

# Acorn Curricular Letter

**Autumn 2 2023 – Once upon a time.**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back everybody! I hope you managed to have a peaceful and restful half term break. I must start by saying how proud I am of the children for how they ended last half term and how they have begun this one. They have shown resilience to the changes which have occurred within school and have settled beautifully back into the classroom routines. They have already produced some excellent work across the curriculum, and I can't wait to see what they produce in the half term to come. I was really impressed by all the homework that was brought in at the end of the last half term and the homework that was posted onto Seesaw. It was clear to see how much effort had gone into producing work of such creativity and of such a high standard.

This curriculum newsletter will tell you all about the units and areas of learning being covered in this half term. All the children will be learning the same topics but will cover the specific year group expectations for Year 1 and 2. Our topic this term is a History driver and many of our subjects will relate to this.

As with the start of all our topics, we discuss it with the children to find out what they already know and what they want to find out. This will form the basis of our weekly planning so that we can try to plan from the children's interests. If you have anything that you think may be of interest to our topic, then please let us know.

Reading books should be sent into school each day children will be given the opportunity to change these daily, as long as Covid restrictions allow. We aim to read with children several times a week and we do encourage children to read at home regularly and to enjoy a shared read with adults. Reading certificates are given out on Fridays and the children are encouraged to read each book twice to build confidence.

We will continue to provide children with a piece of fruit, free of charge, each day. Toast is still available daily at 20p. If you would prefer your child to bring his/her own snack to school, please keep in mind that we are a healthy school and it should be a piece of fruit or veg.

Children are encouraged to bring a drinks bottle to school each day, **filled with water**. I have noticed some children have juice or flavoured water and school policy is water, in line with Change for Life initiatives.

Lunches must come in either a carrier bag that can be binned daily or a small lunch bag/box that can be cleaned easily.

All PE kit and school uniform must be **labelled**, so if lost, they can be easily returned to you.

Thank you once again for your support, it is very much appreciated. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know your children and am especially looking forward to watching them thrive and grow over what will be a truly sensational term. By continuing to work together, we can ensure that every child in the whole school flourishes. If you need any support, assistance or guidance please do send me a Class Dojo message. Don't forget you can see some of your child's learning journey on our Facebook page.

Many thanks,

*Mrs Karen Barclay*  
Class teacher

**Days to Remember**

### Monday

New spellings issued  
Book change

After school club  
Maths Games

### Tuesday

PE

After school club  
Eco Club

### Wednesday

### Thursday

After school club  
Choir

### Friday

Spelling test  
PE  
Music with LMS

After school club  
Gymnastics

## TOPIC

### What did children get for Christmas in the past?

Our History unit will focus on toys through the 20th century and the early 21st century. Firstly, it asks the children to think about their favourite toy from today before moving on to look at toys which were popular when their parents and grandparents were children. Throughout the unit, the children will develop a range of historical skills such as: asking and answering questions, identifying and interpreting different sources and recognising change and exploring how this influences them today. A range of learning activities are used in this unit which include: drawing discussions, role play and games as well as writing tasks to encourage the children to fully engage in lessons.

### Who is smashing stereotypes?

In Science we will be asking "What do we imagine when asked to think of a scientist?" Is it a man in a white lab coat with goggles and grey hair? Do they describe someone who sounds a bit like Albert Einstein? We will be inspiring our young learners to think differently about what it means to be a scientist.

As with the start of all our topics, we will discuss it with the children to find out what they already know about it and what they want to find out. This will form the basis of our weekly planning so that we can try to plan from the children's interests. Please take some time to talk to your children about the topics, read books and stories, watch programmes and think of some questions they can explore in class.

### How can we protect the 3 little pigs?

In DT, the theme is structures based upon the "Three little Pigs "House building Adventure ". It is an engaging cross-curricular unit designed to combine literacy, science, and creative activities to immerse students in the classic story of The Three little Pigs while also exploring the concepts of materials, construction and safety. The children will test, plan and make an original solution to their given Brief and develop an awareness of the world around them.

