



Acorn Curricular Letter

Spring 2 2023 – Wild Weather

Welcome back after what I hope was a lovely half term break for you all. The homework that was brought in at the end of the last half term was very impressive so thank you for all your efforts at home – it was great to see lots of work uploaded to Seesaw too. Acorn Class have quickly settled back into their routines and have applied themselves superbly during our first week back. It has been a brilliant start to the half term with, well done kids! We have a very busy rest of the half term filled with other exciting activities to enhance our curriculum.

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 1 and Year 2. Our topic is called 'Wild Weather' and many of our activities will relate to this. We will be learning about ways we can bring a weather report to life, how we can predict the weather and how we can make a vehicle powered by the weather.

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 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 Barclay
Teacher

Monday

New spellings issued
on seesaw

SATs booster 6

Tuesday

PE

Book club after
school

Wednesday

Mrs Harrison teaching
am.

Thursday

*After school club –
Performing Arts with
Miss Fenton*

Friday

PE
Spelling test

*After school club –
Curling/Boccia*

TOPIC

This half term our topic is 'Wild Weather!'. The children will be emerged in everything weather themed, from English texts to Geography and Science activities and everything in between. In Geography the Wonderful Weather unit will explore different types of weather in our immediate environment. The children will then have the opportunity to relate this knowledge our science work on the seasons. The children will then be introduced to hot and cold areas of the world and the impact of different weather types. Children will have opportunities to observe and record the weather, present their own weather forecasts and make valuable links with Science, Computing, Numeracy and Literacy from across the curriculum.

In Science, the 'Seasonal Changes (Spring and Summer)' unit will teach the children about spring and summer. Children will use a class weather station to observe, measure and record the weather in different seasons and will start to make comparisons between two seasons, as well as across all four seasons. They will also observe changes across the seasons by exploring the signs of spring and summer through nature and wildlife. A range of learning activities are used in this unit, including observation, discussion and learning outside. Children also work scientifically by collecting, recording and interpreting simple data.

In DT the children will investigate 'How can I win the Mossy Lea boat race?' Children will follow a brief to take part in the Mossy Lea boat race. They will research and analyse factors that will influence their design and write a specification their boat must adhere to. They will design and make their vehicles and compete in a race before evaluating their design.

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.

Year 1 will begin the half term with a unit on **Place value** (within 50) **Length and Height** – measuring and comparing lengths. They will then move onto unit on **Weight and Volume** - measuring and comparing mass and capacity.

Year 2 will begin the half term with a unit on **Length and height, Shape and perimeter** They will complete the half term beginning a unit on **Fractions** - Recognising a half, quarter and a third.

LITERACY

Writing

In English, we will begin with *Can I bring a weather report to life?* The children will then perform their written piece on green screen as a weather report. In grammar we they will be learning about adding prefixes and suffixes, learning the rule for adding s and es as a plural marker for nouns, and the third person singular marker for verbs (I drink - he drinks). Use suffixes where no change to the spelling of the root word is needed: growing, eating, quicker, quickest.

They will also be asking *Can I help Nick Butterworth to write his next book?* by innovating a version of other Nick Butterworth stories. We will complete the half term with a poetry unit, the children will recite and add actions to the weather poem.

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.

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). Focus being on the features of non-fiction texts.

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.

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, 27th March

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.

