



**Acorns Curriculum**  
**Spring Term 3: 2025**

Dear Parents,

We hope you all had a good Christmas. Thank you very much for the lovely cards and generous gifts; we are very grateful.

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

**Topic:** Our topic this term is ‘The Three Little Pigs’. The children will be learning about:



- Which materials, both natural and man-made, are suitable for building homes
- Whether wet or dry sand is best to build with (there will be an opportunity for the children to experiment with different ratios of water and sand – Science and Maths in one activity!)
- Different houses around the world – including looking at why the houses are the shape they are and why they are built from certain materials. This is an opportunity for the children to notice similarities and differences between life in this country and life in other countries. They will recreate these different houses using Duplo, Lego, the outside building blocks and recycled boxes.
- Houses from the past
- Aerial maps - we will use Google Earth to look at the school’s locality and think about if the pigs could find a suitable place to build their homes here. Then the children will draw their own maps.
- We will also be going for a walk through the village, to look at different types of houses. If the weather is fine, we will be doing this on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January at 9.00a.m. and we would be very grateful if a parent could please help us supervise this walk.

We will also be celebrating Chinese New Year on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January.

**Speaking, Listening, Writing:** After listening to the story of “The Three Little Pigs”, the children will retell the story using puppets and masks. On a Monday, we would like to encourage the children to talk about their weekends – please send your child in with photos or items to help prompt them.



The children write words based on the phonics lesson each day, but we will now start to encourage the children to have a go at writing e.g. writing what the pigs could say to the wolf in speech bubbles. As a class, we will write letters to the wolf and to the pigs. The children will also have the opportunities for free writing in the role play area. In addition to this, 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 using the homework sheets which are identical to our frieze?

**Phonics:** Thank you for all your support with listening to your child read at home – the children are making super progress with their reading. We will continue to look at digraphs which are two letters that make one sound, such as ‘ch’ and ‘ee’. Quite a few of the children are finding the digraphs quite tricky to learn e.g. oa. Please DO NOT worry - the scheme is fast paced, and we do have to rigidly adhere to it. This term continues with more new digraphs then term 4 is a complete review of term 2 and 3 so the children will have a chance to recap their learning. If your child is struggling, please refer to the homework sheets, it's ok to prompt them. Please do come and talk to us if you have any questions.

**Reading:** A reminder to please bring book bags to school every day. On Thursdays, your child will read their new book to either Mrs Procter or Mrs Stannard and the new books will come home on the Friday. Also, students from Marlborough College hear the children read on a Wednesday afternoon but they do not write comments in the reading record. N.B. The children read every day to the teacher during the phonics lesson. On a Friday, the phonics lesson is a reading lesson where the children read decodable books to each other in pairs.



**Maths:** Alongside our scheme, where we will be looking at the composition of numbers (e.g. 3 and 2 make 5), we will also be looking at repeating patterns (using shapes and objects) and continuing a repeating pattern. We will also use the words “longer than”, “shorter than”, “heavier than” and “lighter than” when using sticks and straw to build the pigs’ houses.



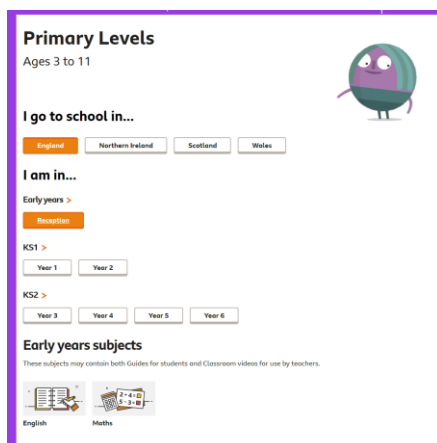
**RE:** We will look at the big question – “How can we help others when they need it?” which focuses on the Christian concept of “salvation” and includes the parable of The Good Samaritan.

**PE:** Sports leaders will lead the PE sessions on Tuesday afternoons and Thursday mornings. Tuesday’s focus will be on gymnastics. Thursday’s work will be based on ball games.



**PSHE: (Personal, Social, Health and Emotional Education)** Our focus is on keeping safe. This includes talking about how to keep their bodies healthy and safe, how to stay safe around medicines, how to stay safe at school, home and on-line. We will also introduce the important issue of consent, here in the form of safe and unsafe touches.

**Homework:** Please continue to listen to your child read their school book daily and practise the weekly grapheme sheet. Please also read stories to your child on a regular basis; if you are busy, let your child listen to an audio book. Playing games like "Snakes and Ladders" or dominoes are fun but educational too. Have a look at BBC bitesize, [Home - BBC Bitesize](#), selecting age Reception and Maths. Here is an example: [Numberblocks - See the Amount \(bbc.co.uk\)](#)



Any of the maths games on this free website would be suitable for your child to play.

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 at [letters@ogbourne.excalibur.org.uk](mailto:letters@ogbourne.excalibur.org.uk) and we will reply during school hours.

Best wishes,  
Mrs Crump, Mrs Procter and Mrs Stannard

Mrs Crump teaches on Mondays and Tuesdays. Mrs Procter teaches on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Friday.

Mrs Stannard is our class Higher Level Teaching Assistant.