

Acorns Primary School

Nursery Information Booklet 2024-2025



Little Acorns

Nursery and Reception Class



Welcome to **Acorns Primary School**

We are very pleased to welcome your child to Acorns Primary School. The aim of this booklet is to help you prepare yourselves, as well as your child, for joining us in Nursery.

School Information

School Address

School Close
Long Compton
Shipston-on-Stour
Warwickshire CV36 5LA

Telephone Number

Main School: 01608 684654

Email

admin2639@welearn365.com

Website

www.acornsprimary.co.uk
<https://twitter.com/acornshead>

The Stour Federation

FROM LITTLE ACORNS MIGHTY OAKS GROW



OUR MISSION

We are **compassionate** - we ensure everyone belongs in our school community by recognising and nurturing diversity and equity.

We are **curious** - we create memorable experiences and aspirational journeys.

We are **courageous** - we can make a positive difference through determination and perseverance.

OUR VISION

We will make a promise of excellence and unswerving devotion to create a community where each little acorn belongs. Through mutual respect and honesty, we will encourage and nurture.

We will lay the foundations to develop an enduring love of learning and ambition so pupils feel empowered to steer their own lives, challenging and supporting those around them.

We will motivate and provide direction and purpose so children build a sense of community they are proud to be a part of.

We will serve our whole school community to mastermind journeys and create memories to allow our mighty oaks to flourish.

SCHOOL VALUES



Compassion



Curiosity



Courage

TRUST VALUES

Relationships

Excellence

Service

Passion

Ethics

Collaboration

Trust



Acorns Staff



Mrs. Claire Austin
Nursery and Reception
Teacher



Mrs. Claire Hicks
Nursery and Reception
Teaching Assistant
Designated Safeguarding
Lead



Mrs. Lucy Shadbolt
Nursery and Reception
Teaching Assistant



Mrs. Carol Peachy
SEND Teaching
Assistant

The Stour Federation



Mr. Christian Hilton
Trust CEO



Mrs. Hannah Young
Head Teacher

(Designated Safeguarding Leads)



Mrs. Catherine Wright
Office Admin Assistant



Mrs. Lisa Pang
Trust SENDCO

Acorns 3Bs



From Little Acorns, mighty oaks grow.

Learn, Grow, Succeed Together.



Compassion, Curiosity, Courage

Be ready.



Be respectful.



Always do my best.



Be ready: embrace high standards in all we do; come to school with a ready to learn attitude (properly equipped and wearing school uniform); ensure high attendance and punctuality; be ready for learning; attend parents' evenings and workshops to support learning and wellbeing; communicate effectively.

Be respectful: value, respect and include everybody; care for all children in school; create a safe and happy environment in which every child matters; move around school safely; support school's policies.

Always do my best: be compassionate, curious and courageous; celebrate successes; learn from mistakes; support home learning; work in partnership; stay safe online; make the most of every minute of learning and social times; enjoy being part of the school team.

Areas of Learning

There are seven areas of learning and development in the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. All are important and inter-connected. Three areas are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, forming relationships and thriving, and building capacity to learn: Communication and Language, Physical Development and Personal, Social and Emotional Development. These prime areas are strengthened and applied through four specific areas: Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design.






At Acorns Primary, we follow the Cornerstones curriculum from Nursery to Year 6. This provides us with an ambitious, knowledge-rich curriculum that develops children's understanding of concepts and builds their skills. Our topics enable children to make links across the areas of learning and provides them with the foundational knowledge and skills for their future education and lives. Our topics begin with an exciting engage stage to spark the imagination and curiosity of young minds, before moving into the develop stage where children acquire new knowledge and skills. The children then have an opportunity to apply this new learning through an imaginative and inventive innovate project. Finally, children present and share their learning in our express stage. We have a new main topic each half term in Little Acorns, which is accompanied by a shorter companion topic looking at seasonal changes or culturally significant events.

