



# AUCKLAND COLLEGE EYFS NEWSLETTER



## Key Dates

- Holiday Club starts - Mon 30th Oct
- Halloween - Tues 31st Oct
- Bonfire Night - Sun 5th Nov
- INSET Day - Mon 6th Nov
- Term restarts - Tues 7th Nov
- PTA meeting - Tues 7th Nov
- Remembrance Day - Sat 11th Nov
- Divali - Sun 12th Nov
- Reception reports published - Fri 10th Nov
- Reception Parents' Evening - w/c 13th Nov
- Pre-Prep reports published - Fri 17th Nov
- Pre-Prep Parents' Evening - w/c 20th Nov
- Christmas Jumper Day - Fri 15th Dec
- Last day of term - Fri 15th Dec

## Message from the EYFS Team

Welcome to our first newsletter of the academic year! Before we get started with all the exciting updates about what has been taking place at school this half term, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and tell you a little bit about me and the work I am doing.

I am Mrs Collins, and I am the new Assistant Head for Early Years at Auckland College. I have worked at the school now for over 8 years as a Pre-Prep teacher and I am really looking forward to getting to know more of our families in my new role.

One of my responsibilities is to ensure that we have excellent partnerships with our parents, therefore you will see myself hosting Parent Workshops and posting on the department's Class Dojo walls, informing you of any updates.

I was very happy to meet with many of you during our first Reception Phonics and Reading Workshop this year and I am looking forward to getting to know more of our families and know more about your children and how we can support them at Auckland College.

One thing I am certainly keen to do, is encourage all our students to develop a love of reading; my favourite part of the school day is when I have the opportunity to read to my class, and I am aware that my own love of books began at a young age. Being a skilled reader is so important to many aspects of life as children grow and mature, both in school and the wider world, and I am passionate about encouraging the same love for literature that my parents and teachers helped me to develop many years ago!

Please do keep a look out for information that I post on supporting your child to read, our local library and its services, as well as our brand-new reading scheme Rhino Readers, which I had the pleasure of supporting our staff through their training this half term.

Have a wonderful break and I look forward to seeing you all back in school after the holiday.  
Mrs Collins

# Things to do in Liverpool over October half term!

- River of Light, 27th October - 5th November  
<https://www.visitliverpool.com/riveroflight/>
- Kids Go Free, Knowsley Safari Park, 21st October - 5th November  
<https://www.knowsleysafariexperience.co.uk/events/kids-go-free>
- Ottersghoul, Otterspool Adventure, 27th - 31st October  
<https://otterspooladventurecentre.co.uk/halloween/>

## Halloween Cookies

### Ingredients

- 150g butter
- 50g caster sugar
- 100g light brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 250g plain flour
- 1/4 tsp baking powder
- 100g chocolate chips
- 60g dark chocolate, melted
- 60g icing sugar, mixed with 2 tsp water
- Maltesers, Oreos and Rolos



### Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180C/160C fan/gas mark 4 and line a baking tray with parchment.
2. Beat the sugars and butter, then add the egg to combine. Stir in the flour, baking powder and chocolate chips.
3. Divide the dough into 20 pieces and put on the tray. Bake for 10-12 mins until golden. Transfer to wire racks to cool.
4. Spoon the melted chocolate into a piping bag or sandwich bag, then snip the corner. Do the same with the icing. To make spiders, pipe two dots of icing onto a Malteser, then two smaller dots on top of them to make eyes. Stick the Malteser onto the cookie, with a second one next to it to make a body. Use the chocolate to pipe eight legs coming off the body.
5. To make a bat, carefully use a serrated knife to cut the Oreos in half to make semi-circles. Stick a Rolo into the centre of the cookie, then stick the Oreo halves either side of the Rolo to make wings. Pipe eyes onto the Rolo with the icing and chocolate.

## Important Messages

Please ensure that your child has a change of clothes in their bag every day. This should include at least two pairs of underwear and trousers/leggings, one top, one pair of socks and a pair of shoes (if there is room in your child's bag). This does not need to be uniform. Please do this even if your child is fully toilet trained, as they could still need changing if they fall in a puddle or spill something over themselves.

We encourage children to bring a morning snack to school. Please be aware that we have a 'nut free' policy and no nuts or products containing traces of nuts should be sent into school. Grapes should be cut in half length ways.



