



Acorn and Cherry's Spring Newsletter 2026

Happy New Year!



A warm welcome back!

We hope that you have enjoyed your festive break! We are incredibly pleased to welcome the children back into school once again, and thank you kindly for our thoughtful Christmas gifts and wishes. We are excited that Mrs Harris has joined the Early Years Team and will be teaching in Acorn Class alongside Mrs Shanks. Please say 'hello' to her when you see her!

This half term, our first topic is 'People Who Help Us'. We will be looking at all sorts of people who help us such as dentists, doctors, veterinary nurses, mechanics and librarians. We will be discussing how they help us in our community. We will also discuss what the children want to be when they are older and why.

If you have a 'helpful' job, please let us know. We would love to have you visit to enhance the children's enjoyment of this topic. We will also be inviting in our helpful grandparents to share their experiences of growing up. Please watch for our Parent Mails.

After half term, our topic will be 'Under the Sea'. The children will learn about the watery world beneath the waves and consider the environmental implications of plastic usage. Together, we

P.E. and Forest Fridays

This half term, the children will continue to come into school dressed for P.E. and Forest School. Please ensure that all items are named.

At home, please practise using zips and buttons and turning clothes in the correct way.

Outdoor P.E. will now be on **Thursday** with Matt the Ruggerbug coach teaching pre-rugby balls skills, teamwork and coordination.

On **Friday**, we will now alternate between Forest School and indoor P.E. Please come to school dressed for **Forest School** each Friday.

Reminders: all earrings must be removed for P.E. and all hair longer than shoulder length must be tied back every day.

Shh... Secret Reader

Each Tuesday, at 2:45pm, we will be inviting a 'secret reader' into our classrooms. Join us in person, or over Zoom, to share your favourite story. Secretly, sign up with your class teacher today and surprise your little one!

Maths and English

This term the children are focusing on recognising numerals 0-10. They will also be exploring the composition of numbers up to 10. In addition, they will be learning how to find one more or one less than numbers to 10.

Other skills include:

- Counting to 20
- Comparing quantities to 10
- Exploring odd and even numbers
- Ordering numbers to 10
- Counting back from 10
- Combining two groups of objects (5+4)
- Taking away objects and count how many are left

In English, the children are continuing to practise their handwriting and then linking the phoneme to the grapheme. They are then using their 'Fred Fingers' to help them write words by pinching the sounds they hear (e.g much -> m-u-ch). As the term progresses, the children will begin to read and write captions and sentences, using their developing phonic knowledge to support them.

At home you can support by:

- Practising fine motor skills (e.g. weaving, tweezers, stringing Cheerios etc.)
- Using a variety of materials to keep mark making fun (such as chalkboards, paper, crayons, markers, and pens)
- Using Letterjoin.com to practise letter formation
- Encouraging writing at all opportunities (diaries, cards, stories)
- Don't forget to bring us your efforts to celebrate, so we can celebrate in school!

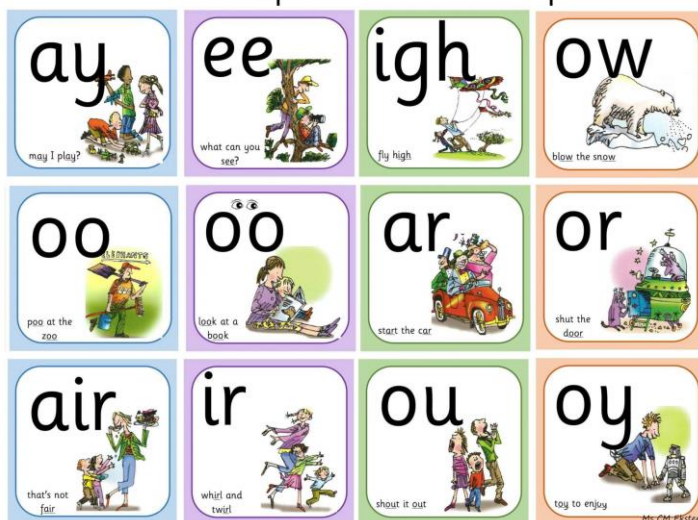
Phonics and Reading

We are continuing to learn these sounds. Please practise at home to ensure that your child is speedy and fluent in identifying the sounds. Using these sounds, ask your child to use 'Fred Talk' to blend the sounds together and then 'say the word.' E.g. p-o-t is *pot* and th-i-ng is *thing*.



Sound mat

Set 2 Speed Sound Map



We look forward to another wonderful term of learning!

If you have any questions (no matter how small), please come and speak to us, before or after school.

The Early Years Team.