

Little Acorns

Summer term 1 2022-23



Communication, language and literacy

The stories and topics we will be using this half term are all about growing plants, minibeasts and life-cycles. We will be reading stories like Jasper's Beanstalk and The Hungry Caterpillar as well as the traditional tales Jack and the Beanstalk and The Ugly Duckling plus using a range of non-fiction books to help us gather information.

The children will continue to learn to write short, simple sentences and will practice forming capital letters (See attached guide) alongside continuing with correct lower case formation.

When speaking we will be encouraging the children to use the past, present and future tenses correctly and articulate their thoughts into more detailed, coherent sentences.

Phonics:

We are now moving onto phase 4 which does not have any new digraphs or trigraphs. The overview below will give you an idea of what we will be covering but here are a few helpful tips:

C stands for consonant. V stands for vowel.

CVCC means: consonant, vowel, consonant, consonant. Examples of short vowel CVCC words are: help, went, fast, wind.

CCVC means: consonant, consonant, vowel, consonant. Short vowel CCVC words are words like: stop, pram, flat, spot.

CCVCC words: blast, frost, drift, grand, crisp. CCCVC words: strap, scrub, split.

CCCVC words: sprint, strict, strand

	Phase 4	New tricky words
Week 1	short vowels CVCC	said so have like
Week 2	short vowels CVCC CCVC	some come love do
Week 3	short vowels CCVCC CCCVC CCCVCC longer words	were here little says
Week 4	longer words compound words	there when what one
Week 5	root words ending in: -ing, -ed /t/, -ed /id/ /ed/ -est	out today

Mathematics

We are now looking at building numbers beyond 10 and also recognising the repeating number patterns 1-9 in 2 digit numbers. The children will also further develop their addition and subtraction skills in practical and story contexts as well as investigate some spatial reasoning problems.

Personal, social and emotional development

This half term we will be working at learning how to solve friendship problems. We will be thinking about helping others feel part of a group, treating others with respect and how to help ourselves and others when we feel upset.



Understanding the world

This is a lovely half term to plant seeds and watch things grow and change. We will also be looking at life-cycles and hopefully hatching our own chicks in our incubator in class. Huge thanks go to Mrs Greenwood's dad for donating the eggs and to Mrs Greenwood herself for all the hard work she will be putting in to look after and rear the chicks afterwards.



Expressive arts and design

We will be using our observational skills to look at nature all around us then develop our sketching skills as we learn to draw the beautiful and interesting natural objects we see.

We will continue to listen to a range of music at snacktime. This can be as varied as "Rockin All Over The World" by Status Quo to "Eine Kleine Nachtmusik" by Mozart. We will start to use body percussion and instruments to join in with some of the rhythms and patterns we hear.



Physical development

In our weekly PE lessons we will be developing our ball skills and our ability to counter balance. We will also use the running track and our bikes and scooters as much as possible as well as handling large scale construction equipment to help develop our gross motor skills.

Our fine motor skills will be developed with regular activities to help us with pencil control and handwriting.

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





Reminder

New reading books are sent home every Friday. The book your child brings home is part of a set of 6 which are used with a new group of children when they are returned the following week. Please, please return them every Friday so that we can collect them in for the next group of children to use. If you don't return your child's book then this whole set cannot be used as there will not be enough for each child in that group to have their own copy. This set is then out of circulation until we have a full set returned which limits the progression of reading material we can offer.

Would you also ensure that all reading books are kept in the plastic bag (or equivalent) which we provided at the beginning of the year. We know that accidents with water bottles and puddles do happen so we try to protect the books as much as we can!

Sorry for the moan! This whole set of reading books was a huge investment for us as a school to make just over a year ago. We did this because teaching children to read is such a high priority for us and we wanted to make sure that we had high quality resources to support this. As you can imagine, it is difficult for school to replace such resources on an ever dwindling budget so we are very keen to protect what we have. This also includes the shared/library books that the children choose from the class or Woodland Room collections.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Please send in this half term's snack money (£6.00) so that we can continue to provide a range of snacks beyond the government provided fruit and veg. Please send this in a named envelope to staff in Little Acorns and not added on to any bank payments you may make to the office. Thank you.



And finally....

it's the summer term already! Our Little Acorns are growing up and changing all the time but experience tells us that this is the term when you really notice it. They will soon be ready for Saplings class (Year 1) however we won't be thinking about that too much until after the May half-term when we start to do some transition activities with them.

Miss Knipe has been a student teacher with us since the start of the year. She has been a fabulous addition to our team and when she leaves us to return to university at the end of April we will really miss her. At the moment we are unsure if Miss Knipe will be returning to us for a further two weeks later in the term (we are awaiting confirmation from the university) and I will advise you all as soon as I know as I am sure you will want to wish her well before she finishes completely.

If you have any 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

Mrs Kenny

Key dates:

Monday 17th April – Return to school

Monday 23rd April 8.15-8.45 – Yoga club starts (families have already been informed if their child has been allocated a place in this group of sessions)

Tuesday 25th April – Writing workshop for parents 3.30pm

Monday 1st AND Monday 8th May – Bank Holiday

Tuesday 16th May – Writing open session – time TBC

Friday 26th May – Close for Spring Bank Holiday

EYFS/KS1 Celebration Assemblies – Friday 28th April, 12th May, 26th May

Please keep an eye on the newsletter for the most up to date diary dates.