

Acomb Parish Council – District Councillor’s Report July 2006

Anyone who knows me will have realised that Acomb First School has a very special place in my heart, and I make no apology for devoting this report to the school, as so much has been happening lately. As we come towards the end of the school year, perhaps it is appropriate to look back. After 6 months of building work, the children finally moved into their new accommodation last October. I would not have believed the difference 21st century facilities have made. All the classrooms are light and airy, with an interactive whiteboard in each room.

June 8th was a very special day for Acomb School, as the children and staff were taking part in School Grounds Week. I was honoured to be asked to represent Acomb Parish Council at this event, as unfortunately our Chairman, Cllr. John Wilkinson was unable to attend. After a delicious lunch prepared on the premises by the school cook, we got down to business.

Several months ago, the Parish Council had decided to buy a tree for the school grounds, to celebrate the school’s new building and refurbishment. Ms. Bentley chose an amelanchier, or snowy mespilus, which will have pretty white flowers in the spring and beautiful bronze foliage in the autumn. With the help of several very enthusiastic children, we managed to plant this in a bed close to the school building, for everyone to enjoy. The children were very pleased with their new tree and have asked me to thank the Parish Council. Parents and children, staff and governors worked together on a lovely summer afternoon, planting and also painting the new fence round the Little Oaks Nursery play area.

County Councillor Tom Flaws came to open the new adventure play ground on the school field. This was purchased using funding of around £6,000 from the Northumberland County Council Small Grants Scheme, and the children showed their appreciation by the expressions of delight on their faces, and also by thanking Cllr. Flaws. He, in turn, spent a happy afternoon painting the nursery fence. By the time he left, his tie was considerably more multi-coloured than when he arrived!

On Thursday June 22nd the governors of Acomb School met with parents to review the year, and also to meet Mr. Lee Madderson, who this September will take over as headteacher from our current acting head Ms. Jo Bentley. As chair of governors at the school, I’d like to thank Ms. Bentley for her hard work, dedication, professionalism and care for the whole school community over the last year. She has enabled the school to make tremendous progress, and we all hope that she will keep in touch with the school.

Lastly, please come along to the school’s Summer Fair on Sunday July 16th from 10.30 to 1.00pm at the school. We hope as many people as possible take the opportunity to see the school’s new facilities for themselves, and to enjoy its beautiful surroundings. All welcome!

If you would like to discuss any of these matters further or if you have suggestions or concerns, please contact me on 01434 681487, e-mail jane.wrigley@tynedale.gov.uk.

Jane Wrigley

June 24th 2006