Our full curriculum offer for Nursery and Reception can be viewed on our website <https://www.acornsprimary.co.uk/early-years-nursery-and-reception/>

Curriculum Newsletters are sent to parents at the start of each half term; detailing our topic and suggestions on how to support your child's learning at home, as well as important information and dates for your diary.



Curriculum Topics 2024-2025

Autumn		Me and My Community
		Once Upon a Time
Spring		Starry Night
		Ready Steady Grow
Summer		Sunshine and Sunflowers
		Big Wide World

Parent/Teacher Liaison

Parents are encouraged to share any comments, concerns or useful observations with us. Staff are available at the beginning and end of the day/session for brief conversations or you can make an appointment to see the teacher via the school office. You can also use the Seesaw app messaging function to enable a dialogue between home and school. Please note Seesaw messages may not be picked up during the teaching day when we are busy with the children, therefore, if your message is urgent or regarding a change in the collection arrangements for your child please contact the school office.

During the year, there will be formal occasions when you will be invited to discuss your child's progress with the teacher, as well as informal opportunities to view your child's paper Learning Journal and look at their work on display.

How do we observe children and monitor progress?

We have developed a model of effective, meaningful, and principled assessment of young children's learning.

By **effective**, we mean a method of assessment that ensures that all children are supported in reaching significant milestones.

By **meaningful**, we mean that the observations made inform our everyday practice and curriculum. By gaining an insight into children's thinking, feeling and needs we can plan our environment and actions to provide future possibilities for learning.

By **principled**, we mean that our focus is on **observing to understand** children. Children are recognised as individuals, not as a percentage in a pie chart.

We will not spend unnecessary amounts of time writing observations or gathering evidence of children's learning. We believe that if we are **capturing** the moment, we cannot be **part** of the moment. Instead, we have structures in place that enable us to regularly discuss each child as a team and with their family.

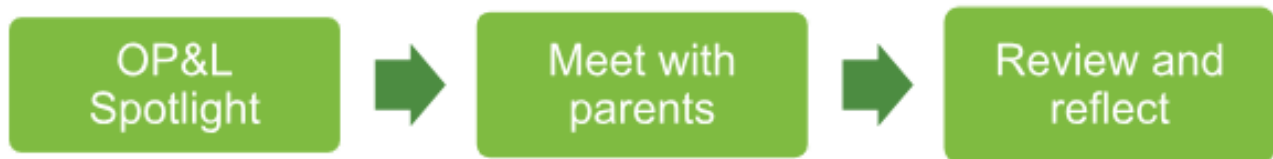
Observation of Play and Learning (OP&L)

Your child's learning will be closely monitored in collaboration with you to ensure they are supported to reach significant milestones for their age.

OP&L works on the basis of having very simple, six-monthly child developmental milestones, which we use to monitor children's development. These milestones reflect what we believe a 'typical' child, should be able to achieve. We know that not all children will have 'typical' development. OP&L allows us to tell and celebrate each child's story and focus on the support they need from us.

The observations and assessments that we make are called 'spotlights'. We observe children's innovation, their creativity, their ideas, their intents and feelings. The insight that we gain enables us to discuss, reflect and plan our environment to support and shape future learning.

OP&L follows a simple, three step cycle:



What to expect?

There will be many opportunities throughout the year for us to come together to talk about your child and their learning.

Settling in: For those new to our setting, we will use their most recent set of developmental milestones together with our initial observations to guide us in our Starting Points assessment. Once this is complete (within the first 6 weeks) we will meet with you to talk about how your child has settled in.

Spotlight: Each child will have two 'spotlight' points in the year. These will be around the time of their birthday and half birthday in line with our 6 monthly milestones check. Please be aware that the dates of these meetings will be different for each child depending on when their birthday falls. We will invite you in to share the 'spotlight' and talk about your child's learning and development.

Parent Drop In: You are invited to our half termly Parent Sharing events to look at your child's work in their paper Learning Journal and on display.

