



# Acorns Newsletter

September 15th, 2023



## Three cheers to the Acorns children!



Another great week of school and we could not be prouder of your little ones for taking these first steps into their Reception life with enthusiasm and independence.

As we move towards our first full-time week in school, please remember it is totally normal to see a few tears, especially with saying goodbye. Don't worry because we are all here to help the children and to work with you to make their goodbyes as easy as possible. We will make sure that your child is supported to settle so that they will quickly be off into the provision, happily playing and learning with their friends.

Please do come and talk to us if you have any worries.



## Book to Share

We hope your child has enjoyed bringing their picture books home to share with you this week. Please remind your child to change their book as they walk into class. We will also try our best to prompt them to do so.

Another super reading related video from Ruth Miskin for your information. Please tap on the link below:

[Ten things to think about when you read to your child](#)

## Your child's school belongings

Please see last week's newsletter (which you can find on our school website) for our information regarding the items your child needs to bring to school each day.

Please can we ask you to take particular note of the following:

- Please ensure all items of clothing and equipment are clearly named.
- Please do not send any additional bags such as a rucksack to school as we do not have space to store them during the day.
- PE kits are not needed until after half term. We will inform you closer to the holiday of the day your child will need to come to school wearing their kit.

# Collecting your child from school

Thank you for your patience at collection time. We are getting to know your faces, particularly if you regularly attend, but may still need to ask you for your password even if we have met you recently.

Please ensure anyone collecting your child has their password and is listed on your 'Going Home Arrangements' form which you have provided for us. If you have asked someone who is not included on this form to collect your child, please inform us or the office on the day providing us with their name. Please note, you can add further people to the form should they become a regular collector.

Please can we ask you to come close to the gate when you are next in line to collect your child as staff cannot easily leave the gate unattended to speak to you.

Many thanks.

## Read Write Inc. Phonics

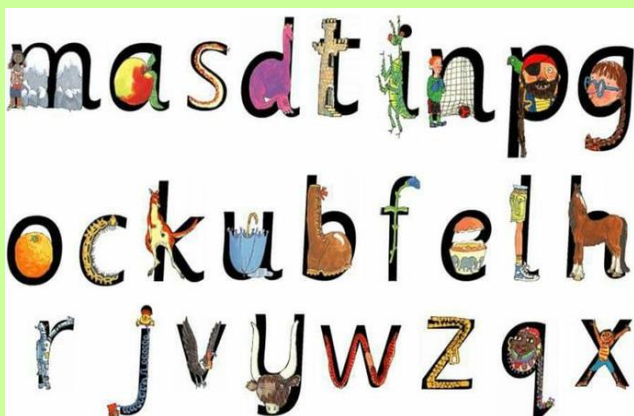


Next week we will begin our phonics programme 'Read Write Inc.'

In this programme, each letter is introduced with a picture matching its sound e.g. an 'apple' for letter 'a', a 'snake' for letter 's' and a 'tower' for letter 't'. Before teaching your children the letter shapes and sounds, we will spend time looking at the pictures which match the letters, ensuring they can name each one. We hope to have covered all the letter words by Friday.

We will be sending home a chart like the one below for you to use at home with your child, with a list of the words we say for each letter. We will also provide a timetable of the letter words we will teach each day so that you know what to practise at home.

Please note, we are not asking them to say the letter name, or the sound, only the picture word e.g. when you point to letter s, your child will say "snake".



Point to and say the name of the picture.

Ask your child to copy.

Repeat with three to four more pictures.

Point to the pictures and increase the speed that your child says the names of the pictures, until they can say the names without hesitation.

Repeat with five new pictures a day until your child can name all the pictures.

# 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.

If you would like to read more information about the RBA, please tap on this link to access a parent leaflet:

[Reception Baseline Assessment Information for Parents 2023](#)



## Accidents or injuries in school

If your child has an accident or injury in school, this will be assessed and treated by our first aiders in school and logged on our 'Medical Tracker'. You will receive an immediate email notification from us. If your child has a toileting accident and we have changed your child in school, this will also be recorded on the Medical Tracker for your information.

If we are concerned about your child following an incident, or if they have sustained a bump to their head, we will either telephone directly, or if it is less urgent, inform you at the end of the school day. For minor injuries, we will not phone you or speak to you directly; **we therefore advise you to check your email each day for Medical Tracker notifications.** If you have any worries following an incident, please do come and talk to us.

## Photo permissions

Each week in our newsletter, we will include some photographs of the children learning in Acorns so you can have a window into their school life and experiences.

As our newsletter is emailed out to all Acorns parents, and published on our school website, we are only able to include images of your child if you gave your consent for this on the forms you completed for the school office. Specifically, consent must be given for 'newsletter' and 'website' use. If you are unsure of your consents, please contact the school office who will be happy to help you.

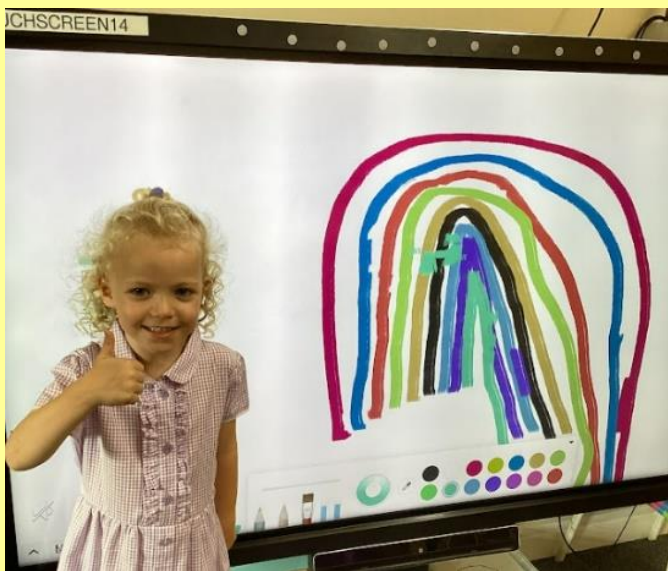


# Exploring Acorns!





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See  
you  
next  
week!