

Acorn Curricular Letter

Autumn 1 2025 – Reach for the stars!

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It has been a real pleasure welcoming your children into school, and the atmosphere around Mossy Lea is full of energy and excitement. I hope you all enjoyed a restful summer break and feel ready for the year ahead. The children have settled into their new routines brilliantly and have already made a fantastic start. Having worked alongside Mossy Lea of the last several years, I am excited about this new journey getting to join the Mossy family. I will be teaching every day except Wednesdays; this is when Miss Keeling and Mrs Fenton will be teaching the Acorn Class. Together, I know we can make this year a happy, inspiring, and successful one.

This curriculum newsletter will tell you all about the units and areas of learning being covered in this first half term. All the children will be learning the same topics but will cover the specific year group expectations for Year R 1, 2, 3. Our first topic is called 'Reach for the stars!' and many of our lessons will relate to this. We will be exploring the lives of ambitious and inspiring people who aimed high—such as scientists, inventors, and civil rights leaders including Martin Luther King Jr. As always, we begin each new topic by talking with the children about what they already know and what they would like to find out. Their ideas and interests will help guide our planning so that learning is meaningful, exciting, and relevant to them.

Reading books should be sent into school each day, this will allow staff to read with the children and change their books when necessary. We aim to read with children several times a week (individually) and we do encourage children to read at home regularly.

The school provides children with a piece of fruit each day (free or charge) or toast (25p a day). If you would prefer your child to bring his/her own snack to school, please keep in mind that it should be one healthy snack that is 'nut free'.

Children are encouraged to bring a drinks bottle, filled with water, to school each day. This can be refilled during the day. School policy is water only, no juice, in line with Change for Life initiatives.

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

Thank you for your support so far and if at any time throughout the year you may have questions or thoughts on your child's work or well-being, please feel free to catch me after school or send me an e-mail which I have included below.

Many thanks,

Mrs Siobhan Mackenzie

Class Teacher

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Days to Remember

Monday

New spellings

PE with CSSP

Tuesday

Wednesday

PE
Miss Keeling and Mrs
Fenton teaching

Thursday

Friday

Spelling Test

Forest Friday

TOPIC

Our topic driver this half term is, 'Reach for the stars!' driven by our History lessons, focusing on what makes someone amazing. We will be investigating significant people from both the past and present: discussing how democracy, mutual respect and diversity has shaped our lives today.

In Science, we will be answering the question 'Why is Mae Jameson so amazing?' This unit focuses on famous scientists/inventors and how to perform simple experiments using the equipment safely and how to record our results.

In Design Technology the children will be making their own puppet using different joining techniques, focussing on textiles.

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.

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, 20th October

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.

Lancashire Red Rose MATHS

Please continue to make use of Timetables Rockstars and Numbots.

Year 1 EYFS to Year 1 Transition Unit, Unit 1 Place value, Unit 2 Length and mass, Unit 3 Addition and subtraction and Unit 4 2D and 3D shape

Year 2 Unit 1 Place Value, Unit 2 Length and Mass, Unit 3 Addition and Subtraction and Unit 4 2-D and 3D Shape

Year 3 Unit 1 Place value, Unit 2 Length and perimeter, Unit 3 Statistics and Unit 4 Addition and subtraction.

LITERACY

Writing

In English, we will begin by writing an 'out of this world' story for Pingawings. The children will read a variety of stories with a fantasy setting including Whatever next!, How to Catch a Star and Aliens Love Underpants. The children will then model and innovate 'The Man on the Moon'. They will record their final innovated story and send this as a gift to the nursery for the children to enjoy. Grammar focus will be on using noun phrases and expanded noun phrases. We will also be encouraging the children to say and hold in memory whilst writing, simple sentences that make sense.

We will then focus on non-chronological reports to tell our families about different amazing people. We will look at a variety of texts covering the last century, discussing how these people influenced others' lives. We explore the features of a non-chronological report and create our own by studying Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks. Our grammar focus will be on joining words and clauses using 'and'. We will be constructing sentences for co-ordination using or, and, but. We will be investigating how grammatical patterns in a sentence indicate its function as a statement or question. We will focus on demarcating sentences using question marks.