Seesaw: Parents are invited to register to view their child's learning using the Seesaw app. Seesaw is a multimedia journal that enables us to showcase learning at school. Each child gets their own journal stored securely in the cloud. Throughout the year, we will post regular whole class updates and photographs sharing recent highlights. If you have a smartphone or tablet, you can download the Seesaw Parent app for Apple or Android devices. Parent access to learning journals is also available through a secure website. Seesaw invites will be sent at the start of the new school year or when your child joins our nursery.

Curriculum Newsletter: Shared via PING and available on our school website, you will be able to access a half termly Curriculum Newsletter that lets you know all about our topic for the half term and key dates for your diary.

Monthly Newsletter: Shared via PING and available on our school website each month, our Newsletter is a celebration of everything we have been doing across the school and a reminder about upcoming events and important dates.

Almost all of our communication is now online through the following channels. Invitations to sign-up and/or login details will be shared when your child joins the school:



School Ping - For all essential messages communicated from the school office.



ParentPay

For all payment items - school meals, trips, visitors and events, and to give consent for school trips.



Seesaw - Online learning journal for class updates, photographs and recent highlights.

The School Day

Nursery children will be welcomed into school from 8.35am for the start of the morning session which begins promptly at 8.45am. Children will be greeted by a member of staff and say their goodbyes at the gate, before heading up the path and into the classroom. Once inside, children organise their belongings before changing into their indoor shoes and getting ready to start the day. We encourage parents and carers to allow their children to take charge of their coats, bags, shoes and other belongings to foster independence. Staff will be on hand to support the children with these first tasks as necessary.

For Nursery children attending a morning session only, collection is at 11.45am. Children arriving at 12.15pm for the afternoon session will be greeted at the main playground gate by a member of staff. Please note that they will need to have eaten their lunch before attending. For children staying all day lunchtime is at 12pm.

The end of the school day is 3.15pm and children will be dismissed to parents /carers from the gate at the bottom of the path.

For safety reasons, we do not let any child go without a designated adult so if, for any reason, you are going to be late, or your child is going to a friend's house to play after school or somebody different is collecting your child, it is essential that you inform the school office in advance. Please make us aware of regular pick-up arrangements at the start of term.

Settling in / transition arrangements:

Children who come for a tour with their parents / carers, followed by some settling in sessions, are usually very keen to start coming on their own. Many children skip through the door on their first morning and settle immediately. Some children find the separation a little more difficult, as do some parents. We want your experience to be as smooth and uneventful as possible and will support the settling-in of your child in every way we can.

Nursery Timings

Acorns School Nursery is open term time only.

Nursery is not open on school INSET days.

Ages

- Children must be aged 3 and above to attend.

Sessions

- Morning session times: 8.45am - 11.45am not including lunch.
- Afternoon session times: 12.15pm - 3.15pm lunch to be eaten prior to arrival.
- Full day 8.45am-3.15pm
- Children may attend a morning session, an afternoon session, or a full day session.
- Children who stay all day have the option of purchasing a school lunch at the cost of £2.70 per lunch (booked in advance no later than midnight on Sunday for the week ahead) or to bring a packed lunch.
- A charge of £4 will be made for the 30 minutes between the morning and afternoon session for children who are booked in for a full day funded by Early Years Government Funded entitlements.

Nursery Government Funded Hours

- Government Nursery funding: 3-4 year old entitlements are available the term after a child turns 3.
- With the exception of 3-4 year old Universal 15 hour entitlements, which all families are able to access for their child, the term after they turn 3, Parents/Carers must apply in order to access 2 year old 15 hour working families entitlement (for the term they turn 3, before they are eligible for 3-4 year old funding), and 3-4 year old additional 15 hours working families entitlements (30 hour code).
- A funding declaration form needs to be completed and signed by school and families before the start of each term for all families claiming any Early Years Government Funding entitlements.

