

Little Acorns Newsletter

Spring term 1 2024

Happy New Year everyone! We send you good wishes for a very healthy 2024

NHS dental care for children is free...

We encourage children in lots of different ways to look after their teeth. We share age appropriate books and stories about **visiting the dentist** and eating the right kinds of food, not snacking on sweet, sugary foods. We provide healthy, natural sugar snacks of fruit, crackers, bread sticks, toast, cereal etc. Our drinks are either water or milk, and after a very cold play session outside we might offer diluted warm juice as part of a meal to warm everyone up! We talk regularly about cleaning teeth and the kinds of toothbrushes we have, and we normalise this, as something that everyone does, every day, when they get up and before they go to bed.

Please let us know when they are having their recommended **6 monthly check**, so that we can celebrate with them. Also, if you want your child to brush their teeth here after lunch, please provide a **toothbrush** and **paste** in a named, small toilet bag that we can hang up.

FEET and FEE

Funding is for term time only, when schools are open. As schools close, the normal hourly rate 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 hourly rate. We will remind you and give you the choice at the right time.

The King's Breakfast...Rise and Dine!

The routines at the start of the day are very important to young children, as they get their bodies and minds in tune with the day ahead. As they come to LAs, attend nursery or start school, breakfast is a great way to give the body the refuelling it needs. Children who eat breakfast tend to eat healthier overall and are more likely to be physically active—these are two great ways to maintain a healthy weight. Skipping breakfast can make children feel tired, restless, listless, or irritable. This is particularly important during the colder months when the body is doing all it can to stay warm, generate heat and recover. Eating breakfast also improves a child's attention span, concentration and memory—all very important for a busy day at LAs! We have noticed that when a child arrives without breakfast, it can disrupt their lunch later, as they tend to want to 'snack' instead of catching up with their missed breakfast. Keep options simple and to just a few choices so that it can be easily sustained.

The national deadline for applying for a school place for September 2024, is 15th January 2024.
Surrey County Council Website or 0300 200 1004
Or schooladmissions@surreycc.gov.uk

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 also use the nature camera to see the visiting animals visiting the woods.

We will make story maps of the garden, 2D and 3D, marking where animals might live. We will use the duplo, bricks, pictures, 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, using the digital camera.

The Big Garden Bird watch takes place again this year. It is the world's largest wildlife survey organised by the RSPB. We are registered and will make good use of the resources provided to capture the Children's imagination and keep their interest. 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 on 27th to 29th January 2024. 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 and our own ways as part of the Big Garden Bird Watch!

Invoices...

We will continue to send invoices out at the end of previous months for the month ahead. If you are suffering financial hardship, please tell us so that we can put you in touch with the many support services that can help. **The Family Information Service** website for Surrey is very helpful. The magazine we all received had good info about financial services.

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 soaked or muddy! It is usually in this half term that we see **SNOW and ICE!**