



Prospectus



www.acornsprimary.co.uk



Welcome to our School

Acorns Primary School in Long Compton serves the rural area on the borders of South Warwickshire, Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire. The priority area includes the villages of Long Compton, Little Compton, Little Wolford, Great Wolford, Barton on the Heath; and aims to provide a centre for educational excellence in the area. Acorns Primary School is an academy for children aged 3 years to 11 years.

Our school aims to be as involved as possible in the community and with other local educational opportunities, and is fully committed to participate in activities offered. The school provides a foundation for life, enabling children to be challenged to perform to their full potential and feel valued, respected, safe and happy. We do not discriminate on grounds of race, gender or culture. All our pupils aspire to the high standards of a well performing school.

Every child has a right to learn. Children will be encouraged to achieve well in a caring, structured and disciplined atmosphere that promotes academic, creative, physical and social development.

Children will be given the opportunity to see new things, develop their thoughts, try new skills and gradually expand their field of experience to stimulate the range of skills needed by individuals in society.

Whilst we hope that this prospectus answers some of your questions, we would really welcome the chance to show you and your child around our school and to answer any questions you may have. An appointment to view the school and meet the staff can be made through the school office.

We look forward to hearing from you.

School Aims

Children are actively encouraged to:

- Develop self confidence and awareness of others and their environment.
- Listen attentively to gain understanding, seeking the rewards of hard work.
- Develop self respect, good manners and high standards of behaviour.
- Read fluently and accurately, for information and pleasure.
- Be able to use language imaginatively and creatively with high standards of spelling, punctuation, handwriting and syntax.
- Speak well and clearly to each other in public.
- Learn to make decisions and to solve problems in a systematic way.
- Develop an understanding of mathematical principles and be able to apply them.
- Develop skills, concepts and understanding in the fields of Computing and Science.
- Know about the geographical, historical and social aspects of their local and national environment.
- Develop their talents in art, drama, music and physical education.
- Appreciate our own and other cultures and spirituality through study, visits, art and foreign languages.

These aims will shape the teaching and development of children in an environment that is attractive, stimulating and safe. Working together, children will develop a willingness and desire to learn and enjoy school life.





Our School

Acorns Primary School is part of The Stour Federation Multi Academy Trust, in partnership with Shipston-on-Stour Primary School, Brailes Church of England Primary School and Kineton C of E Primary School.

This traditional building in the heart of a local community has undergone major redevelopment and refurbishment over the last twelve years. A learning environment with modern facilities has been created.

The classrooms are set up and designed for our modern curriculum with LED screens, chromebooks and iPads. There is also a library and a multi-purpose hall with kitchen and dining facilities. The outdoor area is extensive and includes the front hard standing playground, a science garden and an orchard which can be used for sports, Forest Schools lessons, outdoor learning and lunchtime play. We also utilise the village recreational ground called Aunt Phoebe's Field and the Village Hall. This affords the school opportunities for a well balanced educational programme.

A dedicated Foundation Stage Unit (Little Acorns) is well run and well respected, providing the basis for a good education throughout the school. The Foundation stage unit uses a mix of indoor and outdoor activities taking advantage of the excellent and stimulating garden area adjacent to the unit.

The school benefits from peripatetic music teachers providing our children with whole class instrumental tuition. Acorns pupils actively take part in the Shipston Proms Week and join with 7,000 children for the Young Voices Concert in Birmingham.

Acorns employs a specialist sports coach to teach a wide range of sports during curriculum time. Pupils have the opportunity to represent the school in sporting competition. Acorns Primary have been awarded the School Games Gold award on 3 occasions.

An active and well-focused Local Academy Council works closely with staff to maintain the quality of education and oversee the monitoring of pupil progress. They ensure that the school has the facilities to provide a sound education for children. Directors for the Trust Board are drawn from all walks of life and support the active relationship between parents, staff and the local communities in our feeder villages.

Acorns PTA play a vital role in supporting the education of our local children, the social links within the area and the life of the school and its children.



Nursery Admissions

There are 13 places available to nursery children each year. All 3 and 4 year-olds in England already get 15 hours a week, or 570 hours a year of free early education. If parents are living and working in England, 3 and 4-year-olds may be entitled to 30 hours free childcare: an extra 570 hours of free childcare a year, so 1140 hours in total.