How to apply 2, 3 and 4 year old working families entitlement Government Funding

Parents must apply online to HMRC's digital childcare service at: <https://childcare-support.tax.service.gov.uk/par/app/applynow>

Families will be given an 11 digit eligibility code for their child when they apply if they are eligible. **Once an eligibility code has been given, please give this to the school so that we can confirm eligibility before your child starts. This must be done the term BEFORE you wish your child to start claiming 2, 3 and 4 year old working families funding entitlement. Codes must be re-validated by families every 3 months with HMRC.**

- Parents are advised to contact the Childcare Service Customer Interaction Centre at HMRC on 0300 1234097 should they encounter any problems regarding 3-4 year old entitlements and 2 year old working parents entitlements.
- Early Years Government Funded Hours are for 38 weeks of the year, for a set number of weeks each term. The school year is 39 weeks. Consequently 1 week is not covered by Government Funded hours and will be charged for.
- Parents can split their Early Years entitlement funding between multiple providers, although no more than 2 sites in one day. Where parents choose to split their child's free entitlement between providers, they will need to distinguish between the 15 hours universal entitlement for 3- and 4-year-olds and the 15 hours working parent entitlement for 2, 3 and 4-year-olds on the PDF funding form each term.

Additional Sessions

- Additional sessions, not covered by Government Funded Hours, are charged at the cost of £18 for a morning or afternoon and £40.00 for a full day. (This includes the cost of £4.00 for the 30 minutes between the morning and afternoon sessions.)
- For the time before a 3-4 year old child is eligible for 3-4 year old Government Funding and when a family is not eligible to 2 year old 15 hours working families entitlement in the term that they turn 3, morning sessions cost £18 or £40.00 for a full day (8.45am-3.15pm).

Admissions

- Application for a nursery place is by application form directly to the school. Children's names are added to an open waiting list and a nursery place and sessions will be confirmed to families 3 months prior to the child starting nursery.
- Having a place at Acorns Nursery does not automatically guarantee a place in Reception as all applications from Reception to Year 6 are dealt with by Warwickshire Local Authority Admissions. Parents will have to apply to their home local authority for a school place, e.g. Warwickshire, Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire.

Breakfast Club

- At an additional cost of £4.50 per day, children can attend the school Breakfast Club which runs from 8am-8.45am for Nursery children. Government funding cannot be used to pay for Breakfast Club sessions.

Notice

- A minimum of 6 weeks' notice must be given in writing to the school if the nursery place is no longer required.

Payment

- All fees not covered by Nursery Government Funded Hours will be invoiced termly at the start of each term. Invoices not paid fully within 14 days will incur a late payment charge of 10% of the invoice. If payment of an invoice is a month overdue, the child will no longer be able to attend nursery sessions which are not Government Funded.

School Dinners

- The cost of hot school dinners, available as an option for children who are booked in for a full day, need to be ordered and paid via ParentPay. Menus are available. The cost is £2.70 per school meal.

Childcare Vouchers

- The school is registered to accept Edenred, Kiddivouchers, Computershare childcare vouchers and most other voucher providers can be set up to accept.
- The school is registered to accept Tax Free Childcare (TFC).

Breakfast Club



ACORNS BREAKFAST CLUB

START YOUR
DAY RIGHT AT
**BREAKFAST
CLUB**

Breakfast Club is for Nursery and school-age children at Acorns Primary School, EVERY MORNING during term time from **8am**. Enjoy a healthy breakfast and some fun activities before school starts.

£4.50 per day.
Held in the School Hall.

Please contact the school to make your booking.

 01608 684654

 admin2639@we-learn.com

www.acornsprimary.co.uk

Admission to Reception

Having a place at Acorns Nursery does not automatically guarantee a place in Reception as all applications for Reception - Year 6 are dealt by Warwickshire Local Authority Admissions. Parents will have to apply for a school place.



What to do

- Parents must apply for a school place at Acorns Primary through their Local Authority (the county where you live).
- If you live within a school's priority area you have more chance of your child being offered a place at that school.
- Living within the priority area does not guarantee an offer of a place at that school as there may be more applicants living within the priority area than the number of places available.
- Warwickshire residents are encouraged to apply online, otherwise call the admissions office.
- The Executive Headteacher can tell you about the admission arrangements and the opportunities to visit the school.
- Places are offered according to the admissions criteria. Late applications will be considered after all those received on-time.

