



Welcome Back!

I hope your summer break has been restful and that you are ready for the start of a new academic year. You will have noticed on your way into school that the new sensory garden is taking shape and I know the new school council, when elected, will enjoy finishing the great job last year's council started. In line with our whole school vision, you will receive again the **Home/School Agreement**. Please read through it with your child and sign the parental copy and ask your child to sign the pupil copy. **Please ensure you return these to the school office.**

As a school, we have risen above floor targets (set by the Government) for four years in a row! We are all extremely proud of the children who come to our school and we all wish to continue to build on these successes. I would like to thank you for your ongoing support and we look forward to working with you over the next year!

Yours sincerely,

*Mr J Fordham
Head Teacher*



Welcome new staff – On behalf of the whole school community I would like to welcome Miss West (Year 1 TA), Miss Slater (Year 2 teacher) and Miss Bates (Year 3 teacher) to the ACPS team. I wish you an exciting and pleasurable time whilst working in our school community!

Ofsted – Due to the date our school turned into an academy with Transform Trust, we will be expecting an Ofsted visit very soon. It was four years ago when the school was last visited and placed into special measures. The past four years have seen vast improvements in the education provided to children in our school and we are proud of the achievements made thanks to staff, children and parents. This has also been recognized by yourselves based on the last Parent survey where 100% of you agreed or strongly agreed that your children are well taught and make good progress at our school. When Ofsted visit, they will be eager to hear your positive views of the school so please take the time to speak to them when they come. I am sure, like us, you want the best possible outcome to show that Allenton is a school to be proud of with children who are dedicated to their education.



Attendance – As you know, attendance is something that we constantly work alongside you to improve. Attendance last year was the worst it has ever been in three years 94.8% (National 96%). It is vitally important that children attend school to ensure they make good progress and are academically ready for their next stage of education. You will be aware already that the Local Authority issues fines for families who take children on holiday in term time. Additionally, the Local Authority will also issue fines to parents of children with poor attendance. If you have questions about attendance and ways we can help please speak to Phil on the late gate one morning.

Healthy Snacks – Last year we adopted a healthy snack and water policy for break and lesson times. These will continue this year and I hope you can continue to support us to promote healthy eating and lifestyles. However if you do wish to provide your child with a juice drink for packed lunch please feel free.





Uniform – It is great to see so many children looking so smart in their new school uniforms! It is sad however (like at the end of last year) when so much of it ends up in lost property unclaimed. Please remember to put your child's name in all clothes and equipment brought into school so if it does get lost we can try our best to return it to its rightful owner. Please be aware that due to the large amount of unclaimed lost property last year, we will no longer be able to store it for longer than a month before it being thrown away.

New chair of Governors – Sadly our Chair of Governors (for nearly 2 years) had to resign just before the holidays. As a result, we have a new chair of Governors to support the leadership of our school. Steve Stafford, our new chair, is an experienced head teacher and has recently joined the Transform Trust central team as an Associate Headteacher. He will be joining me on the playground on Friday 15th September so please come and say hello as you drop off your children for the day.



Online safety – You will have heard many stories or read about the potential dangers of the internet and may worry about keeping your children safe whilst online. The UK Safer Internet Centre has published guidance to help parents with online safety and potential challenges that may be faced. The Children's Commissioner has also launched a campaign to help parents to encourage children to access the online world without becoming totally consumed by it. The Digital 5 A Day gives children and parents practical steps on how to achieve a balanced digital diet. The links for both websites are below. If however, you do have any concerns about your child, please either speak to myself or a member of the Safeguarding team to help.

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/online-challenges-advice-parents>

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/2017/08/06/digital-5-a-day/>

Calendar Dates

School Year 2017/18

Wednesday 6 September 2017 – Friday 20 October 2017	33 days
Monday 30 October 2017 – Tuesday 19 December 2017	37 days
Wednesday 3 January 2018 – Friday 16 February 2018	33 days
Monday 26 February 2018 – Friday 23 March 2018	20 days
Monday 9 April 2018 – Friday 4 May 2018	20 days
Tuesday 8 May 2018 – Friday 25 May 2018	14 days
Tuesday 5 June 2018 – Wednesday 25 July 2018	38 days

INSET days

Friday 22nd September 17
 Friday 6th October 17
 Monday 29th January 18
 Monday 4th June 18
 Friday 6th July 18

Bank Holidays:

Christmas - 25 December 2017, 26 December 2017
 New Year - 1 January 2018
 Good Friday – 30 March 2018
 Easter Monday – 2 April 2018
 May Day - 7 May 2018
 Spring Bank - 28 May 2018
 Summer Bank - 27 August 2018