



Acorns Curriculum Overview

Term 1 – September 2024

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 and we will reply during school hours. Also, we would like to invite you to an informal coffee morning on **Thursday 19th September from 9.00 a.m. until 9.30 a.m.** - it 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 **Wednesday 11th September at 6.00p.m.** 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 13th



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: 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. 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 always hold their pencils correctly.

RE: We will look at the “Big Question”, “Why is the word ‘God’ so important to Christians.

PE: Sport coaches will lead the PE sessions on Tuesday afternoons and Thursday mornings. 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.



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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, Mrs Procter and Mrs Stannard

Mrs Crump teaches on Mondays and Tuesdays

Mrs Procter teaches Wednesday through to Friday

Mrs Stannard is our class Teaching Assistant

Reading letter is attached on the next page:



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Reading at Ogbourne - Acorns and Oaks

Dear Parents and carers

Following an update from the DfE around phonics teaching, we have moved to **Essential Letters and Sounds**; this is a daily phonics programme based on Letters and Sounds (2007). This new phonics programme will support your children in making quick progress to become fluent and confident readers by **decoding** words (recognising what sound each letter pattern makes)

How often should I read the decodable texts sent home weekly with my child?

To best support us in teaching your child how to read, we ask that you read the two **decodable texts** provided by the school 5 times across the week. Spending 10 minutes a day reading with your child will hugely support them in their journey to becoming an independent reader. Your child will be practising what they have been taught in school with you at home. We will only ask children to read books independently when they can decode these by themselves.

What is fluency?

It is a key part of learning to read that children re-read words and sentences that they can decode until they are **fluent** (read with ease and precision). By reading texts several times, children have the greatest opportunity to achieve this fluency. The texts sent home are carefully matched to the teaching taking place in school.

What are sharing books?

Any books that are not yet decodable for the children will be a **sharing book**. These books are there for you to read with your child, helping us to instil a love of reading from the very beginning of their reading journey. These could be read together with your child reading the words they are able to decode or could be read to your child. Children will be able to choose a sharing book from the class library to bring home along with their decodable books each week. They must bring back the sharing book before being allowed to take another home.

When do book bags need to be in school?

We will be changing children's books once a week on Fridays; this allows your child to re-read each book several times building their confidence and fluency. This is especially important as they begin to learn that the sounds within our language can be spelt in different ways. **Please make sure that book bags are brought in to school every Thursday in order for the books to be changed and ready for Friday.**

How can I communicate with the teacher about how reading is going at home?



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All children will have a reading record which will go between home and school in the book bag. This will be seen weekly by the teacher changing books. If you would like to comment about how your child is finding the reading books- positives and difficulties, please do write in the reading record. You can record here what books you have read and when.

How can we find out more about phonics?

We will be sharing more details on reading at Ogbourne at our **Phonics and Early reading evening on Wednesday 11th September 6-7pm**. All parents and interested relatives are invited and we look forward to welcoming you there.

With good wishes

Karina Nicholson, Amanda Virgilio, Lucy Crump, Lou Procter, Claire Cates, Rachel Stannard
(KS1 and EYFS class teachers and TAs)

Principal: **Lucy Crump**

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