

# Little Acorns 2024-25 - 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 25/9 (time to be confirmed) 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.

**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 kit in school every day. We will send all kit home at half-term to be washed unless this needs to happen earlier.

**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.

**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 looking to make 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.

**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 Tuesday 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](mailto:office@ripponden.calderdale.sch.uk) or via my email address: [j.kenny@ripponden.calderdale.sch.uk](mailto: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.

### **Key dates:**

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

13<sup>th</sup> Sept - Reception and KS1 Celebration Assembly 2:45pm – all welcome

25<sup>th</sup> Sept - Phonics workshop/information evening for all parents

27<sup>th</sup> Sept - Reception and KS1 Celebration assembly 2:45pm – all welcome

8<sup>th</sup> Oct - Phonics open sessions for parents – see phonics teaching and learning in action in the classroom (time to be confirmed)

11<sup>th</sup> Oct – Reception and KS1 Celebration Assembly 2:45pm – all welcome

15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> October – Parents Evening in school (times to be confirmed)

25<sup>th</sup> Oct - Finish for October half term