



# Acorn Spring Term Newsletter

Happy New Year! We hope you had a happy and restful holiday.

Our topic for the 1st half term is 'Water, water, everywhere'. The children will be learning what we need water for, Winter, floating and sinking.

Our topic for the 2nd half term is 'Our wonderful world'. We will be talking about Spring, nocturnal animals and space.

## **What will we be learning this term?**

### **Prime Areas of Learning**

(Communication & Language, Personal, Social & Emotional development, Physical development)

The children will be developing their communication skills by having a talking partner. The children will be asked a question, and they will be encouraged to talk to their talking partner to work out an answer.

We will be helping the children identify different feelings and emotions and help them to identify ways of dealing with them. We will also be giving children time to use various mindfulness activities they already know, for example yoga, listening to calming music and drawing to music.

The children will be learning to create movements to different styles of music. The children will continue to develop their fine motor skills by using pens and pencils using a tripod grip, using scissors, using pegs and threading beads.

### **Specific Areas of Learning**

(Literacy, Maths, Understanding of the World, Expressive Arts & Design)

We will be covering all 7 aspects in our phonics program: environmental sounds, instrumental sounds, body percussion, rhythm and rhyme, alliteration, voice sounds, oral blending, and segmenting. Phonics is taught by using fun activities and games.

We will be starting a new universal programme to support the children's oral language development. Children need strong oral language skills to talk and develop relationships with others, to become confident readers and to support their learning in all areas of development. The 'Talking Time' programme works by combining language activities and interactions with adults, resulting in high quality conversations. The children will be in small groups of up to 5 children and will have two 15-minute sessions a week. All of the activities are based on high quality children's story books.

We will be investigating simple 2D shapes, looking at and talking about patterns and repeating patterns. We will continue to consolidate numbers 1-10, including 1:1 correspondence when counting to 10.

The children will be learning about the New Luna Year and how it is celebrated. They will also learn about how Christians celebrate Easter.

The children will be discovering what happens when different colours are mixed together and making observational drawings.

### **Other messages:**

#### **Winter Weather**

It is very cold at the moment and the children have access to the outside area every day, our outside door is left open to allow free flow during child-initiated learning. Therefore, our unit is drafty, so please send your child in warm clothing. A hat and pair of gloves is also essential to help keep the cold out. Please encourage your child to put on their own coat and let them try and do up any buttons or zips on their own.

#### **Library books**

On a Thursday, the children will get a chance to use our school library. Each child gets to choose a book to take home. Please ensure any library books are returned to school on a Thursday. There are a number of books still outstanding, please can you make sure you have returned all library books.

#### **Welly Wednesday** (Outdoor Learning session)

We have lots of fun activities planned for our Welly Wednesday sessions. Please send your child in wearing their Outdoor Learning clothes, make sure they have extra layers on, including thick socks and gloves, as we will be spending most of the session outside. Please remember to put your child's school shoes in a plastic bag, this bag will then be hung on their peg. This bag will then be used to put their muddy clothes in, at the end of the session.

#### **Tapestry** (online Learning Journal)

We will continue to document Wow! Moments on Tapestry. If you would like to share any of your child's Wow! Moments from home, please add photos and a short explanation on to Tapestry. We love sharing these moments with the children and it gives us a true picture of your child as a whole.

Please can you share a family photo so we can display it in our classroom and help every child feel a sense of belonging, thank you.

If you have any questions, please come and ask. We look forward to another fun and busy term.

Best wishes

Mrs Denham and Mrs Forsdike