

# Acorn Curricular Letter

## Spring 1 2024- Teddy Bear's Picnic



May I start by wishing you all a happy new year. It was wonderful to listen to all of the children's stories from over the holidays as we prepared for a magical pantomime. Acorn class have quickly settled back into their routines (although a pantomime, marmalade sandwiches and a train station in the classroom was a fabulous way to start a term!) We have some amazing adventures planned for the children over the coming weeks and this curriculum newsletter will tell you all about the units and areas of learning being covered in this half term. All the children in Acorn Class will be learning the same topics but will cover the specific year group expectations for Year R,1,2. Our topic is called 'Teddy Bear's picnic' and many of our activities will relate to this.

Reading books should be sent into school each day and children will be given the opportunity to change these daily. We aim to read with children several times a week and we do encourage children to read at home regularly.

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 continued support. The relationship between school, parent and child has never been more crucial and by continuing to work together, we can ensure that every child in the whole school, will have an exciting, enjoyable and memorable half term. If you need any support, assistance or guidance please do send me a Class Dojo message.

Many thanks,  
*Mrs Karen Barclay*  
Teacher

### Days to Remember

<u><b>Monday</b></u>	<u><b>Tuesday</b></u>	<u><b>Wednesday</b></u>	<u><b>Thursday</b></u>	<u><b>Friday</b></u>
New spellings issued	PE			Spelling test PE
Construction After School Club	Year 6 SATS Booster After School Club (Paid wrap around care is available)		Choir After School Club	Street Dance After School Club

## TOPIC

This half term our topic is Teddy Bear's picnic. The children will be immersed in everything Paddington Bear themed with Literacy and the continuous provision helping to amplify their imagination. In Geography they will be asking '**Would you prefer to live on grass or sand?**' Studying hot and cold areas of the world. In Science, the children will be testing everyday materials to answer the query '**What is the best material for a picnic blanket?**' After following the adventures of Paddington, in DT, we will be finding out '**What sandwich will I keep under my hat?**' The children will develop their food technology skills to design and make their own sandwich. The role play area this half term is a deconstructed one focusing on the children designing and making their own environment and artefacts. As with the start of all our topics, we will 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.

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.

## MATHS

All children should continue to practise their number work on Numbots and times tables rock stars.

**Year 1** will begin the half term with a unit on **Addition and Subtraction** – finding and making number bonds and subtraction including crossing 10. They will then move onto unit on **Place Value (within 20)** - representing numbers to 20, one more and one less and comparing numbers within 20.

**Year 2** will begin the half term with a unit on **Money**– Count money - pounds (notes and coins) Compare amounts of money, find change and two-step problems. They will then move onto unit on **Multiplication** -Recognising, making and adding equal groups. Use arrays, times and Divide by 2,5,10.

## LITERACY

### Writing

Our first Literacy unit is '**Do all bears Growl?**' During this topic we will read, enjoy and analyse a whole range of Paddington bear adventures. We will answer questions, give opinions about the stories, discuss the character's thoughts and feelings and make predictions. We will then ask '**Can I write a set of instructions for a teddy bear's picnic?**' We will write instructions to make the sandwiches we have designed in our Food Technology lessons. We will continue to practise using full stops and capital letters and extend our sentences using and, but, so, or, because. To support your child at home, you could read and follow cooking instructions together and talk about any familiar language they can spot.

## LITERACY

### Reading

Acorn class will continue to develop their reading skills in English and Guided Reading. The Guided Reading book for this half term will be **Izzy Gizmo by Pip Jones**. This will include word reading and understanding the text. In order to consolidate and develop your child's reading it is important that they read and discuss books on a regular basis at home. Your child should continue to access books online on Bug Club at their reading level. **Your children's bookmarks (aligned to their current book band) include a range of questions you can use to discuss the characters and story.** As well as using these questions, we will be looking to develop our vocabulary. To do this at home ask your child, when reading a story, to find a word or words which means the same as another. For example, a story mentions a 'little old lady' and the line 'titchy and teeny house'. Ask your child 'can you find me two words which mean small?'. Discuss the vocabulary with them.

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

**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.

## 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, 5<sup>th</sup> February**

Many parents ask if they can help with activities and projects such as this and the answer is most definitely a resounding 'yes'! There is nothing more motivating for a child than an interested adult. The Homework menu has been sent home.

# Acorn Spring 1

## Teddy Bear's Picnic – Design and Technology Driver

English	Maths White Rose Maths		Science	Geography
<b><u>Do all bears growl?</u></b> Stories in a familiar setting Paddington Bear  <b><u>Why do I need to wear a disguise in the woods?</u></b> Traditional rhymes  <b><u>Can I write a set of instructions for a teddy bear's picnic?</u></b> Instructions – making sandwiches or cakes	<b>Year R/1</b>  Alive in 5  Mass and Capacity  Growing 6,7,8	<b>Year 2</b>  Money  Multiplication and Division	<b><u>What is the best material for a picnic blanket?</u></b>  Everyday materials	<b><u>Would you prefer to live on snow or sand?</u></b>  Hot and cold areas of the world
Design Technology	RE	Music Lancashire Music Service	PSHE Coram Life Education	Computing
<b><u>What sandwich would I keep in my hat?</u></b>  Food technology	<b><u>Was it always easy for Jesus to show friendship?</u></b>  Christianity - Incarnation	Charanga  <div>PE (Chorley SSP)</div> <b><u>How Can Dance tell a story?</u></b>  Dance	<b><u>Who can help if I am feeling unsafe?</u></b>  Keeping Safe	<b><u>How can I stay safe online?</u></b>  Digital literacy – online safety  <b><u>Could I use a computer to make music?</u></b>  Information technology – Making Music