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AUTUMN TERM 2019

Welcome

The start of the school year can be daunting for many of our children whether they are starting nursery for the first time or moving to our busy morning school. We believe it's important to spend time at this stage giving them (and you!) all the support needed so that they can gain in confidence and thrive. There are relationships with new staff and friends to be made, routines to be established and expectations of behaviour to live up to so that all the children feel safe and secure in a caring environment. Our themes reflect this. We have listened to each other talk about themselves and their families. We have explored 'feelings' and how our faces reflect them and know that we are all 'the same but also different'.



As we move on through the term we will be aware of the changes in our outside environment and embrace autumn in all its glory! An important part of our curriculum is what we call 'funky finger activities' which help develop muscles in arms, hands and fingers - necessary for good fine motor skills like writing and cutting.

Making the most of any opportunity to promote healthy eating the children will be involved in peeling, chopping and preparing a variety of vegetables for our 'harvest soup' which we will all share together before half term as our harvest celebration.

Welcome to all the new children and parents who have joined us this term in our Afternoon School. It is always also such a joy to have the younger siblings of past pupils and renew our relationships with their parents, as well as children of past pupils!

They have settled well with Mrs Sayers, making new friends, becoming independent and enjoying musical and dance activities with Mrs Risby and Mrs Seymour, depending on which afternoons they attend.



Tapestry – for Foundation Stage Children

We hope you are enjoying receiving our posts and finding them informative. Please do share them with your child so that they feel involved in their achievements and do add comments or even a 'like'. We also love to share your child's special moments at home so do post them on Tapestry. The children can talk about these in our small group time, giving them a sense of self worth and building good self esteem.

We link our observations to the EYFS development guidelines to help give us a clear picture of your child's development and the next steps across all areas of the curriculum. You will also see a link to 'Characteristics of Learning' which are about 'how' rather than 'what' the children are learning. Children who are willing to explore and play an active part in their learning, who can be focused and not give up when they find things difficult, who think of ideas and ways to do things are the good learners of the future.

The Leuven scales are about children's well being and involvement. We know that when well being is high and involvement in activities is good a much deeper level of learning takes place. Children are not simply 'busy'.

Our Pre Foundation Stage children are observed and monitored using the EYFS guidelines, mentioned above.



Healthy Eating

The Jersey Government is promoting healthy eating and living in schools. At Acorn we recognise the importance of this and will always encourage children to try healthy fruit and vegetables at snack time even if it is just a lick! Drinking plenty of water throughout the day is also a priority. 180 minutes of physical exercise every day is a figure that is regarded as the ideal for children. We are fortunate to have a large garden where children can develop their gross motor skills by running, climbing, balancing and generally be active. In our yoga sessions children can try different kinds of movement and learn control. All great for physical well being.

If you would like to provide birthday cakes for everyone (38 children) on your child's birthday, in line with present thinking, we ask that they be 'bite size' sponge cakes. We have helpful leaflets and information on the above should anyone want it.



Flu Nasal Spray

All children will by now have been given a consent form for their child to access the 'flu nasal spray' which will be administered by a doctor at the school on Tuesday 5th November

Shoes

If you are buying a new pair of shoes for your child could we encourage you chose a pair that they are able to manage themselves? N.B No lace up boots or buckles! Please support our work at school in encouraging your child to be as independent as possible, putting on their own shoes, boots and coat. This does make so much difference for all the activities that we do at Acorn. Also could your child have a waterproof coat with hood and bring it every day.

Welcome to Mrs Sarah Stewart and Mrs Susie Pearce

Both Sarah and Susie were parents last year who have returned this year to study part time at Highlands and gain the necessary experience to attain the Level 3 Diploma in Early Years Workforce. If you are interested in gaining this very valuable qualification do contact Mrs Scarborough, who is an Assessor and the training can be done at Acorn.

Help

If any of our Morning School parents or nannies would like to 'help' on a regular or irregular basis please do see Mrs King. It is a wonderful way of discovering what life is really like in the school as well as being part of your child's learning environment.

Early Reading and Writing Experiences

We are often asked about our approach to early reading and writing experiences.

This term the children have been given the opportunity to recognise print in the environment, develop their fine motor skills and expand their mark making. We are encouraging them to form the letters in their own name correctly. They can find and understand that their name is made up of individual letters and put them in sequence. Next term we will follow the Read Write Inc programme of introducing children to letter sounds. In the final term we have a lending library of pre readers giving you the chance to share with your child this exciting start to literature.

Wellcomm

Identifying children needing speech and language support, which can make a crucial difference to their confidence and attainment.

Along with some other settings and schools we now have The Wellcomm toolkit to use at Acorn. It is used for all children in early years settings as a quick and fun check that their understanding of what is being said (receptive language) and how they communicate verbally (expressive language) is within the expectations of their ages. The kit comes with Big Book of Ideas to support language development, attention and listening skills in our classroom.

The website www.gf-assessment.co.uk/wellcomm has more detailed information.

Fund Raising for Kivukoni

Do see the web site www.kivukoni.co.ke for information about the wonderful school we support in Kenya. The school was opened and is run by Vicky Scarborough's niece, Lucy Oliff, so we have direct knowledge of where our money goes and how necessary the funds are.

As before the children are making their own Christmas cards which you will be able to purchase after Half Term. Part of the proceeds will be a charity donation to Kivukoni.

As well as our Christmas Cards and DVDs of our show 'Calypso Christmas' we plan to raise money by raffling a Christmas Cake (or 3) but first we need to find a baker! Is there any lovely Acorn 'friend' who would bake us a special Christmas Cake – any sort of fabulous decorations encouraged, that we could raffle in December?

Dates for your diary

Autumn Term 2019

Thursday 5th September – Friday 13th December

Half Term - Monday 28th October – Friday 1st November

Spring Term 2020

Tuesday 7th January - Friday 3rd April

Half Term - Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February

Summer Term 2020

Tuesday 21st April – Friday 10th July

Half Term - Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May

Morning School Christmas Show 'Calypso Christmas'

Children in our Morning School will be singing songs to retell the Christmas message around the title 'Calypso Christmas' on Monday 9th December (Yellow and Red Group parents) and Wednesday 11th December at 11.00. (Blue and Green Group parents). Dress Rehearsal is on Wednesday 4th December when the video will be taken. Please don't miss any of these important dates! Can we ask only 2 guests per child and no small children?

You will receive a CD of the songs we will be singing and a link to a download you can use for your iphone, so that you can sing along on your way to school!

Afternoon School children

You will receive a CD of the Christmas music and songs. Open Christmas Music is on Thursday 12th December at 2.30

Do take a moment to log on to our web site www.acornnurseryschool.com. We have a notice board which will be updated regularly with events and 'news flashes'!



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