

# Little Acorns

## Spring term 2 2023-24



### Communication, language and literacy

Our main text for this short half-term is “Poles Apart” which will help us to explore sequencing events in a story as well exploring the world! Our visits from the fire and police services should also be taking place this half-term after being postponed by both services in Spring! (how dare our public services be busy with call outs and catching criminals?!!) so we will be preparing lots of questions to ask them.

In phonics we will consolidate phase 3 and practice using our phase 2 and 3 GPCs to read longer words. We will continue to apply our phonics knowledge to spelling and use this to help us compose and write simple sentences.

Correct letter formation remains a focus and we will continue to model, support and insist on this in our daily spelling and writing activities.

### Physical development

In our weekly PE lessons we will be exploring our balancing skills and see how different parts of our body can be used in static balances. The better weather will mean that we will get on 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.



### Expressive arts and design

We will be exploring ways of representing the colours and textures of land, sea and ice-caps which we find on a globe with different media.

We will be observing nature carefully as the season changes so we will be working hard to develop our observational drawing skills. We will also use water colour paints for the first time to help us add some spring colour to our drawings.

Listening to different kinds of music is now a daily activity which we like to do while we are having our snack. We think about how the music makes us feel and what movements we can make. Singing is also an important part of our day and this half term we will be learning lots of songs about staying healthy, being active as well as helping us count to 10.



### Mathematics

We will be looking at the composition of numbers to 10 as well as early addition skills. We will also be exploring doubles and odd and even patterns. We will also continue to explore length, height, time and 3D shapes.



### Personal, social and emotional development

One of our “Branch out” targets is the ability to show resilience and perseverance in the face of challenge. We will be helping the children to recognise this and develop this strength throughout this half term.

We will also be looking at how to be a safe pedestrian as we discuss what to do and watch out for in our school car park and the busy roads they encounter on their journey to and from school.



### Understanding the world

We will look at maps, globes and atlases to see where the characters in “Poles Apart” travel. This will also help us to explore some of the countries they travel through so we can look at how they are the same or different from the UK. As early spring approaches we will become nature detectives and see what clues we can find that the natural world is changing with the season.

Towards the end of the term the children will find out about what Easter means to Christians and why it is celebrated.



## Reminder



We have had a few jumpers and cardigans left in the classroom which have previously been labelled but are now difficult to read due to general washing and wearing. Please check your child's clothing to see if we can still read the labels clearly.

New reading books and updated phonics books are sent home every Friday along with a sharing/library book which your child has chosen from our class collection. Once every half term this book will be selected from the lovely new books we have in the Woodland Room. These books are brand new and have been very kindly donated by our families for everyone in school to share. Please make sure that ALL books (reading and shared) are returned every Friday so that other children can enjoy them too.

Please keep children with you at all times when departing through the car park at drop off or pick up time. Unfortunately there have been a few occasions where children (not just from Little Acorns) and moving cars have come too close for comfort! Please make sure that children are either holding the hand of an adult or a pram handle or walking right beside you at all times, just as you would on a pavement beside a road. We will be talking to all the children about this and will be asking them to spot people not following the rules so if they "tell you off" for not walking safely around this area please listen to them!

**Please send in this half term's snack money (£5.00) so that we can continue to provide a range of snacks (including pancakes and Easter treats this term!) 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....



*We are already half way through the children's first year of school – where has the time gone?! Everyone has changed and developed so much in the time they have been with us and they have all made huge progress in all areas. We are so very proud of them and know that you must be too. Thank you for your continued support, this goes a long way to helping your child have a happy and successful time in school.*

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