To check eligibility please visit <https://childcare-support.tax.service.gov.uk/par/app/applynow>. Parents are not required to use the full 30 hours.

There are two Nursery sessions (totalling 30 hours per week): -

- Morning session time 9am - 12pm (not including lunch).
- Afternoon session time 12.15pm - 3.15pm (children to bring packed lunch or pay £2.40 for a hot meal).
- An additional charge of £2 will be made for the 15 minutes between the morning and afternoon session for children who are booked in for a full day funded by Extended Government Funded Hours as this time is in addition to the 30 hours funding. **ONLY CHILDREN WHO ARE BOOKED IN FOR A FULL DAY WILL BE ABLE TO STAY FOR LUNCH.**
- Parents and carers who are not eligible for the 30 hour funding are still able to pay for an afternoon session at a cost of £18.

All Nursery admissions are conducted via the school office.



School Admissions

Reception

Children may join the Reception class in the September following their fourth birthday. 13 places are available. Applications must be made via Warwickshire Admissions, Gloucestershire Admissions or Oxfordshire Admissions, depending on the county where families live.

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/admissions>

<http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-admissions/>

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/admissions-infant-and-primary-schools>

Years 1 to 6

Children can be admitted by arrangement with the Executive Headteacher if places are available. Applications must be made through Warwickshire Admissions

Please note that our standard admission number is 13 children per year group, so early application is advised. Warwickshire County Council provides an admission form and the office staff can provide clear information for all those who are going to join the school.

Children will find it easier to settle if they are able to visit the school with parents prior to the start of their education at Acorns and this can be arranged by a phone call to the school office.



The School Day

Little Acorns Foundation Unit

8.00am	Breakfast Club available for Nursery children (£4.50 per day)
8.55am	Morning session starts for Reception children.
9.00am	Morning session starts for Nursery children.
12.00pm	Morning session ends: Lunch.
12.15pm	Afternoon session starts for Nursery children.
1.00pm – 3.15pm	Afternoon session for Nursery and Reception children.

Main school

8.00am	Breakfast Club available for children (£4.50 per day)
8.50am	Doors are open and pupils are welcome to enter school.
8.55am	The school day starts.
10.15am – 10.30am	Assembly.*
10.30am – 10.45am	Playtime.
12.00pm – 1.00pm	Lunch.
3.15pm	School day ends.

* Whole School Parent Assemblies are held every other Tuesday at 9am where all parents are welcome to attend. These assemblies celebrate current work and achievements of the children, both in and out of school. A monthly school newsletter keeps parents and pupils fully informed.



Teaching, Learning and Curriculum

Our brains use two different systems to store information: working memory and long term memory. Our working memory is like a school bag: it's small, it can't hold much, things can fall out but it's really handy as it holds what you're consciously using at the time. That's why it's called working memory.

Long-term memory is like a child's school locker: it's in the background, down the hallway. We can store a lot more information in the locker than in the school bag, but sometimes there's so much stuff in our locker that it's hard to find what we're looking for and our locker becomes overloaded. This is known to teachers as Cognitive Load Theory. It is the job of teaching staff to support the transfer of knowledge from working memory into long term memory, without children getting overloaded. Learning is a change in long-term memory. Teachers plan learning sequences carefully so that concepts flow well, and knowledge builds steadily and cumulatively, allowing children to secure confidence through modelling, direct instruction and deliberately practising each step until they are fluent, rather than having to handle a whole sequence at once.

Memory is strengthened by retrieval practice. By regularly making yourself try to retrieve information from memory, we will build a far stronger memory of it in the long term. The more we practise remembering, the easier it is to do and the longer we can recall the information for. Teachers regularly quiz children on previous learning (last lesson, last week, last month, last term) to aid retrieval practice. We encourage children to self-quiz to develop their knowledge of number bonds, times tables, spellings and relevant Topic facts.




We use 'Cornerstones' to deliver a creative, broad and balanced curriculum for Years 1-6. Reception follow EYFS Learning Goals. The curriculum uses the four cornerstones: Engage, Develop, Innovate and Express. The topics are designed to be cross-curricular, have a particular curriculum focus each half term and link to a key text.