If you live in Warwickshire, you can apply online for a place at Acorns Primary School:

<http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/applyforschool>

If you live in Oxfordshire, you can apply online for a place at Acorns School

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/apply-school-place/infant-and-primary-school>

If you live in Gloucestershire, you can apply online for a place at Acorns Primary School <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and->

School Uniform

You can order our school uniform by going directly to <https://www.pbuniform-online.co.uk/acornsprimary>. You will need to register and create your own username and password. Delivery is made free of charge direct to school on the second and fourth Monday of every month or to your home within 5 working days for a small charge.

Girls - white polo shirt, black skirt, pinafore or trousers/shorts, burgundy sweatshirt or cardigan, black socks or tights, sensible black shoes (no boots). Optional yellow gingham dress in the summer term with white socks.

Boys - white polo shirt, black shorts or trousers, burgundy sweatshirt or cardigan, black socks, sensible black shoes (no boots).

PE Kit - orange school PE T-shirt, black shorts, leggings or tracksuit bottoms, their usual school jumper or cardigan and trainers (velcro fastening only please). Children are to come to school ready dressed in their PE kit on PE days.

Book Bags

Your child will also require a burgundy book bag: we will use your child's book bag to send home library books, art work and other important information. Please check your child's book bag each evening. Please do not use backpack style bags as they do not easily fit in the children's drawers. We also ask that water bottles are carried separately and not stored in book bags, as leakages can damage books and other resources.

Also available, although not compulsory, are sports kit bags, warm and waterproof winter coats and outdoor fleeces.



Please make sure all items are labelled clearly. Parents are asked to encourage children to be aware of their belongings and take good care of them. Younger children will be supported in class to achieve this.

If something appears to be missing, please check with the class teacher.

No nail polish or jewellery other than stud earrings should be worn to school. Long hair should be tied back.

Your child will need to bring a named water bottle (water only please) and in hot weather, sunscreen and a sunhat. Sunscreen must be applied before each school day when required. Children will be encouraged to reapply sunscreen at lunchtime on days of high UV levels, and younger children will be supported with this where necessary. During the winter months, a warm hat and gloves should be in school daily alongside coats.

Footwear in Little Acorns

Sensible Black Shoes - no laces please. Children need to be able to manage taking their shoes off and putting them on again themselves as they change shoes a few times each day.

Indoor shoes - Children change into their indoor shoes on arrival to school. Again, these must be easy for them to get on and off quickly and independently. These are black canvas pumps/plimsols.

Wellington boots - for use in the outdoor classroom.

The indoor shoes and wellington boots stay at school and are sent home on a termly basis for cleaning and to check their size/fit.

Dressing

Please encourage your child to dress themselves and try not to automatically do everything for them because you feel that it is quicker.

All children are expected to be able to put on and take off their own coats and shoes. We will, of course, give general help but footwear that needs adult help because they are too tight or fastenings are too complicated is not suitable for school.

On entry to Little Acorns, each child is given a calico bag in which to keep a change of clothes - accidents do happen whether they be toilet, water play or paint related. At the start of the year, please send in a plastic bag with pants, trousers/skirt, socks/tights, t-shirt and jumper for us to store in your child's calico bag. These spare clothes need not be uniform. We will send home a clothing slip to let you know if/when any items need replenishing during the year.

It is also important to make sure that ALL your child's clothing and footwear is clearly named. Children need to be able to recognise their own name labels.

School Meals and Snacks

Nursery children staying all day may have a hot school dinner or bring a packed lunch from home.

Universal Infant Free School Meals entitle a free school meal to all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. Meals for Nursery children and Key Stage 2 cost £2.70 per day. School meals need to be ordered on ParentPay by midnight on Sunday for the week ahead. A ParentPay account activation letter and code will be sent to you once your child starts school. Meal orders for your child's first week will be taken via email from the school office.

Our hot meals are very popular with children. They are freshly cooked each day by our school cook, using locally produced ingredients where possible. There is always a choice of two hot meals and menus are viewable on both ParentPay and our school website to help you work with your child to pick school meals together.

