



Autumn Term Curriculum Letter

Welcome to our wonderful school and especially to the Acorns Class. We are so excited to get to know all of your children and set them up for their new journey through Chacewater School.

The first three weeks of this half term will be focused on ensuring your child is settled and happy at school. Using the assessments from pre-school and home as a starting point, we will assess every child to form a baseline for their progress. What this means is that we will be listening to them and watching them very closely, observing their play, their interaction with other children and adults, their ability to cope in new situations, what fascinates them and what puzzles them, how well they persevere and many, many other characteristics that your child has already developed.

By investing this time at the beginning of the year, your child will have a great start at school and we will be much better equipped to help them reach their potential. As we work our way through the Autumn Term, we will begin to introduce more structured Phonics which follows Read Write Inc (RWI) scheme. Maths lessons will focus on a number of a week and will provide enhancements and provocations to engage and excite your child. Our first Topic for our afternoon sessions this term will be based on 'All About Me'. Here your child will learn about themselves in more depth, using a hook book to enhance and stimulate their learning further. They will learn more about their families and other cultures and how they may or may not share similarities and differences. Children will also build upon foundations in how to be a good friend and how we can talk to one another in and outside of the class. We also use the book "The Colour Monster" which helps children understand different feelings and how they can communicate this with others. We look in detail of what you might expect when you feel happy, sad, scared, angry and calm.

It is our job as practitioners to make sure our teaching and the environment we are in gives your child every opportunity to be engaged in a way that they enjoy. To give you an idea of our week I've listed the basic provision below:

- **Morning jobs** - help your child be independent this term - especially with their own personal care. The children come into the classroom, put their belongings on their peg and are encouraged to find their names on the table.
- **Hello Acorns!** Let's see who is in class and think about our day ahead - take the register, go over the golden rules and explain important messages. We use a visual timetable to help explain what is happening each day.
- **Lovely Learning.** The inside/outside classroom will be set up at different points in the day to provide a range of provocations for children to explore. The adults will support and observe so we can make sure everyone is challenged and engaged. This will lead into teacher-led activities as the term goes on.
- **Read Write Inc (RWInc) - Phonics.** We will systematically follow this reading programme to help your child read through learning the sounds and blending them together. When they begin to read simple words, they will bring home a book that matches their level of reading. Each week the children will take a library book home for you to share with them.
- **Maths.** There will be a daily teacher-led input for maths to teach core skills wholly as a class. The classroom will then be divided into 4 stations, 2 of which will be adult led, and 2 that will be continuous provision linked to the maths work we have been teaching. There will also be opportunities for children to explore provisions set out and challenge their mathematical minds. We will supply children with investigation lessons when teaching something new. This will allow children to show the class teacher what they already know and this will enhance planning, ensuring all children are being challenged to their full potential. We also follow a program which is called Mastering Number which helps to embed good number sense.
- **Outdoor Adventures.** One afternoon a week will be an outdoor adventure for Acorns. There's no such thing as bad weather - only bad clothing! For this your child will need to come to school with:
 - Wellies
 - Wet weather gear (all in ones) (waterproof trousers etc)
 - Warm/old clothing (we may be getting mucky).

Please make sure your child has their wet weather gear by **the beginning of October so we can get going with these lessons.**

- **Assembly.** At the end of every day we will come together to talk about our day, think about what we'd like to do tomorrow and share a book. As we go through the term, and when the children are ready, we will start to bring them to the whole school assembly with the rest of the school.

As you know, we will be using an online learning journey programme called Tapestry. Hopefully now we have all been set up with an account on Tapestry. We are working hard to enter all the initial information from the baseline assessments now the children have arrived in school and updating photographs of how their first few days of school are going. If you have any issues or worries about the system please let me know.

Finally, my team and I are very much looking forward to getting to know you and your child more this year. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions and queries using our class email - acorns@chacewaterschool.co.uk

With best wishes

Mrs Cookson

Acorns Class Teacher