



Acomb Newsletter

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Balance bikes, why, what and how?

Children can start riding balance bikes from as young as 18 months old. They keep their feet in contact with the floor, so they needn't be scared of falling. This gives them great confidence and independence as they are able to just ride around without stabilizers, which can feel awkward, and unsteady. They can be surprisingly fast with them and stopping a balance bike couldn't be easier - the children naturally drag their feet to slow themselves down and come to a quick and easy stop. Balance bikes don't have pedals so children can concentrate on developing their sense of balance – essential for riding a real bike. The transition to a bike with pedals will be very quick and easy as all they then have to learn is to co-ordinate the pedal action. CycleStreet in Heworth, York have the full range of Puky balance bikes, scooters and trikes in store. Armed with this newsletter, you will receive **10%** discount off any bicycle from CycleStreet! <http://www.cycle-street.co.uk> or tel 01904 427510.

Open week, Parent liaison Evening

The week beginning 23rd January we are having an open week for all parents and grandparents. This is an ideal opportunity for you to come and see what your child does with us. Look out for the posters. We are also having our Parent Liaison meeting on Thursday 26th January 6pm till 7pm. Anne Cooper Learning Leader with the Children's Centres will be talking about using phonics in the early years please come along and join in with the games. Thank you.

"Quote of the Month"

Blue room were having their Christmas party. Santa arrived to give the presents out. Lewis looked at Santa and said "Santa you need a haircut"



Directors' Corner

I've just about come down from the high of winning the Women in Enterprise Award last month but apart from the publicity, the nurseries have benefitted hugely as we are working in partnership with another award winner. Jon Dean from CycleStreet based in York is now supplying us with new bikes and trikes for all our nurseries so please read the article he has written regarding balance bikes, above. Steve and I both hope you have all had a lovely Christmas and New Year. We did but we have also been very busy over the holidays as usual with refurbishment works going on throughout the nurseries. Gildersome has had a brand new commercial kitchen installed and had a total re-paint earlier in the year. The Acomb nursery had a total re-paint last month and we will be fitting new carpets in Acomb's reception and KOOSH areas this month. We extend a warm welcome to all our staff, the children we care for and their families as we enter into 2012, our year of new beginnings. - Jane

Happy New Year

Welcome back to all our families, we hope you all had a lovely Christmas and New Year and didn't eat too many mince pies!



KOOSH

The holiday club had a great time with lots of lovely activities and outings. Sarah and her team are already planning the February half term holidays.

Thank you

All staff and the children would like to thank everyone who managed to make it to our 'Carols round the Christmas tree', we hope you enjoyed our little sing song, all the children looked lovely and I think we managed to bring a bit of Christmas cheer to all.