



Acorns Curriculum

Term 2, 2023-24

Dear Parents,

We hope you had a good half term. Your child worked very hard in Term 1 and we are both incredibly pleased with how well each child has settled in.

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

Topic: Our topic this term is 'Celebrations'. The children will be learning about the Gunpowder Plot, Diwali, Remembrance Day, Hanukkah, Advent and Christmas. We will also be looking at how they celebrate their own birthdays. **Please could you send in or email a photo of your child celebrating their birthday.** We will take good care of the photos.



Phonics: Phonics is how we teach reading and writing. We have covered most of the letters of the alphabet and then in week 2, we will introduce digraphs. Digraphs are two letters that make one sound, such as 'ch' and 'ee'. Please, please practise the grapheme (letter representing a phoneme (sound)) sheets which come home every week with your child. The phonics programme is fast-paced and it will be so helpful if you could practise the sheet every day for 1 or 2 minutes. The more practice your child has, the quicker they will learn to recognise and read the letters. A fun way to encourage your child to participate in this "homework" could be, using the week's grapheme, to play "I spy" or to play the robot talk game where you break down the sounds – you could say "Point to your l-e-g. Point to your n-e-ck etc." Please talk to us if your child is reluctant to co-operate, we can give you some ideas of games to play instead.

Reading: As part of our daily phonics lesson, every child reads to the teacher. On a Friday, the phonics lesson is a reading lesson where the children read decodable books to each other in pairs. The teacher will hear your child read a decodable book at least once a week and will then write a comment in the reading record. Please feel free to write comments in the reading record. Thank you for ensuring your child has their book bag in school every day.



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 from 7 – 10, recognising and writing the numerals and looking really closely at how the number is made up e.g. $7 = 2+5$, $3+4$, $1+6$ etc. 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: The children are making good progress with using the correct pencil grip. 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. In the run up to Christmas, the children will be writing letters to Santa. They will also be writing party invitations. We will introduce a writing session called “Drawing Club”, in which we tell the class stories, teaching them new vocabulary. Then the children will have the opportunity to write or make marks linked to the day’s story. We have a frieze on the wall of all the graphemes (letters) learnt so far which will support the children with their writing. Perhaps you’d like to try this at home too?

RE: We will look at the Christmas story in the Bible and think about why Christians perform Nativity plays at Christmas.

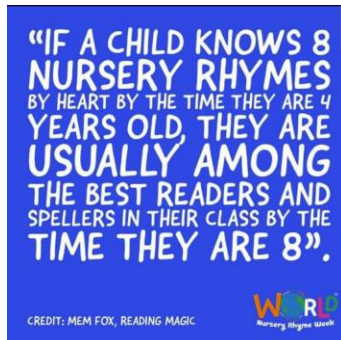
PE: Sport coaches will lead the PE sessions on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. This term’s focus will build on last term’s work and will continue to focus on ways of moving (running, slithering etc) and moving to music. Just a reminder that as part of the Early Learning Goals, children need to be able 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 how to value differences between people. We will also be starting the ‘My Happy Mind’ programme.

Homework: Please continue to hear your child read and practise the weekly grapheme sheet. Playing games like “Snakes and Ladders” or dominoes are fun but educational too.



Here's a thought:



If you have any magazines, catalogues or Sunday supplements which need recycling, please could you send them in to the classroom; we have many uses for the pictures inside them!

Please do contact us if you have any questions – either speak to us after school or email us on letters@ogbourne.excalibur.org.uk and we will reply during school hours.

Best wishes,
Mrs Crump and Mrs Procter

Mrs Crump teaches on Mondays

Mrs Procter teaches on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays