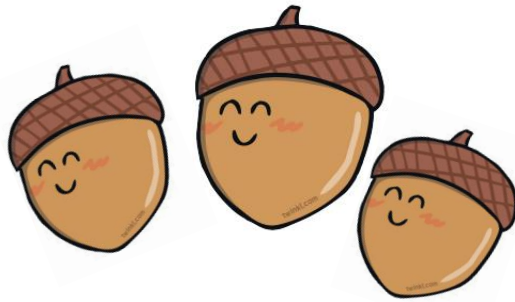


Welcome to Little Acorns



September 2025



Outline of this session:

- to meet your child's new class teacher
 - to share routines and expectations
- information about how you can help support at home
 - how you can get in touch with us



Current position of school

We had a great year last building on lots of successes.

Data in all statutory areas – EYFS, Year 1 phonics check, Year 4 multiplication check and end of KS2 SATs results were all above local and national figures. This is a really strong position to be in.

From these successes, we are in a fantastic position to build and continue to improve!



School Priorities for 2025/26

- To continue to develop and embed oracy skills across school.
- To further embed the writing process, developing on transcription skills.
- To develop SEND provision across school.



Meet the Team



Mrs Lizzie Greenwood
Teaching Assistant



Mrs Vicky Furnandiz
Teaching Assistant



Mrs Andrea Whiteley
Cover Supervisor



Mr David Hanlon
Cover Supervisor



Who and when:

	Morning		Afternoon
Monday	Mrs Kenny Mrs Furnandiz		Mrs Kenny Mrs Greenwood
Tuesday	Mrs Kenny Mrs Furnandiz		Mrs Kenny Mrs Greenwood
Wednesday	Mrs Kenny Mrs Furnandiz		Mrs Kenny Mrs Greenwood
Thursday	Mrs Whiteley Mrs Furnandiz		Mrs Whiteley Mrs Greenwood
Friday	Mrs Whiteley Mrs Furnandiz		Mrs Kenny Mrs Greenwood

Routines:

Every day is different in Little Acorns but we do have some daily routines and regular sessions which we need you to help us with:

Start of the day:

- 8.45 – 8.50

Gates are opened for the children's arrival. We ask children to put their water bottles on the trolley and go into the classroom (after waving goodbye!) They take their own coat off and hang them on their peg then put their bookbag in one of the boxes in the classroom. They are all brilliant at doing this already!

- 8.50

Gates are locked – if you arrive after the gate has been locked you will need to take your child to the main office to be signed in. The office staff will then bring your child to the class and they will be marked late in the register if it is after 9.00.

Register – the register is taken electronically and the children will also do a self-register activity.

Morning session:

- 8.50 – 11.40

This is a mixture of whole class carpet time, small group work and accessing indoor and outdoor continuous provision. This session will include a daily phonics session.

Lunchtime:

- **11.45 – 12.30pm**

The children are led over to the main school hall to eat their lunch. They line-up, collect their tray and cutlery then go to the serving hatch to be served their food by the kitchen staff. They then carry their own tray over to a table and sit down to eat lunch. There is always a member of lunchtime staff on duty to help them. As most of the children finish eating (approx. 12.00) they go out to play in the main school playground with KS1.

- **12.30pm**

The children are collected from the playground and brought back to our classroom.

Afternoon session:

- **12.30pm – 2.45pm** This is a mixture of whole class carpet time, small group work and accessing indoor and outdoor continuous provision. This session will include a daily maths session.

Hometime:

- **2.50pm – 3.00pm** Book bags, coats, jumpers etc are given out as the children sit on the carpet. We endeavor to match everything up with the right children!
- **3.00pm - 3.10pm** The children will be lined up at the gates ready to be collected. They are handed over 1 at a time to the known adult collecting them.

Timetable:

The first few weeks in Little Acorns are all about settling in, making new friends and exploring our fabulous setting and resources. After we have completed our initial assessments and established routines we will develop our timetable so that our sessions include daily phonics, maths and story sessions as well as whole class teaching times. I will post our regular daily timetable on the class page of the website as this becomes more firmly embedded.

