

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.

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. Your child will use a workbook to record their emerging writing. I will send home new sounds weekly for you to look at with your child and practise.

**Maths** Short, teacher-led, daily sessions will continue to 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 ordering, counting, addition and subtraction within 20. We will explore height, length, time, shape, position, pattern and money. We will begin to record number.

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

**Library Visits** The children will have completely free choice on library days and we will 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.

**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 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 - either hard copy or on Tapestry. We will collate everyone's diary entries for all the children to enjoy.

### **Physical Development**

This term I will introduce a dedicated PE session on Wednesday mornings. Please make sure your child's PE kit is all named and on their peg. It would help your child enormously if you can support them at home to dress and undress independently - making sure that they keep their clothes the right way round. We will also take part in swimming sessions later in the year (early summer) and I will let you know dates as soon as they've been confirmed.

### **Tapestry and the 'Focus Child'**

Please keep using Tapestry so together we can build a fantastic Learning Journey for your child. I will repeat the 'focus child' rotation to help us ensure that everyone's needs are being met in school. When the form comes home please jot down any thoughts or questions and upload pictures from home that your child can share with their friends.

### **Volunteers to Read with Children**

We would like to invite any parents/grandparents to volunteer their time and come and read with our children in school. If you are interested, please let me know and I will arrange for the appropriate checks to be done. Thank you.

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. Thank you for your continued support and involvement in your child's learning journey.

Regards

Mrs Rice