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SPRING TERM 2019

## Morning School Themes

Much of our children's time in morning school is spent following their own interests with the freedom to play inside or out with resources of their choice. We have embraced a format providing 'a continuous provision' so they can access familiar activities which will always be available. They can use them independently, work creatively, alongside or with their peers and tidy them away when they have finished. Our block area, construction and art/writing area are some examples of this. As practitioners we can work to extend vocabulary, help children to develop their ideas and support their play. There is an emphasis on children's well-being and encouraging involvement in activities so that their learning can be maximized.



As an enhancement to these activities we also introduce a 'focus'. This term we began by looking in depth at 2D and 3D shapes and their properties. We encouraged children to look around their environment to identify named shapes. Suddenly they become aware that shapes are everywhere! Some parents of Foundation Stage children have posted photos on Tapestry of shapes in their homes or signs children have spotted when out and about. Thank you for doing this. We can share these posts in our group time - it's a great way to build children's esteem.

Our Acorn robin (there maybe more than one!) has enjoyed the delicious bird cakes the children have made, along with many other garden birds, as part of our 'looking after birds in winter' focus. The children have learnt about similarities and differences and have begun to identify the different species by name. Many children have been really interested in using our bird books to help them make beautiful paintings and drawings.

Although we haven't had any snow (as yet) we were able to collect some very large hail stones! The children have frozen 'treasure' in containers and waited for it to melt exploring the change from water to ice and back to water. We have built a polar landscape with 'ice bergs and cold sea' for our polar animals to live in.

After half term our focus turns to rhymes and stories. We will be encouraging the children to recite rhymes and become familiar with traditional stories, joining in with repeated refrains such as 'Who's that trip trapping over my bridge?'. In drama we will be re enacting the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears with all the fun of different levels of sound and size. In the past parents, nannies, grandparents and friends have come in to read stories of their choice to their small key group of children. The children love it! We hope to repeat it again this year at a time convenient to you! Please do come.

## Read Write Inc

Mrs King is introducing a letter a week to our Foundation Stage children, learning it's sound, how to write it and how to recognise it. She lets you know which letter by writing on the white board outside our door, and also she follows the format in the hand out we gave you at the start of term. Any home support is welcome. Mrs Scarborough focus's on these and number skills every morning with each child individually.

## Forest School

We have been fortunate to have Mrs Machan bring her expertise in this area to work with our foundation stage children this term. We have worked together to make a nest for our robin, build dens and bug hotels. True to our ethos of accessing our outdoor space whenever we can we have experienced weather in all its extremes!

## Afternoon School

A warm welcome to the new families who have joined us this term. The children have settled well under the experienced care of Mrs Sayers and Mrs Stevens and are developing interests in all our afternoon activities. There will be open music and dance sessions at the end of term for you to be involved in 'a typical session'. We are distributing CD's of the songs that they are learning so you can sing along on your way to school!

## Diploma in Early Years Workforce Level 3 and Degree in Childhood Studies'

If you are interested in gaining any of these very valuable qualifications do please talk to Mrs King or Mrs Scarborough.

## Welcome to Miss Gemma Bushnell

Gemma has settled in straight away and is a great addition to our Acorn team. She joined us to take the place of Sarah Prosser who left to have a baby. I am delighted to report that Ailsa Christina Prosser was born on 9.2.2019 and has already been registered for Acorn! Also we are so pleased that Ms Bechemin has come back to help us on a Thursday afternoon when we are particularly busy – thank you Demelza!

## Re Registration



Thank you once again for your wonderful comments and feedback through the survey. All the staff really appreciate your views and are very grateful that you are so supportive and enthusiastic about all that we do and provide for your children. We have a waiting list for September 2019 Foundation Stage and only very few spaces left for younger children.



## Helpers

Thank you to all of our lovely 'mother/ granny helpers who are involved in our snack time and cooking mornings. That extra pair of hands is indeed a great help and of course is a wonderful way to learn about life at Acorn.

## Reminders

Please remember to put any hats (named) and gloves in the children's boxes and not on their pegs. Also if you are buying new shoes for your child please consider how independently your child can manage them – (garden play, yoga) i.e. no laces or tight trainers.

## Christmas Fund Raising

Thanks to several wonderful mothers who baked cakes, made our Christmas DVD and to all of you who ordered the children's cards, which together with an Acorn donation meant that we were able to send £1000 to Kivukoni School in Kenya. They were absolutely thrilled, so thank you.

## Dates for your diary

Spring Term 2019

End of Term

Wednesday 3rd April mid day

Summer Term 2019

Tuesday 23rd April – Friday 12th July

Half Term

Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May



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