



Acorn and Cherry's Autumn Newsletter



A great start!

The children have impressed us all by settling into their new classrooms and routines, with confidence. The EYFS Team feel incredibly lucky to have such lovely children in our classes. Many friendships have already been made and it has been fantastic to see all of the children growing in resilience and feeling more at ease in their new surroundings with each passing day. We thank you, parents and carers, for your support in helping to promote school to the children, demonstrating eagerness and positivity when parting at the gate. To further encourage self-assured children in the morning, and speed up the movement of children into school, it would be beneficial if you could now say goodbye to your child before they reach the gate. This will allow the children to move in more speedily and reduce the amount of time you are having to queue. At the end of the day, remember to ask your child/ren about all the wonderful things they have been up to (What was your favourite activity? Did you make a new friend? Have you been somewhere new today?).

This half term, our topic is 'Come Outside'. We have already enjoyed receiving so many fabulous woodland topic projects, and beautiful shoeboxes, which the children are enjoying playing with and sharing in the classrooms. This half term, they will spend time investigating the signs of autumn, making natural collages and exploring the world around them. We will be starting 'Forest School' on Monday the 8th of September. This means children will wear activewear, with long sleeves and trousers, to school on this day. Children will also need to wear their welly boots when exploring the world around them, so please remember to provide a pair to keep in school.

We will be reading the stories *The Gruffalo* and *Owl Babies*, and using them to underpin the children's learning. Additionally, the children will be discovering different animal habitats and finding out about nocturnal and diurnal animals. It is a great time of year to go outside together and observe changes. In EYFS, learning is a partnership, as such, we encourage you to safely explore the great outdoors and send us many lovely observations on Evidence Me. What a fantastic term we have ahead!

Assessment

For the first few weeks in Reception, we will not be teaching formal lessons. It is vital that we carry out one to one informal assessments of the children's basic skills, so that we can tailor our teaching to meet individual needs. Assessments include: speech and language, maths, reading and writing/ mark-making. They are game or discussion-based, so your child may not even know they have taken place.

If you have any questions about how we carry out our assessments, please speak to your child's class teacher.

P.E.

Both Acorns and Cherries have Forest School on a Monday.

P.E. opportunities for EYFS take place on Wednesdays and Fridays. It is important that children are dressed to be warm and comfortable for their entire school day. Please remember to remove earrings entirely and tie back hair. For this term, children need to come to school dressed in their P.E. kit.

School Dinners

The children have enjoyed eating their delicious school dinners, using a knife and fork. It would be great if you could practise eating using cutlery at home, to allow the children to become more independent during lunchtimes. Please ensure you check the menu on the website each day and prepare your child to tell us which dinner options they would prefer. Remember they can also bring a packed lunch. During lunchtime, the children are monitored by midday assistants. If your child does not eat their lunch, they will try their best to kindly persuade them and we will inform you. Rest assured, no news is good news!

Phonics and Reading

In our school, we teach reading through a programme known as 'Read, Write, Inc.'. This scheme teaches your child to read by blending units of sound together. Initially, your child will bring home wordless books to encourage storytelling and develop imagination. Bedtime books will also be provided and should be read to your child. Reading a bedtime story to a child has been proven to improve a child's vocabulary and has correlated to high GCSE results. As the children are taught more sounds in their daily lessons, they will bring home 'ditties' (small practice sheets) and then reading books which are linked to the sounds they have learnt in school. These books have maximum impact on progress, fluency and confidence when read three times. As such, books will be changed every three days. Please ensure that books and reading records are stored in book bags and are accessible to staff every day as they are used in lessons. As we progress through the term, you will be invited to a training workshop to develop your familiarity of Read, Write, Inc., and learn how best to support your child with their learning at home. Please use the reading record daily to note down books shared at home. It is expected that reading at home occurs daily. Children will receive stickers for their efforts. You can also use the reading record to note any questions about reading, and your child's teacher will get back to you. Comments are not required but please initial or tick in the reading record to let your class teacher know you have been reading at home. Please remember, if you are unsure of how to pronounce any of the sounds, or have any other reading-related questions, please speak to Miss Sneath or Mrs Shanks who will be happy to help you.

These are the first letters and sounds in the order that we will be learning them this half term:



Maths

In EYFS, we focus on mastering the foundations of maths.

This term, we are concentrating on:

Recognising, writing and counting numbers to 5

Learning how to subitise (this means knowing a number without counting it – think of the spots on a die)

Understanding the composition of a number and applying the knowledge to different contexts (see the hula hoop example below)

Comparing mass, length and capacity and learning to use new vocabulary correctly

Recognising and completing repeating patterns

Identifying shapes and using our number knowledge to help us

At home you could help by noticing numbers in the environment, playing board games using a die, counting/ comparing toys or food (such as how many fish fingers are on a plate) or going on a shape hunt.

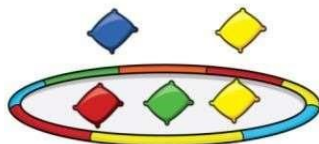


3 is a part and 2 is a part.
The whole is 5

Where is teddy?



Teddy is between the cones.

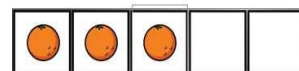


The bottle is heavier
than the key.



What is 1 more than 2?

2



1 more than 2 is 3

Useful dates

Acorn and Cherry performance to parents.

You are invited to sneak into our classrooms for a rendition of The Gruffalo Song!

Monday 22nd September

Acorn – 2.45pm

Cherry – 2.45pm

Extra care

Need help with challenging behaviour at home? Is your child overly anxious? Have you had an unexpected life event? We can help! Talk to us, we are here to support you and your child/ren.

Evidence Me

You will receive an invitation to sign up for observations of your child. This will come to your email address and may be filtered to your junk folder. Please keep an eye out for it. We use Evidence Me to send home updates to keep you in the loop with what your child has been learning, and celebrate 'WOW MOMENTS' through examples of work/play that have impressed us. New observations are released every few weeks.

We would be very grateful if you could keep a close eye on each observation to see if we have highlighted any 'next steps' for learning. Not all observations will have a next step, but where we have suggested ways to help, we would love your support. It may be something physical such as becoming more confident using scissors, or perhaps it will be more academic, such as learning to count a set of 20 objects. Please speak to your child's teacher if you have any queries about this.

We welcome you to comment on the children's observations - it is great to have your support and feedback. Unfortunately, we are unable to reply but do love to share your words and thoughts with the class!

If you have any questions (no matter how big or small), please come and speak to us. We are always happy to speak to you, but it would be helpful if you could wait to the side until all of the children have been dismissed in the afternoon, or received in the morning, so that we are able to give you (and the children) our full attention. Thank you for understanding!

We look forward to a fabulous and fun term ahead!

Miss Sneath and Mrs Shanks