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# Ackton Pastures Primary Academy

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West Yorkshire  
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Headteacher: Mrs K. Mason  
Chair of Governors: Mrs H. Causier  
Safeguarding Officers: Mrs K. Mason  
Miss H Bartle  
Mrs A.M. Stringwell  
Miss C Mensah

**'Children at the heart; Inspiring futures'**

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Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had an absolutely fantastic last week – all the children were outstanding in their Christmas performances. They brought so much joy and enthusiasm and we were so proud of each and every one of them. A huge thank you to the teachers and support staff who have put hours into making each performance magical and to all the parents who have diligently learnt lines and song lyrics – it is very much appreciated!

Throughout Christmas, you have helped us raise an absolutely incredible £2205.96 for school funds. Thank you for every raffle ticket, mince pie and programme you have bought – it makes such a difference!

## **Goodbye Mrs Stokes and Mrs Brown**



We are sadly saying goodbye to Mrs Stokes and Mrs Brown today. Mrs Stokes is leaving after 30 years at Ackton Pastures, she has worked here ever since our school opened. I know that Mrs Stokes has had a huge influence on not only the children currently in school but the hundreds of children she has worked with since her arrival at Ackton and she will be greatly missed. Many parents have fond memories of her from their own school days! Mrs Stokes is leaving to begin her very well-earned retirement and on behalf of the entire staff team I want to say

a huge thank you for her years of hard work, care and commitment.

Mrs Brown is leaving to begin an exciting new career as a foster carer.

I know that you will join me in wishing her well in this new chapter of her career and saying a huge thank you for all her hard work within school.



## **Uniform**

We are having a big push on ensuring that children are wearing the correct uniform in January, particularly PE kit. On PE days children are expected to come to school in plain white or school logo T-shirts and plain blue/black jogging bottoms or shorts. Jumpers should be plain navy/black or a school jumper. If children come to school in incorrect kit, they will be asked to change into school PE kit from classrooms.

The Headteacher is the designated person for all child protection issues

## Termly Highlights from each Key Stage

### Nursery

Here in Nursery we can't believe how fast this first half term has gone! For many of our children this has been their first ever Nursery and first time away from home. We are so proud of each and every single child this half term, new and returning. They are settled, happy and learning new skills every day. So much has happened it is hard to pick a highlight. We've had a visit from a fire engine which the children loved. Our Halloween party was a big hit too. This half term we have baked muffins and learnt about food preparation when we made our own sandwiches, using knives to carefully slice the fruit. But I think the highlight of the year is the children's Christmas Concert and the stay and play, which was packed, thanks to all the parents who came and attended. Each and every day we learn new skills and I am sure in the new year the children will return after a restful break ready to learn a whole host of other new and exciting skills. Happy holidays everyone!



### Reception

We are so very proud of how hard our children have worked in phonics this term, they have made so much progress and are now able to blend CVC words and beyond!

We would like to celebrate how well our children did when we had our Reception Nativity, they worked so hard learning their lines, songs and dances and put on a fantastic performance for the rest of the school and their parents.

Reception had so much fun taking part in their very own weddings this half term. They walked down the aisle, threw confetti and married their best friends with Haribo rings. Afterwards, we enjoyed a wedding meal and party.



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## Key Stage 1

During this half term one of our highlights has been our unit in history 'Castles'. The children enjoyed visiting Skipton Castle and especially enjoyed looking down the long drop and discovering where it led to. The children were extremely enthusiastic when it came to learning the features of a castle. They created some amazing castles for their home learning task which were labelled with these features.

In DT children showed great creativity and resilience when creating their animal puppets. Their determination to perfect their sewing skills was admirable and as a result of this, their puppets looked fantastic!

Finally, the children have demonstrated great passion and showmanship when performing in our nativity. Their eagerness to learn their lines and actions has been entertaining.



## Lower Key Stage 2

Lower Key Stage 2 have had an amazing first term. We have enjoyed creating clay sculptures in the style of Barbara Hepworth using a range of skills. We have been investigating how different materials change state. The children really enjoyed discussing and feeling the texture of different frozen objects as well as observing how quickly chocolate melts in different environments. The children have enjoyed their Tudor topic this half term and they have been making links to their local history through discussing the Battle of Wakefield. In computing, we have been creating branching databases to make our own quizzes. We are so proud of the amazing learning that has taken place this term and we are sure this will continue into the new year.



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## Upper Key Stage 2

Year 5 and 6 have had an exciting start to this academic year. With a newly renovated shared area, children in UKS2 have flourished in independence and shown an increased motivation to learn. Over the term, they have learnt about the wonders of space, the ancient ruins and beliefs of the Ancient Greeks and the incredible features of modern-day Greece. The highlight for the half term was our 'Dress like a Greek Day'! We invited parents in to join us to create Greek pottery paintings whilst trying some delicious Greek foods. The turnout for this day was fantastic and as always, we appreciate your support with everything we do.



## Dates For Your Diary

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January** – Back to School! First Day of Spring Term

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January** – Sleep Success Workshop 2:30pm

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February** – Break up for half term

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February** - Half term – school closed

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February** - Inset Day – school closed

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February** – Spring term 2 begins

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March** – Scholastic Book Fair in school

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March** – Class Photograph Day

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March** – Break up for Easter

Wishing you all a happy and restful break.

We look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

Mrs Mason  
Headteacher