Attendance

There are only three reasons why a child may be absent from school. These are: -

-  Illness.
-  Religious observance.
-  Where LA transport should be provided but is unavailable.

Regular attendance ensures that children undertake all parts of the structured learning programmes that the school provides. Whilst some absences are unavoidable, continuity in the learning experience will enable the best possible chances for children to reach their full potential.

Parents and carers have a legal responsibility to ensure their child attends school regularly, and on time, and to provide a reason to the school for any absences. These absences will be authorised by the school following contact with parents or carers. The school has a legal requirement to report attendance and therefore your support in this matter is appreciated. If your child is unable to attend please call the school by 9.30am. This enables the correct mark to be added to the register as there are different marks for sickness, authorised absence and doctors' or other appointments.

The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 have previously allowed Headteachers to grant leave of absence for the purpose of a holiday during term time in "special circumstances" of up to ten school days leave per year. Amendments to the 2006 regulations remove references to "holiday" and "extended leave" as well as the statutory threshold of ten school days. The amendments make it clear that Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Headteachers are to determine the number of school days a child can be away from school if the leave is granted. The school target for attendance for all pupils is 97.5%. Attendance under 90% is unacceptable. **EVERY LESSON COUNTS!**



Personal and Pastoral Care

The health and happiness of all pupils is paramount. Our top priorities are the mental health, physical health and well-being of each child as this ensures a frame of mind receptive to learning. It builds the confidence to contribute well in class and opens the mind to new ideas.

There are three Designated Safeguarding Leads for child protection within the school. Staff are regularly updated regarding child protection matters and have a responsibility to report to the relevant professional agencies should any concerns arise.

'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 safeguarding lead was carrying out their responsibilities in accordance with the law and acting in the best interests of all children.'

School Meals

Acorns Primary School embraces the Healthy Schools Policy and has achieved Healthy Schools Status. Free milk is provided to children up to the age of 5 and milk is available up to the age of 11 for a small remittance.

Under a local scheme fresh produce is also available free to all children until the end of Key Stage 1. Produce is delivered several times a week and may include apples, oranges, bananas, tomatoes; sugar snap peas, baby carrots; mini cucumbers or strawberries. The produce varies by season and is sometimes supplemented by vegetables from the Foundation Stage vegetable patch and the orchard fruit trees.

We prepare our own delicious hot lunches on site using fresh and local ingredients where possible. Alternatively you may provide a healthy packed lunch for your child, which could consist of sandwiches, pasta salad or cous cous but should not include fizzy drinks, sweets or chocolate.



School Clubs

Acorns Primary provides a variety of School Clubs each term, which provide children and young people with learning activities and experiences outside the normal school curriculum and outside normal hours. Activities take place in school and after school clubs and with partner organisations. These vary from term to term and are often seasonal. Activities are run by staff, parents and other volunteers or external providers who are all DBS checked.

We have a programme that is popular with the children, and are always open to suggestions about current or new activities both at Acorns and across the Trust.

Library

Acorns has its own extensive reference library and a good stock of fiction books that is regularly reviewed and updated. Additionally the County Library Service renews the school's supply of county books annually with a large selection of reading books.

Above all, we recognise the importance of a stimulating array of reading materials for the children, who get the chance to exchange the books regularly.

A reading scheme that link to phonics teaching is used to support children's reading at school and home.

Swimming

Swimming is a very popular part of the PE curriculum and lessons are held at a local swimming pool. Children participate until they have met the National Curriculum expected standard for the end of Year 6. Information will be sent to parents before any course of lessons begin, detailing the dates and costs.



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. School ties are only available from the school office.

To avoid ordering the incorrect size and then having to pay for the return post, pupils can try on samples of the uniform at school to determine the correct size required as sizing differs from one company to another. 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 delivery charge. If you do not have access to a computer, you can pick up an order form from the school office and order by post paying by credit or debit card.

Girls - White polo shirt (Reception and Key Stage 1) or white shirt and school tie (Key Stage 2), black skirt, pinafore or trousers, burgundy sweatshirt or cardigan, black socks or tights, black shoes (not boots).