# Pre-Prep 1

Pre-Prep 1 have had a wonderful start to the academic year. We began with our All About Me topic, where we focused on developing strong friendships with our new classmates and teachers. We then moved on to our topic all about Transport. PP1 loved learning all about the different types of vehicles, making their own paper airplanes and learning how hot air balloons work!



We have finished the half term with the topic of Autumn. The pupils have loved making their own Autumn leaves, exploring a selection on natural materials in our Investigation Station and making playdough hedgehogs in the tuff tray.



In Phonics, we started the term with Level 1 activities, which focus on developing children's listening and attention skills. We then started learning the Level 2 sounds, beginning with 's', 'a', 't', 'p', 'i', 'n', 'm' and 'd'.

In Maths, PP1 have been strengthening their understanding of numbers to 10, working on the cardinal principle for up to three objects and learning how numbers can be represented in different ways.



PP1 finished the term with our trip to Church Farm to go pumpkin picking and explore the farm! The children loved seeing the animals and riding on the tractor!

Best wishes,  
Miss Mott



# Pre-Prep 2

I am so proud of how well Pre-Prep 2 have begun to settle into their new class. In this half-term we began by learning all about our friends, sharing pictures of our families, talking about our likes and dislikes and even creating self-portraits.

We have been regularly using Twinkl Phonics to help with our Level 2 Phonics, practising sounds such as: s,a,t,p,i,n and sounding out simple words such as: 'sat', 'tap' and 'pat'.

This also includes recognising our names and tracing over letters to form our own.

All the children have had an integral role in determining our topic work so far. While learning about Autumn and the autumnal changes happening outside, we painted autumn trees, investigated conkers, pine cones and leaves, as well as played in our pumpkin shop role play area. This includes learning about space and dinosaurs, inspired by the story 'The Dinosaur that Pooped a Planet'. There has been a focus on counting and number recognition in Mathematics this term through singing songs, playing number splat and using fast recognition of up to three objects.

In Expressive Arts and Design, we have been singing and dancing to some of our favourite songs, as well as taking part in simple pretend play. Our PE lessons have involved different types of balancing and working on our ball skills through rolling, throwing and catching.

Finally, we were able to celebrate several events such as, World Space Week, by designing rockets in honour of Mae Jemison and reading space stories. We also took part in the school's own clothes day to raise money for The Childhood Eye Cancer Trust.

Best wishes,  
Miss Patterson



# Pre-Prep 3

PP3 have had an amazing first half term. All the children have settled well into their new class and have had a wonderful time exploring their new environment and toys.

We started the half term by welcoming the children into class and ensuring that they were confident within their new surroundings and with the adults in the class. It was lovely to see the confidence in the children grow as well as the relationships forming with the staff.

The children have enjoyed exploring the different topics, especially the topic of Autumn. It has been wonderful hearing the children talk about their experience of Autumn and the Autumn walks they have been on with their families.

PP3 have made a great start to Phonics. We have started with recapping Level 2 sounds as well as learning Level 2 Tricky Words. The children have also enjoyed meeting our Phonics Puppet Felix and helping him with his segmenting and blending in lessons.

In Numeracy the children have been able to use their counting skills to support their learning of counting groups of objects to find the total amount. The children have had a good time learning new counting songs whilst using their fingers to represent the number.

All the children have worked very hard this half term, and I am very excited for our next adventure in Autumn 2.

Mrs Collins



# Reception

Reception have had such an amazing first few months settling into our new classes! We have been making lots of new friends, learning new daily routines and having lots of fun!

In Maths we have been busy subitising, creating repeating patterns and practising our counting and number formation. We have also just begun to explore number bonds and we are doing well with this skill.

In Literacy, we have been practising our letter formation; fine motor skills activities have been helping us a lot with this. We are recognising Level 2 sounds, initial sounds in words and writing CVC words and short phrases.

We had so much fun during our Pumpkin Picking trip – we explored our surroundings and picked a pumpkin each from the patch. The coach journey there was so fun too and some of us got a little sleepy on the way back after all that hard work! We can't wait to do some more pumpkin activities over the next few weeks.

A huge well done to everyone in Reception, we have loved getting to know you all properly and can't wait to see what exciting things will happen next term!

Miss Lloyd and Miss Scholfield

