



# Acorns Curriculum Overview

## Term 1 – September 2023

Dear Parents,

We hope you had a good summer and we welcome you and your child to Acorns. In order for your child to get the best out of school, we believe that we should foster a close partnership with you, the parents. Therefore, we are available after school to discuss any issues that may arise. We do understand, especially for new parents to school, that this can be an anxious time both for the parent and the child. No question is “silly” so please do contact us if you have any questions – either speak to us after school or email us on [letters@ogbourne.excalibur.org.uk](mailto:letters@ogbourne.excalibur.org.uk) and we will reply during school hours. Also, we would like to invite you to an informal coffee morning on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September at 9.30 a.m. Before this, at 9.00 a.m, the school holds a Wow Worship where children's achievements are celebrated. The coffee morning will follow this and will be an opportunity for us to address any questions you may have, once your child has started school.

Please find detailed below an overview of our learning in Acorns this term.

**Topic:** Our topic this term is ‘All About Me’. The children will be learning about their appearance, how they have changed (from baby to toddler to now), recognising different emotions and senses and then looking at families and homes. **Please could you send in or email a photo of your child when they were a baby and a toddler, which we can use for a display in the classroom.** We will take good care of the photos.



**Phonics:** Phonics is how we teach reading and writing – please do come along to our Parents’ Information Evening on ‘**Early Reading and Phonics**’ on **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September at 6.00pm**. Each day, the children will learn a new ‘phoneme’ (the sound that an alphabet letter makes e.g c for cat) and they will learn to read it and to write it. By the end of Term 1, we will have covered MOST of the letters of the alphabet (graphemes). Information about the week’s phonics will be sent home on a Friday, in a plastic file, for you to practise with your child at home. This will include “Harder to Read and Spell Words” and the grapheme-phoneme correspondence (GPC) which is also known as ‘letter-sound correspondence’. Alongside this, you will also find two new reading books linked to the phonics scheme plus a class library book which your child has chosen themselves for you to read to them. These books will also be sent home every Friday, starting Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September. A reading record will



accompany these books with a written comment from the teacher. Please could you date and sign when you hear your child read – if a child reads at least four times a week, they will earn a “Praise Point”.

The school policy states that book bags should be sent into school daily. This is because parent helpers may hear your child read. We would be very grateful if the bookbags could come in daily. However, it is imperative that your child's book bag and plastic file are at least sent back to school every Thursday so that we can change the books and insert the homework after school.

**5 Maths:** Following *Can Do Maths*, each day we take a little step further, building on what we have learned before. As a class, the children will be working on numbers 1-7 – learning to count aloud (backwards and forwards), recognising and writing the numerals and looking really closely at how the number is made up e.g  $5 = 2+3$ ,  $3+2$ ,  $1+4$  etc. They will also do plenty of counting things out as they say the number – it's a crucial skill. We want the children to understand that the count for a set of objects remains the same even if the objects are moved around, as long as no objects are added or removed. During teacher led activities, we will be able to support those children who need help with the whole class work and extend the learning of those children who are confident with the whole class work.



**Writing:** In addition to phonics, the children will begin writing at their own level in “Drawing Club” – a program which promotes learning of new verbal vocabulary plus creative story making. Also, we will cover daily ‘Squiggle as you Wiggle’ sessions where the children copy certain movements designed to build up their upper body strength which is necessary to help with writing. The children will also learn to hold their pencils correctly at all times. Using the phonics learned during the phonics lessons, we will encourage the children to write/ make marks to represent writing during their child-initiated sessions as well as during teacher led activities.

**RE:** We will look at what makes people special to us – family, friends and role models. Then we will meet two special people in the Bible – Jesus and Moses.

**PE:** Sport coaches will lead the PE sessions on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. This term's focus will be on ways of moving (running, slithering etc) and moving to music. As part of the Early Learning Goals, children need to be able to dress themselves independently so we would like your child to have a PE kit in school which should comprise of a white t-shirt, blue or black shorts and daps or velcro trainers for ease of changing. On PE days, they should come to school in their school uniform as getting changed will be part of the PE lesson. Please ensure every piece of



clothing is named. Also, we would be very grateful if you could supply a change of underwear and socks, to be kept in the PE bags, in case of any accidents.

**PSHE: (Personal, Social, Health and Emotional Education)** We use the Scarf scheme for these lessons and we will be looking at relationships and emotions.

**Homework:** The BEST thing you can do to support your Acorn is to read with them at home - read to them and listen to them read to you. The more books you read together, the better a reader your child will become. Substantial research has proven that the more a child reads and is read to, the better they perform academically. Please see attached letter about reading, and as mentioned above, information about phonics and reading will come home weekly.

Please spend ten minutes, four times a week, hearing your child read their two phonics books and support them with learning the week's phonics, on the sheet sent home weekly.

We look forward to working with you and your child this year.

Here's to a happy and prosperous year!

Best wishes,  
Mrs Crump and Mrs Procter

Mrs Crump teaches on Mondays

Mrs Procter teaches Tuesday through to Friday.