

Little Acorns Newsletter

Autumn term 2 2022

Diversity Equality Inclusion...Action! Not words!

Dates for Your Diary 2022/23

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

Christmas Holiday: 17th Dec 22—2nd Jan 23

Spring 1: 21st Feb 22 — 1st April 22

Feb Half Term: 11th Feb 23—19th Feb 23

Spring 2: 20th Feb 23—31st March 23

Easter Holiday: 1st April 23—16th April 23

May 22 Bank Holiday: 1st May 23

Summer 1: 17th April 23—26th May 23

May Half Term: 27th May 23—4th June 23

Summer 2: 5th June 23—31st July 23

Summer Holiday: 1st Aug 23—31st August 23

Autumn 1: 1st Sept 23

FEET and FEE

The entitlements received are for term time only, for 38 weeks, and cover the time schools are open. As schools close, if you are still using our services, normal hourly rates apply. This is usually relevant at the end of the summer, to the end of July, plus an odd inset day or two. You will have the choice of finishing when the schools close, or continuing at the usual hourly rate. We will remind you and give you the choice at the right time.

October and beyond...

Traditionally Black History Month is through October and follows a theme. At Little Acorns, every month is inclusive and celebratory and whilst we might focus on a specific theme, dance, story or character for October, we ensure that through the whole year, diverse cultures, communities, contributions and characters are celebrated and reflected. This may be through images, books, stories, puppets, dance, poetry, music, toys, artefacts and activities.

We are all different but we belong together—all year!

Jabs and Booster!

We must be mindful that COVID is still with us as we enter the cold and flu season. Many of us are getting our flu jabs either at the GP or local pharmacy, and we would recommend that everyone does this if they can. Boosters for COVID injections are still being offered, and we mustn't forget that the vaccination protects the most vulnerable in our families and community. Children aged 12-15 are included in this programme. Those who are high risk aged 5-15 are also included. Please check the NHS COVID vaccination pages for full details.

If you or your child suffers from COVID, winter bug, or flu symptoms, please stay at home to get better and prevent the spread of infection.

As a setting in a family home we are very vulnerable to infection, it spreads fast and can make children and adults very sick. We will close if COVID appears here.

Please help us to keep the children and families who attend, and the adults who live and work here, safe.

Autumn 2 learning:

This term has seen us learning about Diwali through cultural stories, colours, chalk pens and dressing up. The fireworks lit up the sky near us and we hope that you enjoyed a few near you too. Linked by the colours and sounds of fireworks we will extend this to include November 5th, focusing on the sounds and colours, shapes and words associated with fireworks. We will use finger paints, chalk pens, movement, and dance.

We are sharing pumpkins at the setting too as part of Halloween, alongside Room On The Broom activities, but we will not be wasting the pumpkins as we will be cooking with them, chopping, roasting and making soup too.

We will be capturing the changes we see and feel as autumn takes hold. We will have autumn walks, collecting leaves, and digital photos of leaves, berries and fruit. We will use clip boards and mark making too, counting, matching and recording with our own marks and representations. Sorting our collections into numicon frames.

We will look for mini beasts under wood piles and fallen and rotting wood. We will look for evidence that animals visit our garden, holes, in the ground and wood, foot prints, gnawed wood, fallen acorns, and in piles of leaves, even poo! We have a hedgehog house and will hope that they are happily preparing for hibernation.

As we approach Christmas we will enjoy lights, advent calendars, counting down, crackers, crowns, characters, carols, cards, and colours! We will send a newsletter closer to Christmas.

Late Payment of Invoices...

We thank you for your support and for your prompt payment of invoices. We do understand that times are very hard for working families, and that there seems to be no end to the pressure, and the challenges we all face.

We will continue to send invoices out at the end of the previous month. We always give a 'please pay by' date.

Late payments unfortunately make it very hard for us to cover costs, and so we will be drawing on our 'late payment' procedure from next month. This is an additional £10 per day per child for days unpaid, added to the next invoice. This is something we have always tried very hard not to use, as we prefer to work with our families.

We also understand that the Choices payment facility does let people down at times. Particularly as parents need to revisit the site and renew their declaration.

Payments sometimes take 4-5 days to clear via Choices. We check regularly, as twice the site has locked parents out, not sent payments, or crashed. We always try to give over 10 days to pay, and send reminders that the due date is approaching.

If you are suffering financial hardship, please tell us so that we can put you in touch with the many support services who can help.

The **Family Information Service** website for Surrey is very helpful.

Please keep a dialogue going with us when invoices are sent, so that we know if you are having difficulty paying.

Warm clothing...

Please continue to send a warm outer coat, a lower layer of jumper or fleece, woollen or fleece hat, gloves and scarf. The children still want to play outside and can only do this if they have the correct clothing. Splash suit/water proof All-In-Ones are really useful for water play. Wellington boots help to save their shoes from getting wet! Please add extra leggings and t-shirts for multiple changes. If necessary, add sleeping pyjamas/clothes, in a separate bag within your bag.