	8.50 – 9.15	9.15 – 11.00	11.00 – 11.20	11.30 – 12.30	12.30 – 1.00	1.00 – 2.25	2.25 – 2.45	2.45 – 3.10
Monday	Whole class input	Continuous Provision, group work and snack	Phonics	Lunchtime: 11.30 – 12.00 eating in the hall 12.00 – 12.30 playing in the KS1 playground	Whole class input	Continuous Provision, group work and snack	Story and singing time	Getting ready and home time
Tuesday								
Wednesday								
Thursday								
Friday		PE						Celebration assembly every 2 weeks

Expectations

Our Little Acorns have big hearts and big minds! We love learning, being kind and trying our best.



Equipment

- Book bag every day – it is the best way to transport letters, pictures and reading books.
- Reading book every day – this will be changed on a regular day each week (you will be advised of this when we start to send books home in the next week or so).
- Spare underwear – please remember to send in a fresh, clean set if your child had an accident the day before and have used their spare set.
- PE kit – this stays in school all the time and will be sent home every half term for washing and checking for size.
- Water bottle every day – filled with fresh water (not juice thank you).
- Coat appropriate for the weather – we do play out in all weathers!
- Wellies – to be kept in school please.
- **Nothing else!**

Little Acorns 2025-26 - Autumn Term 1

Hello and welcome to Ripponden J&I School! Your child may come home from school every day and tell you all about their day or they may come home and say they have “played” all day so every half-term we send out a curriculum letter like this to let you know what is really happening!

Communication, language and literacy: We start off this term with “Magical Me” which gives us lots of opportunities to talk about ourselves. We will be thinking about what makes us all different as well as some of the similarities between us. The children will listen to a wide range of stories including Elmer, Five Minutes Peace, Super Duper You and The Colour Monster which will help us discuss some of these themes too. Developing early reading skills starts straight away in Reception class. We use the Little Wandle Phonics Scheme which helps us to deliver a daily lesson for learning our letters and sounds and how to blend. Please come to our “Early Reading Workshop for Parents” on Wednesday 24/9 at 6pm for further information about how to support your child with this important skill.

We encourage all children to enjoy and practise mark making in many ways in our provision areas. We will also be learning how to form letters correctly alongside our phonics scheme and learning to write our first names.

Understanding the world: We will be thinking about how we are all special and different and how there are lots of different kinds of families. We will discover seasonal themes around Autumn times, looking for changes in our school grounds daily. We will identify parts of our bodies and how senses help us to experience the world.

Expressive arts and design: We will be exploring basic skills in art such as paint mixing, cutting skills and joining materials. We will start doing careful observational drawings and paintings including self portraits and natural objects.

We will be singing rhymes and become familiar with a range of songs and listening to music which will encourage us to move and express our feelings.

Mathematics: We will be singing lots and lots of number rhymes and using numbers within our play and daily routines. We will also be spotting and finding matching objects and sorting groups of things using different criteria. Once children are confident with sorting we will begin to use the vocabulary of comparison and think about whether groups have more, fewer or the same number of objects as each other. We will also compare things by size, mass and capacity. We will then look at making and finding simple repeating patterns in many ways including sounds, objects and pictures.

We use the White Rose maths scheme and most learning activities are practical and use familiar contexts to help develop mathematical understanding. You can support this at home by talking about numbers, shapes, size and patterns around you and try spotting them during outings or around the home.

Personal, social and emotional development: We will be making new friendships in our class and getting to know lots about each other. We will have lots of discussions around questions like: ‘What are feelings? What makes a good friend/helper?’ and we also start to learn vocabulary to help us express our feelings.

One of the most important things we try to develop at this point in the year is how to work together and be part of the Little Acorns class community. We also introduce our school Branch Out values which encourage positive behaviour and we start to use our whole school reward system where the children can earn Grove Awards.

Physical development: We will be developing our gross motor skills during weekly PE lessons and daily use of the outdoors areas. We will also be beginning to develop awareness of how we can manage our personal safety when moving around and using equipment. We will build up strength and stamina during our use of large scale resources outdoors. Our fine motor skills will be developed in many ways including using tweezers and scissors, playdough, pegs and many art and craft activities as well as playing with small scale construction equipment and sand and water toys. There will be lots of opportunities to mark make using different materials and media and we will also be practising forming careful letter shapes daily.

Please ensure your child has the correct PE kit in school. We will send all kit home at half-term to be washed unless this needs to happen earlier.

Snack Money - £1 per week contribution to extra snacks.

