



# ACKLAM WHIN PRIMARY SCHOOL

"Always a chance for everyone!"

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Dear Parents & Carers,

It has been lovely to see so many of you in school for Parents' Evenings this week. Thank you for all of your valuable feedback. If you didn't manage to make an appointment with your child's teacher, please can you still get in touch. We can only continue to move forward by continuing to work together.

## A New Harvest

For tomorrow's **Harvest Festival** I am breaking with tradition and trying something different. The service will involve short inputs and performances from children from every class around the theme of giving thanks. It will also be presented by the children too but don't worry some of the old favourite songs will be back! Thank you so much for all the gifts of fruit, vegetables, cans and dry products etc. and it's still not too late to add to our display. This year, following the services, the display of food will be collected by the Middlesbrough Foodbank.

The Harvest Assemblies will be held in school on **Thursday 20th October** and parents and families are very welcome.

**There will be two services, at 9.30 a.m. and at 1.30 p.m.** The school classes will be involved as follows:

**1st Service 9.30 a.m.** will be attended by Miss Mills', Mrs Marshall's, Mrs Ingledew's, Mrs Short's, Mrs Wiedman's, Miss Appleby's and Miss McMaster's children.

**2nd Service 1.30 p.m.** will be attended by Mr Armstrong's, Miss Davies', Mrs Lavelle's, Mrs Purcell's, Mr Moreton's, Miss Hirst's and Mrs Moore's children.

I look forward to seeing you all and hope you enjoy the children's presentations.

## Parent Pay Issues

Please can we ask that you ensure you keep your Parent Pay accounts up to date and in credit? We do not like having to ring and bother parents with reminders, but we are under financial pressure from Parent Pay, which has a knock on effect with our catering provider. If accounts are not brought up to date and reminders are ignored, then we do not have any other option other than to withdraw the dinner service and ask you to provide packed lunches. This is the absolute last resort and our hands are tied with this. Our office staff are working extremely hard and only doing what is being required under the current system. We appreciate your support in keeping things up to date.

## PD Days and Dates.

We break up for half term on **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October** and return to school on **Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October**. We are trying to squeeze a professional development day in before Christmas to undertake some important staff training on national curriculum developments. We will let you know the date as soon as possible if we manage to book the trainers we need. School will finish on **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December** for Christmas and we will be having two PD days at the start of January which will mean **the children will return to school in 2017 on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January**. The remaining PD days will be announced as soon as we can.

Poppies will be on sale as soon as we come back after the break. Thank you again for all your support and I hope you and your families have a lovely half term.

With kind regards,

Mr D Gamble