

Little Acorns Newsletter

Autumn term 2 2023

This week is Road Safety Awareness week at www.brake.org.uk

Dates for Your Diary:

We hope that you find it useful to have the whole list of dates sent out separately. We thought that it would be easier to keep them and display them somewhere. If you lose it please tell us and we can give you another.

We also have a calendar of funding dates too. This shows the days covered by Government Funding. The entitlements we receive are for term time only, for 38 weeks, and usually cover the time schools are open. As schools close, if you are still using our services, normal hourly rates apply to you. This is usually relevant at the end of the summer term, at Christmas and some inset days. 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. This year it was called 'Saluting Our Sisters'. We celebrated fire fighters, police commanders, chefs, footballers, vets, Drs and nurses, ballet dancers, singers and musicians, story writers and tellers, and two brilliant artists. 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, women and men, 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!

::Misty Copeland, Samantha Samuels, Alvina Ware, Andrea 'Andi' Oliver, Sonia Boyce OBE, Dr Mandisa Greene, Maggie Aderin-Pocock, Celeste, Alison Heydari, Lynette Yiadom-Boakye, Baroness Floella Benjamin, Lauren James:: We salute you!

Winter illnesses!

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 are still being offered. But be on the look out for the dreaded **winter bug** which often makes an appearance about now. If you or your child suffers from COVID, winter bug, (sickness and diarrhoea) or flu symptoms, please stay at home to get better and prevent the spread of infection.

Please stay away until 48 hours AFTER the last time you were 'ill'. If your child still appears unwell, make it 72 hours. A rush back whilst ill can be distressing for children, and increases 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.

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

With permissions, we are able to give a Calpol dose to aid symptoms, but policy says that if a child requires a second dose then realistically they are too unwell to be here.

Autumn 2 learning:

This term has seen us learning about Diwali through cultural stories, colours, chalk pens and dough. The fireworks lit up the sky near us and we hope that you enjoyed a few near you too. Or maybe you managed to visit an organised display. For Nov 5th? We focused on the sounds and colours, the shapes and words associated with fireworks. We used images, film, finger paints, chalk pens, on dark boards and paper, and movement. "whizz Pop Bang Crash Twinkle"

As part of Halloween, we shared Meg and Mog activities, and made spooky spells and rhymes, and used different tearing and printing techniques to make spooky books.

We will be capturing the changes we see and feel as autumn takes hold, the colours, the weather and how nature has to adapt. 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, ordering, matching and recording with our own marks and representations. Sorting our collections into numicon frames. The darker afternoons will mean we can use torches!

We will look for mini beasts and worms under wood piles 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 hope that they are happily preparing for hibernation. Our nature camera has already been a great success, we have seen squirrels, foxes, deer and badgers visiting the woods. The children love to see the clips on the computer.

It is Road Safety Week this week, and we will be doing activities with the children about car seats, scooting, safety helmets, and walking safely on pavements, holding hands and crossing the roads safely. We will send information and award cards home.

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.

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, although things seem to be improving gradually. We send invoices out at the end of the previous month, for the month in advance, and we give a 'please pay by' date.

Late payments unfortunately make it very hard for us to cover costs, we have a 'late payment' procedure which is an additional £10 per day per child for days unpaid, added to the next invoice.

We check for Choices payments regularly, as twice the site has locked parents out!

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. We received a very helpful magazine through the door recently as a directory to local support services in Surrey, and we keep a copy to hand.

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.