Each morning, the children have a piece of fruit and a drink of milk or water. Snack time provides an opportunity for children to experience new tastes, chat about healthy eating and practise good table manners.

Fruit is provided free of charge for all children from Nursery to Year 2.

Children under 5 years old can be registered for FREE milk at school. Please visit www.coolmilk.com and select 'Register your child for milk,' then follow the on-screen instructions to register. Once your child reaches their fifth birthday, you will be sent a letter offering the option to continue on the parent payment scheme.

Toilets

We anticipate that when children enter Little Acorns, they will need only minimal support with going to the toilet and will know when to excuse themselves without leaving it too late. We understand that occasionally a child may still be finding toilet training a challenging experience and we will do everything we can to help, but in normal circumstances we do not expect this to be necessary for any more than the first few weeks.

If Nursery children are still wearing nappies/pull-ups, parents need to provide a supply of nappies, nappy sacks and wipes at the start of each half term.

If you do have any concerns about your child's toileting please do let us know.

Health

Please inform the teacher of any medical problems that your child has.

If your child is asthmatic, please supply the teacher with a named inhaler with instructions on frequency of use and sign the appropriate permission slip, which can be obtained from the school office. Inhalers will be kept in the classroom for easy access. Please check regularly that there is sufficient medication and that it is still within its 'use by' date.

You should also observe your child's scalp for head lice (live creatures) and nits (eggs). This is a common problem in schools but can be quite easily treated. Regular combing with a special head lice detection comb is recommended.

If your child is sick or has diarrhoea, please keep them at home for 48 hours after the last bout of sickness/diarrhoea, even if they appear to have recovered. It is so easy in schools for infection to spread unless we are all prepared to take care. Please note the suggested times for keeping your child away from school if they suffer from any of the following illnesses: -

Should I keep my child off school?

Yes

Until...

Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek



SCAN ME

Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfec>.

Medicines

If your child needs medication staff can help with administration once the appropriate permission slip has been signed.

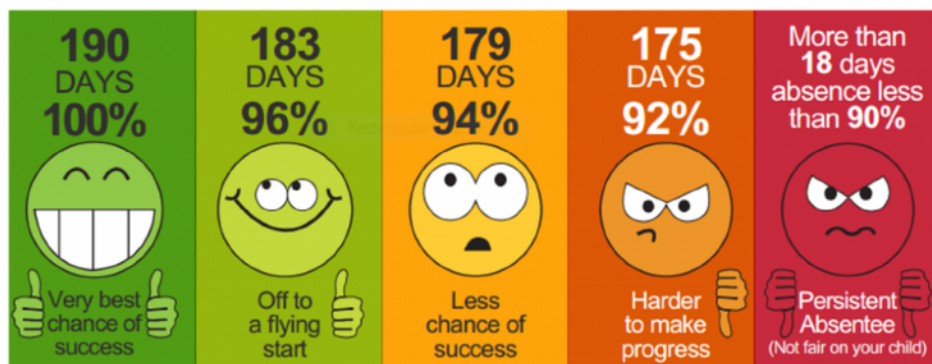
Absences

If your child is absent, please contact Mrs. Wright in the school office as soon as possible. There is a voicemail option on the school telephone system for parents to leave a message before school if a child is unwell (option 1).

If you are aware that your child is going to have a planned absence from Nursery during the school year, we would be grateful if you could let us know in advance. Whilst attendance at Nursery is not statutory, we encourage good attendance and punctuality right from the start to support children's learning and development and to set the expectations for the years ahead.

Our school attendance target is 97%.

There are **190** days in a school year which leaves **175** days to spend on family time, shopping, appointments and other things.



ParentPay

We use ParentPay for all methods of payment (school meals, trips, visitors, events and to give consent for school trips). You will receive an account activation letter from our school office when your child joins the school.

1. Navigate to parentpay.com
2. Select Login at the top right corner of the screen.
3. Enter the username and password (activation codes) provided in your account activation letter and select Login.
4. Complete the activation as detailed on the screen.
5. You can now log in to your account.