Girls Summer - yellow checked dress or playsuit, burgundy cardigan, white socks, black shoes (not boots).

Boys - white polo shirt (Reception and Key Stage 1) or white shirt and school tie (Key Stage 2), black shorts or long trousers, burgundy sweatshirt or cardigan, black socks, black shoes.

PE and Games - Orange T-shirt, black shorts, trainers (a warm tracksuit and football boots are required for winter months).

Also available although not compulsory are burgundy book bags and rucksacks, sports kit bags, waterproof coats and outdoor fleeces.

Please make sure all items are labelled clearly. No nail polish or jewellery other than stud earrings should be worn to school. Earrings should be removed for PE and Games lessons.



School Transport

To qualify for help with LA school transport, you must meet the following criteria:

- You must be a resident in Warwickshire.
- Your child is attending the nearest qualifying school to your home - this is the school in whose priority area you live or another that is nearer to home by the shortest walking route.

The walking distance (using the shortest walking route) from your home to the nearest qualifying school must be:

- Over two miles for children under the age of eight years.
- Over three miles for children aged eight to 16.

If you would like to apply for help with transport, please complete the U16 Transport application form from <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/transporthelpunder16>.

If your child is entitled to free school meals, or your family receives the maximum level of Working Tax Credit, free transport will normally be provided for:

- Children aged 8 to 11 attending the nearest qualifying school to home, provided it is more than two miles (by the shortest available walking route).

In some cases, there is an option to receive transport under our vacant seat scheme. Payment will be required. Seats will be allocated to students based on the following categories (listed in order of priority – highest first):

- Students who have travelled on the same bus service in the previous academic term.
- Warwickshire residents who have not previously travelled on the service, or who are asking for a different bus service to the one travelled on in the previous academic term.
- Non-Warwickshire residents who have not previously travelled on the service, or who are asking for a different bus service to the one travelled on in the previous academic term.

The parental contribution for 2023/24 is as follows:

- Where the student lives less than three miles from the school – £435 per year, or £43.40 upfront then £43.37 per month (over ten months).
- Where the student lives more than three miles from the school – £870 per year, or £87 per month (over ten months).

Students or families in receipt of a qualifying benefit will qualify for a reduced charge.



Health and Safety

Health Visits and Medicines

Any parent with a child who suffers from a condition which requires the regular administration of medicine or treatment should inform the Executive Headteacher or Head of School. Designated staff will undertake to follow written instructions in these circumstances or parents are welcome to come into the school themselves if this is felt to be necessary.

Parents will be notified of health visits to school, such as dental checks or eye tests, which are a matter of routine.

Several members of staff are First Aiders and parents are notified if there has been an incident during the school day.

Emergency Closures

Occasionally it is necessary to close the school at short notice. The Executive Headteacher will follow the procedures laid down by Warwickshire County Council, whereby, parents and all relevant authorities will be informed promptly, once the decision has been made. This will be by text message in the first instance, followed by updates on the school website www.acornsprimary.co.uk and <http://twitter.com/acornshead>.

If the closure takes place during the school day all children will be looked after until a parent or carer can collect them. Our Emergency Evacuation Plan ensures swift and safe evacuation of the premises.

The most common reason for closure is bad weather. Information will be regularly broadcast by local radio station BBC Coventry and Warwickshire. Information about school closures can also be obtained from the County website www.warwickshire.gov.uk/schoolclosures.

Contact Information



Acorns Primary School is part of The Stour Federation Multi Academy Trust.

Acorns Primary School
School Close
Long Compton
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Telephone: (01608) 684 654

email: admin2639@welearn365.com
website: www.acornsprimary.co.uk
twitter: <http://twitter.com/acornshead>

Executive Headteacher

Mr. Christian Hilton
(Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead)

Head of School

Mrs. Hannah Young
(Designated Safeguarding Lead)

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs. Claire Hicks
(Based in Little Acorns Nursery)

Chair of the Local Academy Council

Mr. Gary Stokes

Safeguarding and Child Protection

‘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.’

Mrs. Young (Head of School), Mrs. Hicks (Little Acorns Nursery) and Mr. Hilton (Executive Headteacher) are Designated Safeguarding Leads.