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AUTUMN  
ISSUE

# Newsletter

AUTUMN TERM 2020

## Welcome

The start of this school year has been particularly challenging for all our children whether they are starting nursery for the first time or moving to our busy morning school. Regulations have required us to restrict the school to only children and staff meaning that we have been unable to welcome you with our normal 'open door policy'. However, we can be very proud of our children and how they come into school independently. We believe it's important to spend time at this stage giving them all the support they need 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. The children 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'. The wellbeing of our children is paramount.

In the past we have had opportunities to talk to parents as issues arise and just to touch base during morning drop off. We would like to continue that relationship but now the best approach would be to connect through Tapestry. Also please use the answer machine for any immediate information. We can always facilitate time for a 'chat' to a staff member if there are any concerns, and Mrs Scarborough can always be found through an e mail.

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.



## Afternoon School

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.



## 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 13th October.

## Shoes

If you are buying a new pair of shoes for your child could we encourage you to choose 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.

## Tapestry

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 will keep you up to date with our themes and any particular focus through this portal.

For Foundation Stage 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 wellbeing and involvement. We know that when wellbeing 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 and links are made to the Characteristics of Learning on Tapestry.

## 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 <https://www.gl-assessment.co.uk/wellcomm> has more detailed information.

## Early Reading & Writing Experiences

We are often asked about our approach to early reading and writing experiences. This term our Foundation Stage children have been given the opportunity to recognise print in the environment, develop their fine motor skills and expand their mark making. We will be encouraging them to form the letters in their own name. They are starting to 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



## Christmas Music

We are still waiting to hear what we are allowed to do regarding Christmas Music and involving parents. In the meantime our lovely music teacher Holly Milner is introducing the children to a variety of songs that will include Christmas favorites nearer to the time. Mrs Risby in the Afternoon is also following the guidelines.

We are continuing to support Kivukoni School through a charitable donation and hope that we may be able to involve you in the fund raising. Do see the web site [www.kivukoni.co.ke](http://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.

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

Do take a moment to log on to our web site [www.acornnurseryschool.com](http://www.acornnurseryschool.com). We have a notice board which will be updated regularly with events and 'news flashes'! Also, follow us on Face Book.

## Welcome to Mrs Anna Goodyear, Mrs Jodie Milton & Miss Sophie Gorman

Both Anna and Jodie are Acorn parents who are with us this year to study and get work experience before embarking on the part time course at Highlands 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.

Miss Gorman is a wonderful addition to our team as a GAP year student helping us in a million different ways!

## Registrations

Please do not forget to register younger siblings if you would like them to follow on to Acorn. We have had an unprecedented number of applications recently and are full for the next 2 years

## Dates for your diary

### Autumn Term 2020

Thursday 3rd September – Friday 11th December

Half Term - Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October

### Spring Term 2021

Tuesday 5th January - Friday 1st April

Half Term - Monday 15th February - Friday 19th February

### Summer Term 2021

Tuesday 20th April – Friday 9th July

Half Term - Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June



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