We provide an afternoon snack as we know that Little Acorns' tummies can get quite empty! We ask all parents to contribute to paying for these otherwise it comes out of our staffs' own pockets. If you are happy to do so please send in £7 (cash in an envelope/bag – not through the school bank account please) for this half term. Thank you for your support with this.

Reminder: The children will be accessing the outdoor areas each day in the morning and the afternoon so please ensure that they have an appropriate coat with them for school each day. Please also send a pair of named wellies for us to keep in school. We play out on the grass as much as we can and it gets wet and muddy so wellies help to prevent wet feet and messy new school shoes. We have aprons for wet and messy play and we will endeavour to keep the children as clean as is possible. However, it is highly likely that they will get paint, pen, mud and other things on them as they access the range of learning experiences in water, sensory materials, baking, gardening, arts and outdoor adventures on offer to them. Thank you for your understanding.

And finally....we have had a fantastic first week learning lots of new things about each other. All the children have settled in really well and have been very busy making new friends as well as exploring our wonderful setting. I am sure that you now have many questions about our routines and things that your child has been talking about. Please try to attend the "Welcome" meeting on Wednesday 10/9 at 3.15pm where I will share more information about day to day life in Little Acorns (I will put the powerpoint on the class web page for your reference if you can't make it though). If you have any further questions, queries, concerns or wish to share any information with me then please get in touch via the office: office@ripponden.calderdale.sch.uk or via my email address: j.kenny@ripponden.calderdale.sch.uk. Short messages can be sent on ClassDojo too. Please note that as the children settle into school we won't be reading or replying to messages during the teaching day as we are too busy working with our Little Acorns! Anything urgent (particularly about changes in who is picking your child up after school) need to be phoned or emailed into the office.

Mrs Kenny

Key dates:

10th Sept - Little Acorns Welcome Meeting with Mrs Kenny 3:15pm in the classroom.

12th Sept - Reception and KS1 Celebration Assembly 2:45pm – all welcome (there will be no certificates for Little Acorns children this week)

24th Sept - Phonics workshop/information evening for all parents at 6pm in the school hall

26th Sept - Reception and KS1 Celebration assembly 2:45pm – all welcome

7th October – Individual School Photos

8th Oct pm - Phonics open sessions for parents at 11.15am – see phonics teaching and learning in action in the classroom

10th Oct – Reception and KS1 Celebration Assembly 2:45pm – all welcome

21st and 23rd October – Parents Evening in school (times to be confirmed)

24th Oct – Reception and KS1 Celebration Assembly 2:45pm – all welcome

24th Oct - Finish for October half term

Information for parents:

Reception baseline assessment



Standards
& Testing
Agency

The EYFS Profile:

A Guide for Parents and Carers

As your child nears the end of their time in reception, you will hear more about the EYFS profile. This guide explains more about the profile, including what it is and how it will be completed. We hope you find this guide useful. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to a member of staff.

★ What Is the EYFS Profile?

The EYFS profile is sometimes known as the early years profile or EYFSP.

It summarises a child's attainment at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), which is when they finish their reception year.

In September, the child will then move into key stage 1 as they enter their year 1 class.

★ What Are the Early Learning Goals?

The EYFS profile summarises a child's attainment against the early learning goals. There are seventeen early learning goals (sometimes shortened to ELGs) across all the Areas of Learning.

The early learning goals are the goals or targets that children are working to achieve by the end of reception.

The goals cover a range of skills that children will have been learning and practising throughout the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The Early Learning Goals

The early learning goals are grouped together into seven Areas of Learning. There are seventeen early learning goals in total. Here is a summary of the goals and some of the skills they cover:

Communication and Language (CL)

- **Listening, Attention and Understanding:** includes holding conversations, making comments and asking questions about what they've heard and showing good listening skills.
- **Speaking:** includes offering explanations and expressing their ideas and feelings in full sentences.

Physical Development (PD)

- **Gross Motor Skills:** includes showing balance and coordination in large movements, such as running, jumping and climbing.
- **Fine Motor Skills:** includes using a range of small tools, such as cutlery, paintbrushes and scissors, along with holding and controlling a pencil.

Mathematics (M)

- **Number:** includes understanding numbers to ten, subitising (the ability to recognise amounts in small groups without counting) and recalling pairs of numbers that make five or ten (number bonds).
- **Numerical Patterns:** includes counting to twenty and beyond and comparing quantities and number patterns, such as odd and even numbers.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)

- **Self-Regulation:** includes showing an understanding of their own feelings and those of others.
- **Managing Self:** includes managing their own basic hygiene needs and showing independence.
- **Building Relationships:** includes working and playing with others, taking turns and making friends.

