

# Little Acorns Newsletter

Summer Term 1 (2021)

As the lockdown restrictions continue to relax, Little Acorns will be cautious!

## Dates for Your Diary 2021/22

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.

**Sum 1:** 19th April – 28th May

**May Bank Holiday:** 3rd May and 31st May

**Half Term:** 29th May – 6th June

**Sum 2:** 7th June – 30th July

**Summer Holiday:** 31st July – 31st Aug

**Autumn 1:** 1st Sept - 22nd Oct

**Oct Half Term:** 23rd Oct – 31st Oct

**Autumn 2:** 1st Nov – 17th Dec

**Christmas Holiday:** 18th Dec 21 – 3rd Jan 22

## Revised Early Years Foundation Stage:

The EYFS is a distinct and important phase in education. It places an equal priority on supporting children's social and emotional development and their learning. The early years are the crucial time for developing children's enjoyment of learning, their engagement and motivation. It's an important time for children to develop their ability to persist and show gritty determination!

We aim to create a sense of friendly co-operation, and to set clear rules and limits too. We value each child as an individual, and help each child to live and learn alongside others. We model play and talk with children, and we show them how to manage and be part of a group, sharing and taking turns. Our children learn new vocabulary and knowledge across different areas of learning, they decide what they want to do, and they will solve problems in context along the way. We work in close partnership with our parents, you are essential partners in your child's early learning. Children can achieve amazing things when we all work together! We work to keep you up to date with events and milestones, through chatting, the daily contact book, monthly/half termly plans, and newsletters. We hope that you feel informed and involved. Thank you also for sharing with us, through chatting, your notes, messages, texts and the daily book.

## Children's Individual Plans...

Drawing on observations and notes made during play with the children, we make use of the framework, the milestones checkpoints, and a full range of child development advice to identify what we can do to support children, and what we can provide for them, to help them to develop and achieve. We might draw on physical advice from occupational therapist programmes, and to support speech development, we might draw on Speech therapist programmes for example. If we identify that a child may have a special need, we will be able to work with you to help you access relevant services from other agencies, or we may seek some advice from our local authority SENDCo.

The individual plans that we have designed will be shared by email, and in the daily book. The plan will gather together information you have provided from home, and information about your child's interests. As our work with the new curriculum evolves we might adapt these plans, as we want them to be useful for everyone, and unique to your child. Let us know what you think about them.

## New Curriculum...

The revised curriculum for EYFS begins in September 2021. We have been preparing for this for some time, through training events, planning, conference and resources. We have attending training for the new OFSTED framework and the curriculum changes. We have been phasing the new curriculum in, alongside the old one, since last year and planning with it since January. It compliments how we have always worked and allows us to be rather more creative, and flexible in what we do, and how we do it. The milestones checklists that it offers compliments the two year check, and other good advice with regards to child development. It will allow us to focus on a 'whole child' approach, and really tune in to what they need to do as a goal, rather than work in a short term 'next steps' way. This allows for deeper, lasting learning, and our continuous play approach means we can work in a cross curricular way, making full use of creative opportunities.

## Illness and Testing...

The Lateral Flow Testing kits for asymptomatic testing, have now been extended to Childminders, and are freely available to all online or from pharmacies, so we will explore these and how best to use them to keep everyone safe.

## Here comes the sun...

As we approach the better weather, please apply suncream on sunny days, before arrival, and leave us with a suncream that we can re apply over the day. Provide a hat if you have one, we do have hats here for children to use, sandals that dry quick are handy for water play, and covered shoulders are better. Please send spare clothes as we do use a lot of water play! We have wellie boots here, but you can always send your own if you wish.

**Catch it, Bin it, Kill it! We are still in this together! ...HANDS...FACE...SPACE...**