

Nursery

Acorn Class

Summer Term 2016

Dear Parent/Carer,

We hope you have had a good Easter holiday and that you were able to enjoy the break with your child.

This term we will be focusing on 2 topics: TRANSPORT and OUR WORLD. We will be starting to talk about the children's transition to Reception. The most important skills we would like them to have ready for Reception are:

- dressing and undressing themselves
- holding a pencil with 3 fingers and writing some or all letters in their name
- sitting and listening to others during short activities
- talking confidently to express themselves
- recognising numbers 0-5 and using numbers accurately and spontaneously in play

If you have any concerns about your child's readiness for Reception please speak to me.

We will be teaching these topics through the 3 prime areas of development listed below:

Personal, social and emotional

- Demonstrating friendly behaviour, initiating conversations and forming good relationships with peers and familiar adults
- Initiating conversations, attending to and taking account of what others say
- Being confident to talk to other children when playing, and communicating freely about own home and community

- Being confident to speak to others about own needs, wants, interests and opinions
- Adapting behaviour to different events, social situations and changes in routine
- Being aware of the boundaries set, and of behavioural expectations in the setting

Communication and language

- Focusing their attention – still listening or doing, but can shift own attention
- Maintaining attention, concentrating and sitting quietly during appropriate activity
- Beginning to understand ‘why’ and ‘how’ questions.
- Responding to instructions involving a two-part sequence
- Building up vocabulary that reflects the breadth of their experiences
- Using language to imagine and recreate roles and experiences in play situations.

Physical development

- Beginning to use anti-clockwise movement and retracing vertical lines
- Beginning to form recognisable letters
- Being dry and clean during the day
- Showing some understanding that good practices with regard to exercise, eating, sleeping and hygiene can contribute to good health.

Also through the four **specific** areas:

Literacy

- Suggesting how the story might end.
- Describing main story settings/events/principal characters
- Segmenting the sounds in simple words and blend them together and knows which letters represent some of them.
- Hearing and saying initial sounds in words
- Beginning to break the flow of speech into words
- Giving meaning to marks they make as they draw, write and paint

Mathematics

- Showing an interest in number problems
- Finding one more or one less from a group of up to five objects, then ten objects
- Beginning to talk about the shapes of everyday objects, e.g. 'round' and 'tall'
- Beginning to use mathematical names for 'solid' 3D shapes and 'flat' 2D shapes, and mathematical terms to describe shapes

Understanding the world

- Knowing some of the things that make them unique, and can talk about some of the similarities and differences in relation to friends or family
- Knowing that information can be retrieved from computers
- Seeking to acquire basic skills in turning on and operating some ICT equipment.

Expressive arts and design

- Beginning to be interested in and describe the texture of things
- Creating simple repeated rhythms.
- Understanding that different media can be combined to create new effects
- Introducing a storyline or narrative into their play.

Important dates for your diary:

Term Dates

Monday 2nd May : Early Bank Holiday Monday, School Closed

Half Term: Monday 30th May – Friday 3rd June

Wednesday 20th July: Last day (2pm closure)

Things to remember:

PACT (reading) Folder

Reading at home is a valuable experience and can have a huge effect on your child's progress. It is very important that the book bag is taken home daily and books are read every night to your child. We will read

with your child once a week. You are welcome to change your child's book more often than this.

Spare clothes

As your child gets older and manages their personal hygiene better they will need their spare clothes less and less. However, accidents do still happen. Please bring in a bag of spare clothes that can be left on your child's peg in case of an accident.

Jewellery

It is school policy that no jewellery should be worn in school with the exception of stud earrings and watches. Children will be asked to remove hoop earrings in school.

Class fund

We ask for a donation of £1 each week which is used to help fund classroom activities (cooking ingredients etc). This should be brought to school on Monday.

Lateness

Please ensure that your child arrives in school ready to be taken into class for 8.50am or 1.00 pm. Children who are late cause disruption and miss the beginning of the lesson. The gate is locked at 9.00 a.m.

After this time you must take your child in via the main entrance. If your child is late then you must take your child to the classroom and then tell the office in person that your child is now in school. Please ensure that we know exactly who your child is leaving with at the end of the day.

Ideas to do at home

- Make models of different types of transport using junk materials, using words like long, short, wide, tall, prism, cube, corner, side
- Get books out of the library about different types of transport
- Tell us if you go on a boat/train/car/bike/bus so we can talk about it with the class
- Talk a lot about sounds, clapping the syllables and sounds in words

- Practise drawing every day and label their work with writing – if they are ready they will copy some of your letters and simple words
- Play and sing lots of counting songs and rhymes – 5 little ducks, 5 little speckled frogs, 5 naughty monkeys, 5 little men in a flying saucer
- Make number plates, write down phone messages, pretend to be in the fire station – dialling 999!
- Use the internet to find out information regarding what your child is really interested in e.g. animals that live in the rainforest, what polar bears like eating

If you have any questions, concerns or would just like to say hello please don't hesitate to meet with me before or after school when I will always be available.

Louise Ferris