To set alerts:

1. Login
2. Go to Communications
3. Go to Alert Settings
4. Select the type of Alert (low balance and/or new item) and select how you want to receive alerts, email and/or SMS Text.

Email alerts are free of charge. If you opt for SMS text alerts there is a small charge per text.

We use the Parent Selection system on ParentPay to help the school kitchen manage their food orders and to maximise learning time in school. Parents will need to select meal choices for the forthcoming week by midnight on Sunday.

Please note that if you haven't booked a lunch in advance then your child will need to bring in a packed lunch.



ParentPay

Safeguarding

'Under the Education Act 2002 (Section 175), schools must make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Parent/carers should know that the law (Children Act 2006) requires all school staff to pass on information which gives rise to a concern about a child's welfare, including risk from neglect, physical, emotional or sexual abuse. The staff will seek, in general, to discuss any concerns with the parent/carer, and where possible, seek their consent to a referral to Social Care. This will only be done where such discussion will not place the child at increased risk of significant harm. Schools will seek advice from Social Care when they have reasonable cause to suspect a child may be suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. Occasionally, concerns are passed on which are later shown to be unfounded. Parents/carers will appreciate that the designated person for child protection was carrying out their responsibilities in accordance with the law and acting in the best interests of all children.'

Designated Safeguarding Leads

Mrs. Young (Head Teacher)

Mrs. Hicks (Nursery/Reception Teaching Assistant)

Mr. Hilton (Trust CEO)

Road Safety

The safety of the children in our care is our highest priority. We work closely with the Road Safety Team at Warwickshire County Council to run road safety workshops and assemblies for all children across the school throughout the year.

In Little Acorns, we are visited by Warwick Bear who uses songs and stories to teach the children the Warwickshire Road Safety Code:

- **THINK** about roads
- **STOP** before the kerb and wait
- **LOOK** and **LISTEN** for traffic
- **THINK** about what to do
- **CROSS SAFELY** with an adult, always holding hands.

We revisit this regularly with the children and have our own Warwick Bear in school as well as an array of stories to teach and reinforce messages about personal safety.

Given our location close to the main road and with vehicular access to School Lane and the staff carpark, it is essential that children are holding hands with a parent / carer when walking to and from school, whilst waiting to enter the classroom each morning and immediately upon dismissal from the gate. We regularly remind the children how important this is and appreciate your support with this matter.

Please note that parents are not permitted to park in the staff carpark but may use Chapel carpark and the parking available at the village hall. Please be respectful of our neighbours when parking for drop off and collection.

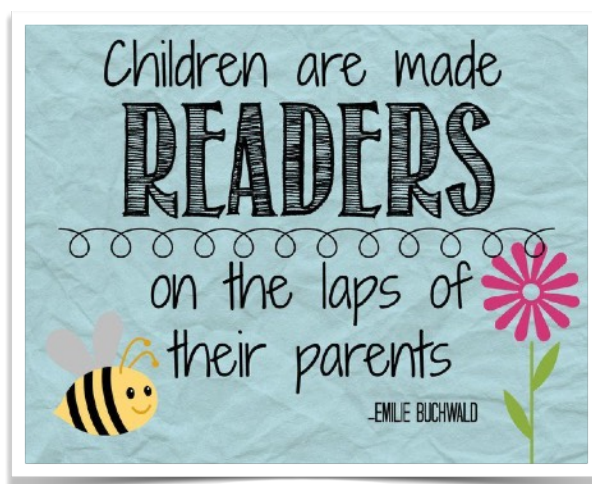
The importance of Reading

Teaching children to read and write is one of the core purposes of a primary school. These key skills not only hold the keys to the rest of the curriculum but also have a huge impact on children's self-esteem and future life chances.

Our entire curriculum has a strong emphasis on vocabulary acquisition. Vocabulary is key to understanding and learning. Children need to know, through high quality teaching, what words mean in order to understand what they have read. Again, this is a core purpose behind the books we read to the children.

