

Acorn Curricular Letter

Autumn 1 2026- In the beginning.

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We would like to wish you and the children a very warm welcome to Acorn class. We hope you've all had a lovely summer and are ready for a new academic year of learning, fun and adventure. I am Miss Keeling and am extremely excited to be teaching your child over the next academic year, alongside Miss Caldwell who will be supporting Acorn class.

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 and 2. Our first topic is called 'In the beginning' and many of our lessons 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. We aim to read with children several times a week individually (this will be with a member of staff) and we do encourage children to read at home regularly.

We will continue to provide children with a piece of fruit, free of charge, each day. Toast is still available daily at 25p. 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 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,

Miss Keeling

Class teacher

Days to Remember

Monday

-Spelling test
-New spellings issued
-PE

After School Club –
Chorley SSP

Tuesday

-PE
-Art/DT with Mrs
Smith
-Music
After School Club –
Board Games

Wednesday

After School Club –
Music and movement

Thursday

After School Club –
Performing Arts

Friday

Forest Friday

After School Club –
Book/Film Club

TOPIC

Our topic driver this half term is, '**In the beginning!**' driven by our Geography lessons, focusing on dinosaurs.

In Geography **Where in the world is..?** We will develop global awareness by looking in detail at the position of the seven continents and five oceans of the world, understanding that the world is spherical and creating their own journeys across the world. We investigate the location of countries, continents and oceans of the world in relation to the position of the United Kingdom and children's own locality. Children continue to build on their map skills developed in Year 1 using atlases, world maps and globes more widely, along with using aerial photographs to recognise human and physical features including landmarks.

In Art we will be asking **What would a pet dinosaur look like?** Children will experiment with line, shape and form. They will investigate objects they find in their environment to create prints. Using a variety of processes and articles they will design and make a print to use on a fabric pencil case. This will take the form of their pet dinosaur.

Do all animals breath air and eat meat? Will be our question for our young scientists this half term. This term, we will be learning all about animals, focusing on identifying and naming a variety of common animals, including UK mammals, birds, reptiles, fish and amphibians. We will explore how animals can be grouped according to what they eat, including carnivores, herbivores and omnivores. We will also learn about the importance of caring for animals and what they need to stay healthy and safe.

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 times tables on Times Tables Rockstars. Also, children should continue to practise their number work on Numbots.

Year 1 - we will be developing our understanding of place value, exploring numbers and what each digit represents. We will investigate length and mass, using practical activities to compare, measure and describe objects. The children will build their confidence with addition and subtraction, using practical resources and different strategies to solve problems. We will also explore 2D and 3D shapes, learning to recognise, name and describe their properties.

Year 2 - we will strengthen our understanding of place value, working with larger numbers and exploring how numbers can be represented in different ways. We will develop our measuring skills by investigating length and mass, making comparisons and using standard units. The children will practise addition and subtraction, applying their knowledge to increasingly challenging calculations and real-life problems. We will finish by exploring 2D and 3D shapes, identifying their features and using mathematical vocabulary to describe and sort them.

LITERACY

Writing

In English, We will focus on reading stories with a fantasy setting including Captain Flinn and the Dinosaurs and finding out **Can a dinosaur be a friend?** Our grammar focus is identifying and sorting nouns and adjectives. The children will then use familiar plots for structuring the opening, middle and end of their stories. They will orally plan and rehearse ideas before writing their own story.

Our next unit is based upon '**Can I write a poem for the Reception children to perform?**' We will look at a variety of texts based on a theme and perform them using intonation, dance and instruments. The children will then identify a rhythm and construct their own verse to a known poem. Our grammar focus will be investigating how to add the suffix -ness to create a noun and then adding the suffix -ness to adjectives that end in y to create nouns.

We will then focus on the features of a non-chronological report and create our own by exploring the possibility '**Could a dinosaur live in Mossy Meadow?** '

We will continue to look at year group appropriate spelling patterns and rules and I will send the weekly spelling patterns home on Monday, using the 'Spelling Shed' resources and the children will be tested on Mondays.

Reading

Year 1 will have their guided reading session using phonics books. Children will be able to spot sounds they have learnt, decode words and be able to discuss and answer reading comprehension questions about what they have read.

The children in Year 2 and year 3 will 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 books this half term will be **The Dinosaurs packed Lunch by Jacqueline Wilson** and **Hairy Maclary from Donaldson's Dairy by Lynley Dodd**.

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. **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.

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, 19th 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.