



Acorns Newsletter



September 23rd 2024

What a super start!



We have had a wonderful couple of weeks getting to know you and your children and are so proud of them all for their brilliant start to school life. We are so impressed by how confident and independent they have all been as they have explored and played.

There were many big smiles as the children came into Reception to find their peg and start their play and learning. We always anticipate a few tears as they say their goodbyes but these quickly disappear as they get busy with their new friends.

Your child's school belongings

A little reminder of the items your child needs to bring into school every day:

- **a school book bag** (no rucksacks please as we cannot store them easily)
- **a coat suitable for the weather**
- **a water bottle**

Please ensure **all** of your child's belongings are **clearly named** - please don't forget to name the clothing they are most likely to remove e.g. jumpers and shoes, as many of these items look the same and are likely to get muddled. Water bottles have been a particular conundrum...please do check your child's name is clearly marked. If you cannot source labels, a permanent marker or biro will do the trick nicely - we can do this for you on request.

Your child has a drawer for their jumper and a box for their water bottle. Please do not place these items into their book bags as water bottles may leak and damage the books inside and if the book bag is too bulky it will not fit into your child's drawer. To help your child recognise their book bag, we recommend you attach one small keyring or tie a special ribbon to the handle.

Our Acorns newsletter

We will endeavour to send out this newsletter each fortnight via email to keep you informed of your child's learning experiences. It will also be published on our school website. We hope to include photographs of your children engaged in the learning experiences however we do need your consent for this. If you wish for your child to be included, please check the consents on your registration forms. This information is held by our school office if you need to check.

Reception Baseline Assessment

Within the first six weeks of starting their Reception year, we carry out an assessment of your child's early skills and knowledge within the following areas of learning: literacy, communication, language and mathematics. We will be using the statutory Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA) to complete these assessments. The purpose of the RBA is twofold; firstly, it will inform us of your child's current level of learning in order that we can plan for their next steps and secondly, it will provide a benchmark for their ongoing progress through the school.

The RBA is a short, interactive and practical assessment using materials that your child will be familiar with. They will not be aware they are being assessed - rather it will be a playful experience in the company of a familiar adult (their contact teacher).

If you would like to read more information about the RBA, please follow this link to access a parent leaflet: [Reception baseline assessment: information for parents - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reception-baseline-assessment-information-for-parents)

Collecting your child from school

To make collection time efficient and safe, we will ask you to form two lines in the car park outside our Acorns front gate. If your child's first name begins with the letters **A-K**, please line up on the left side of the gate as you face the Acorns building. For surnames beginning with the letters **L-Z**, please line up on the right. A member of our staff team will dismiss the children one at a time on each side of the gate.

As there are many of you to get to know, we will be asking you for your child's password which you provided on your 'Going Home Arrangements' form. Please do not be offended if we continue to need to ask you for this password for a while - it is simply that there are many faces for us to remember. If you have not yet provided us with a password, please come to school tomorrow prepared to fill in the form before you leave at drop off time.

We understand you may wish to talk to us about how your child is getting on, or pass on messages e.g. asking how they ate at lunchtime. **We politely ask that you hang back and wait until all children have been dismissed.** We can then safely give you our attention.



School lunches

We hope you all enjoyed sampling our tasty school dinners and that you are now be able to book your child's school lunches in advance via the School Gateway system. Please contact the school office if you are having any problems with this and they will gladly help you. Please ensure your child's meal is ordered before 8am each day. If you choose to send your child with a packed lunch, please ensure their lunch bag is clearly named and that the food items provided are nut-free. Please note, you can switch between packed lunches and school dinners as frequently as you wish according to your child's meal preferences.

Have a wonderful week!