Most importantly of all, in all year groups, we encourage children to be reading at home every night. Where the infinite jostling possibilities of the touch screen make us feel scatterbrained, a story read aloud engages our minds in deep, sustained attention.

The language of stories helps babies develop the linguistic scaffolding for early speech, and helps young children work toward fluency. When children are older, novels read aloud give them access to complex language and narratives that might otherwise be beyond them. The experience bathes children of all ages in torrents of words, images and rhythms. It brings joy, engagement and profound emotional connection for children.



Reading - The Enchanted Hour

"Family life can be a hectic and flailing business. Sometimes it's a struggle to keep everyone afloat, let alone to haul them onto a read-aloud raft at bedtime. Yet it's an effort worth making, especially now that almost everyone's raft is tossing on a wide and often lonely sea of pixels. Young and old, we need what reading aloud has to offer."

"The difference between [children] who get bedtime stories and those who don't, the difference in their life chances, is bigger than the difference between those who get elite private schooling and those that don't."

"We know that technoferece is a real issue for many children. It can be distressing to lose a parent's attention to electronic interruption, and some kids misbehave because of it."

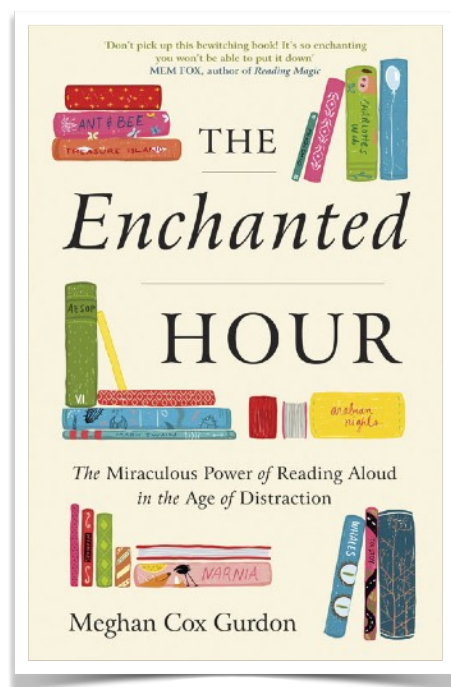
"Language is a vital tool for a child learning to regulate his emotions and behaviours, and to establish relationships with others. The more adept a child becomes with words, the sooner he can handle himself."

"Picture books provide the opportunity to talk about many different words: the moon, the sun, the planets. You can do this in book sharing, whereas it would be kind of weird in everyday life...books open the world and its infinite possibilities for words."

"When it comes to paying attention, children from read-aloud families go to school with a triple advantage. They're used to listening, so it's easy for them to do it. They've heard lots of language, so their comprehension will be comparatively strong. And they know from experience that paying attention brings rewards."

"Children get a wider perspective when they're tugged out of the here and now for a little while each day. In an enchanted hour, we can read them stories of the real and imagined past."

"When we read with a child, we are doing so much more than teaching him to read or instilling in her a love of language. We are doing something that I believe is just as powerful, and it is something that we are losing as a culture: by reading with a child, we are teaching them to be human."



Acorns Primary School
Term Dates 2024-25

Autumn Term 2024	
Designated Teacher Training Day	Monday 2nd September Tuesday 3rd September
Term Starts	Wednesday 4th September
Designated Teacher Training Day	Friday 25th October
Half Term	Monday 28 October - Friday 1st November
Term ends	Friday 20th December, 1.15pm

Spring Term 2025	
Designated Teacher Training Day	Monday 6th January
Term Starts	Tuesday 7th January
Half Term	Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February
Term ends	Friday 11th April

Summer Term 2025	
Term Starts	Monday 28th April
May Day Bank Holiday	Monday 5th May
Half Term	Monday 26th May - Friday 30th May
Term ends	Friday 18th July
Designated Teacher Training Day	Monday 21st July

Autumn Term 2025	
Designated Teacher Training Day	Monday 1st September (TBC) Tuesday 2nd September (TBC)
Term Starts	Wednesday 3rd September (TBC)