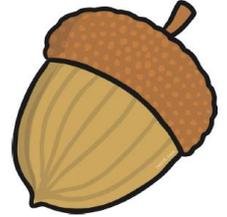




Acorn Class Welcome Newsletter



Dear Parents/ Carers,

We have had a fantastic start to the year and it has been wonderful to see the children settle so happily into school life. They have been working really hard to remember all of the new routines, and are learning our school rules.

Curriculum

This term, we are learning all about 'ourselves' and what happens in Autumn; So far, the children have enjoyed exploring the indoor and outdoor classrooms, mixing colours to paint pictures and role playing family life in the home corner.

Phonics and Reading

The children should all have a scheme reader book in their book bags, which will be changed weekly. This book is wordless and can be used by your child to tell the story through the pictures. Each week the children will also change their home reader book. We recommend that you try to read with your child every day. Please write in your child's yellow contact book each time you read together with your child at home. Your child will read once a week with an adult in class who will also use the contact book to give feedback, next steps and things to try at home.

The children will be starting their phonics journey next week. We follow the phonics programme 'Letters and Sounds', of which there is lots of information online should you wish to find out more. We start off by exploring the sounds words make through rhythm and rhyme. After that, the children will be taught the individual sounds (phonemes) of each letter of the alphabet starting with s, a, t, p, i and n. They will then start to put these sounds together to make short words such as: cat, nap, pin, tap, etc. This is called blending sounds.

Uniform Reminders

If your child has their ears pierced please ensure they come to school wearing studs only; no hooped earrings are allowed, following our health and safety policy.

The children spend a lot of time exploring the outdoors during their child initiated play, therefore it is essential they come to school with suitable clothing for all weathers. The children will also need to bring in a pair of wellies for our all weathers outdoor learning.

We are aiming for your child to develop greater independence. Please help us help them by ensuring all items of clothing are labelled in a way your child will recognise. Please encourage your child to get ready for school independently, most importantly putting on their own shoes and coat.

As stated at the new entrants meeting in July and mentioned in the documents sent home, children need a flat book bag in school rather than a rucksack. This is due to lack of space in the classroom as well as ensuring all necessary books fit inside without being damaged. Please see Miss Smeeton if you are having trouble finding the correct book bag.

If your child goes home with clothing that isn't theirs, please return to class the next day so we can ensure it goes to the correct person.

Religious Education

At Newington CEP School, we follow the Kent Agreed Syllabus (KAS). Each unit consists of a key question, which is developed over each school term. In Terms 1 and 2 our key questions to explore are: Why is the word 'God' so important to Christians? Why do Christians perform Nativity plays at Christmas?

Show and Tell

Every Friday a different group of children will get to bring something in for show and tell. These items could be photos of experiences your child may like to talk about, things they have made at home or interesting things they have found or collected. Toys should not be brought to school on this day or any day. More information about show and tell will follow.

The School Day

Each day, the school gates open at 8:30am and close at 8:50am. From next week collection time will be 3:10pm to fit in with the rest of the school.

Finally...

We love junk modelling in Acorn Class and always need donations of clean boxes, tubes, lids, pots and tubs to make our superb creations.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and to remind you that if there is anything you would like to discuss with me regarding your child's time in school, to approach me at the end of the school day, or make a note in your child's contact book, which is checked daily.

Miss Smeeton