



Acorn Curricular Letter



Spring 1 2023- If you go down to the woods today...

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 even though they were faced with a 'crime scene' to investigate "Was the wolf really the bad character?" as part of our Literacy unit. A pantomime and a crime scene in the first two days of the 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 'If you go down to the woods today' and many of our activities will relate to this. We will be learning about the traditional tales with a twist, how do we tell others what happened here in the past? Living things and their habitats, how to paint our environment, computer coding and how to keep ourselves safe.

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

Monday

New spellings issued
(on Seesaw)

SATS booster Year 6
(invitation only)

Tuesday

PE
Book club

Wednesday

Mrs Harrison ICT

Thursday

*After school club –
Performing Arts with
Miss Fenton*

Friday

Spelling test
PE
Music with LMS
*After school club –
with Chorley SSP-
Street Dance.*

TOPIC

This half term our topic is 'If you go down to the woods today'. The children will be immersed in everything fairy tale themed with a twist in Literacy and the continuous provision helping to amplify their imagination. In History they will be challenged 'Has there always been a school on Mossy Lea?' by undertaking a study of the local area. The role play area this half term is a wooded area with a camping site to help them investigate living things and their environment as we ask 'Would a mouse eat a bear?'. In this unit children will learn about a variety of habitats and the plants and animals that live there.

They learn the difference between things that are living, dead and things that have never been alive, and apply this in a range of contexts. They make observations of a local habitat and the creatures that live there, investigating conditions in local microhabitats and how they affect the minibeasts found within them. This unit allows children to research a range of global habitats and how the living things that live there are suited to their environments, and also provides an introduction to the idea of dependency between plant and animal species. Other areas of continuous provision activities will include an abundance of opportunities to investigate colour and texture as part of their Art unit. 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.

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 50)** - representing numbers to 50, one more and one less and comparing numbers within 50.

Year 2 and 3 will begin the half term with a unit on **Multiplication and Division** – recognising, making and adding equal groups, using arrays, the 2,5 and 10 times table and dividing by 2,5 and 10. Year 3 (3, 4 and 8). They will be investigating **length and height**. They will complete the half term with a unit on **Statistics** - Making tally charts, drawing and interpreting pictograms.

LITERACY

Writing

Our first literacy unit is Fairy Tales with a Twist. During this topic we will read, enjoy and analyse a whole range of traditional fairy tales and fairy tales with a twist. We will answer questions, give opinions about the stories, discuss the characters thoughts and feelings and make predictions. Acorns will then use subordination for time and explore adding suffixes to words to create adjectives. 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 fairy tales together and talk about what the characters are thinking and feeling.

LITERACY

Reading

Acorn class will continue to develop their reading skills in English and Guided Reading. 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, 6th 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.

