

Dear Parent



## Spring Term Curriculum Letter – Acorns

Welcome to the Spring Term in Acorns class. The children's fascinations last term gave us so many opportunities to develop their love of learning and I'm really looking forward to seeing where their interests take us this term. Their developing confidence and ability to manage the school routines mean that they are becoming independent learners. Please keep supporting them with this by allowing them to be independent when you arrive in the morning and continuing to encourage this outside of school.

Our daily routine has evolved through the Autumn term but be assured that your child still has lots of opportunity for *lovely learning* where they can independently choose from the carefully prepared indoor and outdoor classroom. In this Reception year it is vital that your child has the opportunity to engage in activities that develop their communication and language skills, physical development and personal, social and emotional development. We call these the prime areas and will continually set up opportunities for them to practise these skills.

I've noted a below a few of the things we will be doing to give you a flavour of what is to come.

**RWInc** In the first half of the spring term we will introduce the next phase of RWInc which focuses more on blending for reading and segmenting for spelling. We will continually revisit all the sounds learnt so far and introduce 'red words' - common words that cannot be sounded out like I, the, we, said. We will introduce Sound Set 2 during this term which begins the journey through alternative spellings. Children will work in smaller groups to read phonically decodable books and use these stories to develop their comprehension skills. We will also begin to use a work book for your child to record their emerging writing.

**Maths** Short, teacher-led, daily sessions will introduce key skills and ensure coverage across the Early Years curriculum focusing on fluency, reasoning and problem solving. We will begin to introduce teen numbers - making sure children are secure that these are 'ten and some ones'. We will develop skills in counting, addition and subtraction within 20. We will explore height, length, time, shape, position, pattern and money. We will begin to record number.

**Acorns Challenge** I will be introducing this activity to encourage your child to challenge themselves. If you have time in the morning help them chose a challenge card, read it to them and give them support to achieve the activity.

**Outdoor Adventure** The children always look forward to Wednesday afternoons. Wellies, waterproof coat and trousers in school on Wednesdays please.

**Reading** The children have completely free choice on library days and we spend time allowing them to browse and share books with friends before having a story. This time is really important in developing a love of books and reading that will stay with your child way beyond this initial learning to read stage. If your child wants to swap their library book more frequently please feel free to do this in the smaller classroom library.

Please keep up the reading at home. Whether reading the school book, sharing a favourite book together, or playing a game with words or letters - all will make a significant difference in your child's reading progress.

**Teach Your Monster To Read** I have set up an account for your child to use this great online game. They can play at home on any device and I can track their progress and print out certificates of achievement. You should already have received a letter with your child's personal login and password. Let me know how you get on.

**Mr & Mrs Monkey** We would like to start sending the Monkeys home with children to further connect the school and home environment for them. Monkey will be sent home on a Friday with a diary sheet. You can keep him at home until Wednesday when he should be returned with a diary entry. Please support your child to complete the entry themselves - if needed you could add a note to help us read it in class! A drawing or a photograph of Monkey's visit to your home would also be lovely. We will collate everyone's diary entries for all the children to enjoy.

### **Dough Disco**

Lots of children need support now to strengthen their hands for effective pencil control. I will be introducing a new activity involving music and playdoh to develop muscles and co-ordination in the hands and fingers. You can help at home by giving your child lots of opportunities for fine motor skills like threading, playing with small lego or other small construction, pegging, modelling as well as drawing and writing.

So a busy term ahead full of wonderful opportunities to develop your child's character and knowledge. As always I am available first thing in the morning and after school should you want a quick chat. For anything more in-depth or private I am happy to arrange an after school appointment. Formal parent appointments to review progress will be held just before the Easter break. Thank you for your continued support and involvement in your child's learning journey.

Regards

Mrs Rice