

## ❄️ Snow and Weather Update ❄️

I'd like to clarify the school's policy on safety as we battle with the ice and snow this week.

Firstly, we grit the school main entrance pathways to avoid 'black ice' or slippery walkways. We do not grit the whole of the playgrounds, unless we are expecting to use them during the school day. To do so would be prohibitively expensive and should fresh snow, sleet or ice be imminent, the salt/grit merely washes away or freezes. Under the right circumstances, we will always try to grit clear pathways around school and through the playgrounds. You will appreciate there is a need for parents and children to take additional care when conditions underfoot are difficult and we ask that you help us to reinforce this with your children.

Secondly, we open the school doors early in extreme weather conditions where the health and safety of the children and their overall well-being could be an issue. Children will be allowed in school from around 8.40am and as a consequence, we strongly recommend that children should not be on the yards prior to 8.40am at the earliest, particularly when the weather is at its worst. Should the surface of the playground make it impractical to line them up we would appreciate parents support in assisting us in ensuring that children enter school in a controlled and safe manner.

Thirdly, when conditions are extreme and where snow or ice affect the surface condition of the playgrounds the children will spend their break and lunchtime in school, engaged in play and social activities. This will continue until conditions have been deemed to be suitable for the children to play outside. When the snow is fresh and conditions allow, class teachers may choose to take their classes outside to enjoy the snow; where the children have appropriate warm clothing and suitable footwear i.e. boots/wellies.

Finally, in the unavoidable position of having to close the school, we will inform parents as quickly as possible via our App, Marvellous Me, Twitter and Facebook as well as via the local media. However, we will do everything to keep the school open.

Fingers crossed we don't get the extremes we have suffered in previous years but if we do, the safety of our children, families and staff will be paramount. Please take care on your journeys to and from school and if you have any questions or issues then please don't hesitate to get in touch.

### ***A Fond Farewell***

It comes with great sadness that we say goodbye to '**Dolly Mixtures**' who will be leaving us on Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> December. Caroline and the team have been with us for 12 years and have provided before and after school care and holiday clubs for 100s of children and families. Personally I would like to thank all of the Dolly Mixtures team for their commitment and dedication to providing quality care for our families. I wish Caroline and the team all the very best for the future, they will always be part of the Acklam Whin family.

They will be having a little party on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December after school and any current or past users are very welcome.

### ***Merry Christmas & A Very Happy New Year !***

Next year promises to be another memorable year in the life of Acklam Whin. As well as all the new exciting topics and learning experiences we have planned, we will be looking to safeguard our future and continuous school improvement by exploring ways we can work more collaboratively with local schools and partners. One certainty we know is that by working together **with you** we can continue to grow and develop our school as we strive to meet the needs of our children and families.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and every happiness in the New Year from all the staff and friends of Acklam Whin.



# Acklam Whin Christmas News vol 2



  @acklamwhin

11<sup>th</sup> December 2017

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

We Ho Ho Hope you are enjoying our Christmas performances so far this week. The children and staff have been working so hard to bring their fantastic retellings of the Christmas Story to you and we look forward to seeing you during the rest of the week.

## Christmas Jumper Day

Next Thursday the **21st December** will be our Christmas Jumper Day for Rec to Y6 (Nursery's Jumper day is Friday 15<sup>th</sup> Dec). If you wish to make a donation to 'Save The Children' charity who organise the event, please bring your money into school on the Thursday.

Children from Y3-Y6 may also come in non-uniform for their KS2 Quiz on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December.



*Here are all the important Christmas Dates:*

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December** - Year 2 & 3 Christmas Performance 1.30pm & 6.30pm



**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December** – Year 4 & 5 Christmas Performance 1.30pm & 6.30pm



**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December** - Year 6 “**Christmas Carols and Readings**” at St Margaret’s Church, Brookfield at 6.30 pm



**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December** – Nursery Christmas Sing-a-Long 11.00am & 2.30pm



**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December** - Break up for Christmas



**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018** – Children return



**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January** – School Closed for a Professional Development day on Writing

## Attendance

As always our attendance is a major priority for us and here are the standings for each year group for the Autumn Term so far.

Reception	91.8%
Year 1	93.3%
Year 2	95 %
Year 3	96.5%
Year 4	96.5%
Year 5	96.4%
Year 6	96.7%


**Overall school total is 95.2 % down 0.9% from Summer 2017**

We really want to work with you with problems with attendance and as you know, under the government guidelines, persistent absenteeism and unauthorised absences may be liable to fines and court appearances, beyond our control. If you have any questions or issues regarding any of this information then please contact the school.

## Performances This Week

Just a reminder about tickets for our Christmas shows this week. Priority will be given to ticket holders. Anyone without a ticket will be asked to wait until all ticket holders have entered the hall. Then, as long as we have space, they will be admitted. I know the demand to 'get to the front' is very high and we will try our best not to keep you waiting too long in the freezing conditions!

Can I also ask that you are sensitive to our residents and families when parking around school. We know the area around Carlbury Avenue is extremely busy particularly at the start and end of the school day and we do appreciate your support with this, especially during our busy productions this week.

 School will finish on **Thursday 21st December** for Christmas and **the children will return to school in 2018 on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January**. We will be having a PD Day on **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January** when school will be closed.  
**PTO**