

Little Acorns Newsletter

Autumn Term 1 (2023)

Don't forget to get your flu jabs and child free nasal spray flu vaccine for 2-3yr olds

Dates for Your Diary 2023/24

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.

Autumn 1: 1st Sept — 20th Oct 23

Oct Half Term: 21st Oct — 29th Oct 23

Autumn 2: 30th Oct — 15th Dec 23

Christmas Holiday: 16th Dec 23 — 1st Jan 24

Christmas Bank Holiday: 25th + 26th Dec 23

Spring 1: 2nd Jan 24 — 9th Feb 24

Feb Half Term: 10th Feb 24 — 18th Feb 24

Spring 2: 19th Feb 24 — 28th March 24

Easter Holiday: 29th March 24 — 14th April 24

May 24 Bank Holiday: 6th + 27th May 24

Summer 1: 15th April 24 — 24th May 24

May Half term: 25th May 24 — 2nd June 24

Summer 2: 3rd June 24 — 23rd July 24 (Surrey school Finish)

26th July 24 (Little Acorns finish)

Summer Holiday: 27th July 24 — 1st Sept 24

September...

The summer provided everyone with the opportunity to get out and about to enjoy many day visits and you visited some very exciting and interesting places. Peppa Pig World, soft play, swimming, farms, camping, parks, dinosaur and natural history museums, the beach and rockpools to name but a few! 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 always used these observations to help set their 'where next' goals. Feel free to write any interesting notes of your own in their daily books. Your comments are always very useful. We will continue to write 'you could try' ideas and suggestions in the children's books, so that you can support your children at home. This is personalised to the children as some are here only a day, some a few days, and some more.

You could try...

As the children play we make detailed observations based on what we see and hear. We look carefully at these observations against the 7 area of learning in the curriculum, and decide a 'where next' step for each child. These next steps are converted into a plan for each child thinking about a Possible Line of Development, or a PLOD. This helps us plan for play, where we can decide on activities, games, tasks and opportunities that will help a child develop and grow in their learning.

As they are playing, more observations are made and the cycle begins again. This cycle is managed monthly, and we write the 'you could try' in their books using a Purple Polishing Pen!

We follow the Early Years Statutory Framework, drawing on Development Matters and Birth To 5 Matters.

Autumn learning:

Plant Britain was 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. We also have long grass areas for frogs. The nature camera has helped us get a glimpse of animals and wildlife visiting the garden, and the children have seen deer, squirrels and foxes on the clips. The children can 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 enjoyed many with the children before the break, peas, beans, tomatoes and loganberries in addition to the wildflowers to attract bees. 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 'Saluting Our Sisters', and we will be celebrating black women in the images and activities we enjoy, dancers, singers, story and music makers, doctors, vets, scientists, engineers and chefs.

Our role play will be child led, we change it to match the children's chosen games and interests (sometimes daily!) and will include The Vets, the Pizza café, the cake shop, Going Shopping, the baby clinic, On a Picnic, The Restaurant, The Building Site, Camping and The Bakers. Role play is always accompanied by positive pictures and books to share.

Supporting Children...

Children sometimes need a bit of additional or more focused support for a short time, with sleep, eating, anxiety or managing emotions and behaviour, or perhaps speech development. We sometimes get advice on how to support specific needs. We may be able to research this ourselves, or have experience in these areas, or we can speak to our supervisor, a health visitor or our SENDCo, we also have access to a psychologist through referral. When we get interesting information or advice we use it to strengthen our own practice, and we also share it with you. We pass helpful advice on through your daily contact books or our newsletters, to benefit other families going through the same thing. We also put useful advice on our website, creating focused pages, and share other websites on our Facebook page. Please let us know if you can't find us.

Future themes will include...

Managing Big Feelings, establishing sleep routines, The 'Fussy Eater', potty training, transitions and starting school. If there are any themes you would like us to think about, tell us at the door or message us.