## MATHS

All children should continue to practise their number work on Numbots and play games set on seesaw.

**Year 1** will begin the half term by completing the unit on **Addition and Subtraction** – discovering different strategies to calculate subtraction. They will then move onto a short unit on **Shape** - Recognise, naming and sorting 2D and 3D shapes. They will complete the half term with a unit on **Place Value (within 20)** - Compare groups of objects, compare and order numbers.

**Year 2** will begin the half term by completing the unit on **Addition and Subtraction** – Mixed addition and subtraction, 10 more, 10 less. Adding and subtracting two 2 digit numbers. - **Shape**-Recognise 2-D and 3-D shapes, Lines of symmetry on shapes, Count vertices on 3-D shapes

## LITERACY

### Reading

The children in Acorn Class will take part in Guided Reading three times a week. In Guided Reading in Year 2, children have the same text as their group which they read independently and to the adult. We then discuss the text and work on a reading objective – VIPERS (Vocabulary, Infer, Predict, Explain, Retrieve, Summary). The book to be studied this half term is – Beegu by Alexis Deacon.

In Year 1, the books are closely linked to their phonics learning.

As well as Guided Reading sessions, the children have opportunity to read their home reader to an adult. Every child has been given a school reading book, which continues the whole school system for colour bands, as well as a phonics book.

**Children should continue to read aloud to an adult as much as possible.** From Year 2, they should focus on reading for meaning, as well as decoding – predicting what will happen in the story and why and also thinking about the character's feelings. Naturally, the focus changes and you are no longer working on building up fluency and expression but looking at prediction, deduction and inference. Questions such as 'What do you think . . . will do next?' 'What could happen here?' 'Why is . . . behaving like that?' will help children to develop their higher order reading skills.

Please could you continue to sign and comment in the reading journal – it really helps! Please make sure your child has their reading journal in school every day.

## LITERACY

### Writing

In English, we will begin with a traditional tale Hop Toad and Pearls. The children will innovate the story and write a story Oak class have never heard before.

We will then be designing and creating a non-chronological report, in the style of a flip flap book to tell the Reception children about the history of toys.

We will continue to look at year group appropriate spelling patterns and rules and I will upload the weekly spelling patterns on Seesaw, using the 'Spelling Shed' resources.

## Homework

Homework will continue to be sent out half termly - each half term you will receive a home learning menu. As explained on the menu, you must complete the maths, reading and writing activities but can choose any two options from the other choices from across the curriculum. The homework menu will allow you to be creative and imaginative in what you decide to produce. The hand in date for the activities this half term will be:

**Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> December**

## Acorn Autumn 2

### Once upon a time – History Driver

English	Maths		Science	History
<p><b><u>Can I make up a story that Oak class have never heard before?</u></b> Traditional tales – Hop Toad and Pearls</p> <p><b><u>Can I create a flip flap book to tell the Reception children about the history of toys?</u></b> Non Chronological Report-Toys</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Year R/1</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">It's me 1,2,3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Circles and Triangles</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1,2,3,4,5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Shapes with 4 sides</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Year 2</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Addition and Subtraction</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Shape</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Who is smashing stereotypes?</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Scientists and inventors</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>What did children get for Christmas in the past?</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Changes within living memory.</p>
Design Technology	RE	Music	PSHE	Computing
<p><b><u>How can we protect the 3 little pigs?</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Structures</p>	<p><b><u>What gifts might Christians, in Wigan, have given Jesus if he had been born here rather than in Bethlehem?</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Christianity - Incarnation</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Lancashire Music Service</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Charanga</p> <hr style="border: 1px solid black;"/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>PE</b> (Chorley SSP)</p> <p><b><u>What makes gymnastics a performance?</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Gymnastics</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Who are my special people?</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Valuing Difference</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Can a computer paint a picture?</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Information technology – Creating pictures</p>