Literacy (L)

- **Comprehension:** includes retelling stories and using new vocabulary.
- **Word Reading:** includes using their knowledge of phonics to read letters, words and simple sentences.
- **Writing:** includes writing letters, words and simple sentences.



Understanding the World (UfW)

- **Past and Present:** includes knowing some similarities and differences between things in the past and the present day.
- **People, Culture and Communities:** includes knowing some similarities and differences between religious cultures and communities.
- **The Natural World:** includes exploring the natural world, making observations and knowing some similarities and differences between different environments.

Expressive Arts and Design (EAD)

- **Creating with Materials:** includes using different materials, tools and techniques to represent their ideas.
- **Being Imaginative and Expressive:** includes creating stories and singing rhymes, songs and poems.



★ How Is the Profile Completed?

Reception teachers will use their knowledge of what each child knows, understands and can do in order to decide the outcomes presented in the profile. They will also take into account the views of other people, including parents and carers, other members of staff and other agencies, such as childminders or speech and language teachers.

For each of the seventeen early learning goals, children will be awarded an outcome. This will be either:

- 'Emerging' - meaning that the child is not yet reaching the expected level
- 'Expected' - meaning the child has reached the expected level

These outcomes will be shared with the child's parents/carers and their year 1 teacher.

Remember, there is no need to worry if your child is given an emerging level for one or more of the goals. Children develop at different rates and the main purpose of the profile is to provide support for each child at the correct level as they continue through the school.

★ How Will the Profile Outcomes Be Used?

The main purpose of the EYFS profile is to help create a smooth transition into year 1. The profile results will be shared and discussed with the child's year 1 teacher to enable them to plan activities to meet the needs of all children in the class and to develop an understanding of each child's needs.



★ How Can I Help My Child after the EYFS Profile?

Over the summer holidays, before your child starts year 1, there are plenty of activities you can do with your child to build on the skills they have been learning in reception. These include:

- Reading stories together
- Talking about activities and your child's ideas
- Writing about somewhere you visit or something you do
- Playing counting and number games
- Creative activities, such as painting and drawing
- Exploring the natural world by visiting a garden or park



Homework

Reading and phonics.

Please read daily at home if you can!

When your child starts to bring home a reading book please hear them read it every day (or as often as you can).

Read lots and lots of other books to and with them as much as you possibly can! We send home a different “sharing” book from our class library every week. This is a book that your child has chosen from our selection in class specifically because they want to share it with their families at home. Please show your child how much you enjoy reading their choice of book to them.

Phonics books will be sent home with weekly phonics for you to practise with your child. These should be returned every Friday for new sounds to be added.

To find out more about how to help your child with early reading skills please attend our phonics workshop on:
Wednesday 24th September at 6.00pm

How you can help



Supporting with homework

Reading with your child – every day please!

Visiting the website for links

<http://www.ripponden.calderdale.sch.uk/>

Talking to your child about their learning

Keeping the lines of communication open – we have an open door policy and are here to help and support your child and your family where we can.

How you can help



ClassDojo

Medical/health needs

We hold a medical and health care needs register in school and this is treated with the strictest of confidence.

If your child has a medical need that we don't know about, or if these needs change, please let us know as soon as possible. Please also make sure in date medication is sent into school.

To let us know, please email office@ripponden.calderdale.sch.uk for the attention of Miss Smith.

A couple of other things:

- **Snack money** - £1 per week contribution to extra snacks. We provide an afternoon snack as we know that Little Acorns' tummies can get quite empty! We ask all parents to contribute to paying for these otherwise it comes out of our staff's own pockets. If you are happy to do so please send in £7 (cash in an envelope/bag – not through the school bank account please) for this half term. Thank you for your support with this.
- **Assemblies and certificates** – once a fortnight on Friday afternoons at 2.45pm.
- **Busy Bees** – please book through the app.
- **PTFA** – please join, they need your help!

Any questions?

We are delighted to be able to meet you face-to-face today. Please do ask if you have any questions.

If you have any questions about any of this, please get in touch with the office:

office@ripponden.calderdale.sch.uk

and a member of staff will get back to you as soon as possible.