We will continue to look at year group appropriate spelling patterns and rules (year 1 will be driven by the phonetical sound of that week) and Year 2 and 3 will be using the 'Spelling Shed' resources.

Reading

The children in Year 2/3 will take part in Guided Reading each week. During this time, they will complete a range of reading activities responding to reading and reading for enjoyment. In Guided Reading, 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).

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.

Please encourage your children to write the books they have read into their reading record, so that they can be proud of their reading achievements and even achieve one of the reading challenge certificates!

Children should continue to read aloud to an adult as much as possible. They should focus on reading for meaning – 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.

Acorn Autumn 1

Reach for the Stars! - Science/History Driver

English	Maths White Rose Maths			Science	History
<p>Can I write an out of this world story for Pingawings? Stories with fantasy settings</p> <p>How can I tell my family about different amazing people? Non-chronological reports Significant people</p> <p>Who am I? Riddles- Who am I?</p>	<p>Reception</p> <p>Week 1 – Settling in</p> <p>Week 2 – Settling in</p> <p>Week 3 – Number 1</p> <p>Week 4 – Numbers to 2</p> <p>Week 5 – Numbers to 3</p> <p>Week 6 – Numbers to 4</p>	<p>Year 1</p> <p>EYFS to Year 1 Transition Unit</p> <p>Unit 1 Place value</p> <p>Unit 2 Length and mass</p> <p>Unit 3 Addition and subtraction</p> <p>Unit 4 2D and 3D shape</p>	<p>Year 2</p> <p>Unit 1 Place Value</p> <p>Unit 2 Length and Mass</p> <p>Unit 3 Addition and Subtraction</p> <p>Unit 4 2-D and 3D Shape</p>	<p><u>Why is Mae Jamison so amazing?</u></p> <p>Topic: Scientists and inventors</p> <p>Can you tell me what Thomas Edison invented? What did Marie Curie discover? What does the telephone do? Who built the first successful airplane? What did Isaac Newton discover about things falling? What did James Dyson improve?</p>	<p><u>What makes someone amazing?</u></p> <p>Topic: Describe significant people from the past. (Black history month)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can I think about some reasons why someone might be significant? 2. To understand that the story of MLK holds global significance. 3. To understand that the story of Rosa Parks holds global significance. 4. To understand how Katherine Johnson’s mathematical knowledge helped NASA space travel. 5. To give three facts about Mae Jemison. 6. To celebrate curiosity and science; learn about Neil deGrasse Tyson’s ideas. 7. To learn about the Apollo 11 mission and crew teamwork.
<p><u>Guided Reading</u></p>					
<p>Amazing Grace by Mary Hoffman</p>					

Art/DT	RE Lancashire Agreed Syllabus	Music	PSHE Coram Life Education Year 1 (Personalised for YR/Y2 where necessary)	Computing
<p><u>Can I bring my puppet to life?</u></p> <p>Topic: Textiles Use a variety of techniques to create a puppet including cutting, gluing, stapling and pinning.</p>	<p><u>Why do Christians say that God is a 'Father'?</u></p> <p>Religion: Christianity</p> <p>God the Father, prayer.</p>	<p>Lancashire Music Service</p> <hr/> <p>PE (Chorley SSP)</p> <p><u>Who is the most important person in a team?</u></p> <p>Topic: Invasion Games - Hockey</p>	<p><u>Why do we have rules?</u></p> <p>Topic: Me and my relationships</p> <p>Why we have classroom rules How are you listening? Thinking about feelings Our feelings Feelings and bodies Good friends</p>	<p><u>How do I keep myself safe online?</u></p> <p>Topic: Online Safety Purple Mash 1.1 and 2.2</p> <p>Can I name some ways that members of my family talk to each other and other people using the internet?</p> <p>Can I name an app, a piece of software or a technology that I use or could use to talk to people I know?</p>