

Little Acorns Newsletter

Autumn Term 1 (2021)

New infections are still high,

Dates for Your Diary 2021/22

At little Acorns we generally work term time, working within the school term dates. These are the dates for your diary and they are inclusive.

Summer Holiday: 31st July — 31st Aug

Autumn 1: 1st Sept - 22nd Oct

Oct Half Term: 23rd Oct — 31st Oct

Autumn 2: 1st Nov — 17th Dec

Christmas Holiday: 18th Dec 21 — 3rd Jan 22

Christmas Bank Holiday: 27th, 28th Dec 21 and 3rd Jan 22

Spring 1: 4th Jan 22 - 11th Feb 22

Feb Half Term: 12th Feb 22 - 20th Feb 22

Spring 2: 21st Feb 22 — 1st April 22

Easter Holiday: 2nd April 22— 18th April 22

April 22 Bank Holiday: 15th and 18th April 22

Welcome back

The summer provided us with the opportunity to get out and about to enjoy many day visits as part of a wonderful 'staycation' and you visited some very exciting and interesting places. Peppa Pig World, soft play, swimming, climbing walls, farms, the zoo, parks, dinosaur and science museums, art galleries and the beach to name but a few! We know that a couple of you even managed to get away and enjoy further afield! Thank you for your lovely pictures and messages, we love seeing what you have been up to. We are very excited to see how the children have grown and developed over the summer weeks, and will use these observations to set their next goals. Feel free to write any interesting observations of your own in their daily books.

Your comments are always very useful.

We will continue to use the daily books, we will aim to send them home regularly, and get a routine back in place—some like it weekly, some daily so that you can write in them etc. depending on age. It is very personalised as some are here only a few days, and some more. So we will see how we go. Don't forget to put spares in a bag, and send nappies/pullups/wipes.

Vaccinations and Testing...

The Lateral Flow Testing kits are freely available, please make use of them if you find that you have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID, as advice now does not require you to self isolate, unless you display symptoms.

Vaccinations are offered though walk in centres now.
Don't forget to book a flu jab.

Autumn learning:

Plant Britain is an ambitious two year project encouraging people to think big, and plant big to help combat climate change and its devastating effects. We will continue to nurture a love of plants, growing, gardening and wildlife conservation. We have a loggery, log piles, growing patch, and wildflower patch. The children can play, dig, plant, water, identify, collect, sort, count, feel, smell and watch.

We know that many of you grow your own vegetables and fruit where you can, and we planted many before the break. We enjoyed the peas and beans with the children, and the perennials, and wildflower meadow to attract bees. We still have squash, pumpkins, and carrots to come. The courgettes were greatly enjoyed by the hedgehog! We will be continuing garden jobs through September, whilst learning about the parts of plants, healthy eating, cooking, weighing and measuring, the seasons, autumn, counting and rhymes.

We will continue to help the children make space for nature outside, whilst enjoying using our space to explore loose parts adventures, using planks, poles, crates and logs as well as dens.

The theme for Black History Month is 'Proud to Be', and we will be looking at what we are each good at and finding different ways to celebrate this, looking at what makes us unique, and what makes me...Me, as we identify similarities and differences. We will celebrate diversity and cultures through music, stories, pictures, toys, puppets, dance, food and puzzles.

This will lead us to Harvest, and we will enjoy colours, tastes, and cooking. We will be using Tickle Fingers Toddler Cookbook, by Annabel Woolmer which incorporates children's interest schemas into the recipes. Rotating, containing, transporting, enveloping, connecting, transforming, trajectory! We will be exploring the vocabulary of cooking so that we can explain and talk about what we are doing.

New Curriculum Has Begun...Officially!

The revised curriculum for EYFS began in earnest as of 1st September 2021.

It compliments how we have always worked and allows us to be rather more creative, and flexible in what we do, and how we do it. It will allow us to focus on a 'whole child' approach, and really tune in to what they need to do as a goal, rather than work in a short term 'next steps' way. This allows for deeper, lasting learning, and our continuous play approach means we can work in a cross curricular way far more naturally.

Cooking through schemas...

Pouring, spooning, squeezing, chopping, tearing, breaking, shaking, snipping, patting, pricking, layering, sculpting, folding, rubbing, crushing, mashing, covering, burying, spreading, coating, wrapping, whisking, rolling, mixing, twisting, mashing, squishing and bashing!