

Little Acorns Newsletter

Spring term 1 2022

Happy New Year everyone! We send you good wishes for a very healthy 2022!

Dates for Your Diary 2022

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

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

Summer 1: 19th April 22–27th May 22

2022 Bank Holiday: 2nd May, 2nd June, and 3rd June.

Summer Half Term: 28th May 22 – 5th June 22

Summer 2: 6th June 22 – 22nd July 22

Summer Holiday: 23rd July 22–31st Aug 22

FEE and FEE

The entitlements received are for term time only, and therefore cover the time schools are open. As school close, if you are still using our services, normal hourly charges will apply. This is usually relevant at the end of the summer as we continue to work to the end of July. 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.

COVID... Omicron...

The OMICRON variant has taken hold and the infection rate is high and increasing fast. Interestingly, information is, that most people suffering from a very bad cold, are likely to be suffering from the symptoms of Omicron. Lateral Flow Tests for a couple of days, are the easiest option to check for infection, a PCR test also can be ordered online if you are have been suffering symptoms, or if you have been in contact with someone who has tested positive. (The PCR test are more accurate. You make use of the priority post box in Oxted). You should receive your results very quickly, anything between 24 to 36 hours at the moment, depending on the demand. As schools return this demand will be predictably greater. If you have been socialising over Christmas we ask that you are very cautious as we return on Jan 4th. Please, if you, or your child are suffering from a very bad cold, if you have a cough, have been sick, if have been with anyone who has then developed symptoms, please take a test and do not return to the setting until you, or your child are well. As a setting in a family home we are very vulnerable to infection, and will close if it appears here. Please help us to keep the children and families who attend ,

Spring 1 learning:

Our Winter Wildlife theme will incorporate the Big Garden Birdwatch and will encourage the children to look for animals, evidence of animals, footprints, food and shelters, as animals try to manage in the winter conditions and others begin to come out of hibernation. We will explore this through providing and maintaining shelters and habitats in the garden and woods, build shelters, use shelters ourselves, provide food and make feeders. We will use a range of art techniques, collage and loose parts play to explore footprints and tracks, weather, snow and ice.

We will make maps of the garden, 2D and 3D, marking where animals might live. We will use the duplo, bricks, torn pictures and colours, collage materials and scissors, dough and loose parts to make the maps. The older children will also have the choice of recording these with mark making and using photography too.

The Big Garden Bird watch takes place again this year. It is the worlds largest wildlife survey organised by the RSPB. We are registered and will make good use of the resources provided to capture the children imaginations and keep their interests. Including making wings, masks, testing different feathers, looking at them with lenses, making nests, making birds, singing songs, and reading poems and stories.

It takes place between 28th and the 30th January 2022. As a setting we can extend our time so that everyone who attends gets a chance to do the counting. We enter our results as a group for a representational hour. Last year over one million people took part in the watch. We have lost 38 million birds from the UK skies in the last 50 years, so it is vital that we do all that we can to look after our birdlife.

We will be sorting, grouping, counting, measuring and ordering stones, cones and sticks, string and a range of other natural materials as we use them to build shelters and nests for the small world. We will be counting birds and recording this in different ways as part of the Big garden Bird Watch.

Invoices...

We will continue to send invoices out at the very beginning of the month/end of previous month. Please work to a two weeks in arrears, two weeks in advance pattern if you have chosen monthly invoices, as payment at the end of the month is in effect, 4 weeks in arrears. If you are suffering financial hardship, please tell us so that we can put you in touch with many support services who will help. The Family Information Service website for Surrey is very helpful.

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! It is usually in this half term that we see SNOW and ICE!