be celebrating the day by taking part in lots of activities. We would like the children to wear something red for this day. Non uniform is allowed if you wish.

Staying safe online -NSPCC day SPEAK OUT STAY SAFE!

For Internet Safety Day 8th Feb, we will be taking part in the NSPCC Speak out Stay Safe programme. A further letter to explain what the day will entail is attached. We take Online safety extremely seriously at Acton and feel it is important to raise the importance to children as to how they must keep safe when online. The NSPCC programme allows us to deliver this message at a child friendly level.

Snapshot of Learning

EYFS

Wow what a fantastic start to the new year we have had! Reception Class have started to look at our new topic, people that help us and are excited to interview some real-life heroes later on this half term. They have been enjoying their PE lessons with Mr Gibbons, developing their ball handling skills. We have also been lucky enough to have our wonderful classroom assistant join us, Miss Glover. We are so excited for Spring to arrive so we can start exploring the outdoors again.

Mrs Gregory

Year 1

Year 1 has been exploring our new text Hermelin who is a detective mouse, he helps the residents of Offley Street find their lost belongings. The child over the next few weeks will be writing their own version of a detective story and a letter to one of the residents of Offley Street. In Maths we have been looking at addition and subtraction within 20. We are also working hard to embed our number bonds to 10. In topic we have been looking at birds and how they vary from other animals. Year 1 will be taking part in the big bird watch on 28th of January. In Science we have been looking at animals including humans. We are currently exploring the different parts of our body and their functions. In the next few weeks, we will be exploring our senses and looking at the similarities and differences between humans and animals. Our current topic in RSE is friendship and we have been using the text 'Want to play trucks?' to support our learning. We have explored how we can include friends and explored some different games we could play at break time.

Miss Bloore

Year 2

Year 2 have already had a busy start to the spring term. They have been enjoying the beginning of their new topic 'fun at the fair' by looking at artwork by David Ogge. They enjoyed choosing their favourite pieces and are very much looking forward to designing their own fairground pieces over the next few weeks. In music, we have been making a lot of noise learning about percussion instruments. The children have been playing games in order to learn the names of various instruments

which they will be using in their compositions. They have also been learning to how create virtual pieces of music on Purple Mash. Our new Year's resolution for 2022 is to present our work to the best of our ability every time we write so the children have been working extra hard on their handwriting too!

Mrs Torrie and Mrs Rogers

Year 3

In year 3 we did lots of great work over Christmas and really enjoyed our Victorian Day. We could not believe what it was like to go to school during this time and really enjoyed all the activities we did, especially the Victorian dancing. This half term we are really looking forward to studying our new text in English, Jemmy Button, and are looking forward to writing our letter all about this. In geography this half term we are looking at recycling, and we will be understanding how different countries from around the world choose to recycle. Finally, in design and technology we will be designing and building our own robot or animal from recyclable materials. We are really looking forward to all of our exciting topics this half term.

Mr Hollinrake

Year 4

Year 4 have been working so hard since we have returned. We are really challenging our maths brains at the moment, multiplying 2 and 3 digit numbers by one digit numbers. There have been lots of stages to remember but we are getting much better. We are really enjoying our new Art/DT topic looking at Stuart houses and developing our sketching skills. We can't wait to turn our designs into clay models.

Miss Cross

Year 5

In Year 5, we have started our new science topic on the properties of materials. Last week, we investigated different types of tape to see which one was the strongest and came up with some interesting methods to test the tape out.

We have really enjoyed playing netball with Mr Gibbons and are keeping our fitness levels up with lots of active 30 sessions with Mr Scott.

In maths, we have been working hard on fractions and comparing different fractions of chocolate bars to see who has eaten more! We have started reading our new book 'The Promise' in English and are now starting to write character descriptions.

Our new Christian value is respect and we have been learning about how to show respect and what we can do to show respect in school- using our manners and keeping of belongings tidy.

We are planning on designing and making natural wind chimes to reflect the work of Andy Goldsworthy and are already in planning stage of our beat boxing and rap!

Mrs Bramwell and Mrs McKinlay

Year 6

Y6 have had a great start to the Spring term! We have begun our new geography topic of globalcitizen@work where we are exploring human impact on our world. We are really enjoying our English this half term- we are reading 'Dreams of Freedom' which has inspirational quotes from human rights activists. We are learning and writing all about inspirational people that have/are changing our world for the better. Y6 have been learning new netball skills with Mr Gibbons and are looking forward to starting our swimming this half term! We are starting looking at flowers and plants as part of a DT topic and are looking at what we can plant in the winter season so that we can grow our own bulbs/seeds to sell to parents! We have been continuing our Myhappymind journey and this term looking at the 'Celebrate' module, where we look at our strengths and what makes us unique. As always, Y6 are working behind the scenes on their roles and responsibilities, doing their best to

improve the school- Keep a look out on our website for what we are doing! We have got lots of exciting visits coming up this term which we are excited about too!

Miss Stevinson

Head Boy and Head Girl

So far this year, in year six we have been swimming and practising skills in the pool. We are planning to go to Rudheath Academy where we are going to a careers fair. In year 4 they are learning about war, fire and pestilence. They are making little clay model houses. Year two are making pictures with fairground colours and fairground items. They are working especially hard on getting their handwriting neat and tidy . Reception are working on their phonics and learning to add two numbers together and they are learning about real life superheroes like the NHS firefighters and police. We are very excited for all the wonderful things planned for this term.

Head Boy and Girl-Andrew and Freya.

Dates for Diary

20 th Jan	White moor Lakes meeting Y5/Y6 5-6pm Virtual
21 st Jan	Swimming Yr6
27 th Jan	Singfest Malbank- Choir
28 th Jan	Swimming Y6
1 st Feb	Chinese New Year- Wear Red!
2 nd Feb	Year 6 to Rudheath college- careers Fair
4 th Feb	Swimming Y6
7 th Feb	Parent Council- At school 6pm
8 th Feb	NSPCC internet safety day
11 th Feb	INSET
18 th Feb	School closes
28 th Feb	School Opens.

As always, if you have any concerns or queries regarding your child's education, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Rachael McKinlay
Head of School