



# Parent/Carer notes - Autumn Term 1 2022

## Acorn Class



Welcome to Horton Kirby School and Acorn Class!

Our first topic is 'Me and My Community'.

This half term, we will learn about the school community and building friendships. We will explore the school grounds and find out about all the people in the school who are here to help us. We will explore how we are all special and unique. Working together, we will take part in practical activities to support each other in building new friendships and establish 'what makes a good friend', talking about being kind and helpful, leading us to allocate responsibilities amongst ourselves to create a Class Jobs Board. We will also find out about people in the community who help us.

In our literacy lessons we will discover new words to describe ourselves, and write sentences to compare and contrast each other. In our mathematics lessons, we will share objects out fairly, and compare hand and foot sizes with our friends. Getting creative, we will use a gathering drum to tap out rhythms together and paint our palms to make beautiful patterns to cut out and hang on a class friendship tree.

Later in the term, we will be Exploring Autumn. In the Exploring Autumn project, we will go on a woodland walk to learn about the seasonal changes that happen in autumn. We will learn about birds and animals that live in the woods and how they survive as the weather gets colder. We will take part in practical and creative activities that will support us to learn about autumn.

### Supporting your child at home

- Look at family photographs together and discuss, who is part of your family and extended family?
- Look at baby photographs and talk about how your child has grown.
- Look at any childhood photographs of parents and grandparents.
- Talk about the things you like to do together and places you like to go.
- Go on a walk around your local area and talk about what happens to trees and plants during autumn. Take some pictures to share at school.
- Collect leaves, seeds, nuts and berries to add to an autumn collection.
- Make some bird food to feed the birds as the weather gets colder.

### Homework:

**Reading books** will come home on a daily basis. If possible, please share the book with your child every day - LITTLE and OFTEN. At first, wordless books will be sent home. Encourage your child to look at the pictures and create their own story. Encourage more details by asking "W" questions: **Who? Where? When? Why?** Sharing wordless books is a terrific way to build important literacy skills, including listening skills, vocabulary, comprehension — and an increased awareness of how stories are "built", as the storyteller often uses a beginning, middle and end format. *For more information, please refer to the attached notes on 'Wordless Books'.*

**Please ensure that reading books and reading diaries are brought to school every day as an adult will endeavour to hear all children read during the course of the week.**

**Phonics Books:** The pink phonics books are updated each Friday with the new sounds we have learned in school during the course of the week. Please encourage your child to say the sound; teach you the formation phrase for writing the letter; find objects around the house that begin with the sound; trace over the letter; write the letter. I enjoy rainbow writing - write the letter in as many different colours as you have.

### Mrs Philpott's Library

In order to encourage your child to become a lifelong reader, it is important that they learn to read for pleasure. The **sharing book** is a book they have chosen for you to enjoy together.

Please remember that you shouldn't expect your child to read this alone. Read it to, or with them. Discuss the pictures; enjoy the story; predict what might happen next; use different voices for the characters; explore the facts in a non-fiction book. The main thing is that you have fun!

These books will go home on a Friday and are to be returned the following Friday in order for the children to choose another book. Many of these books are my own so I request that they are handled with care please!

### **Ed Shed and Numbots**

I have issued all children with log-ins for Ed Shed and Numbots which can be found in their reading diaries. Ed Shed and Phonics Shed will support the children with using the graphemes to spell.

### **PE Kit:**

To ensure that all children can fully participate in PE lessons, please ensure that they have their 'named' PE kits in school throughout the term, earrings are removed and hair tied back.

The correct PE kit includes:

PE - House Group Coloured T-Shirt, blue shorts and plimsolls.

Please refer to the Autumn Term 1 Topic Web for more information about what your child will be learning this term.

If you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to either speak to me at the end of the day when I will be on the playground; leave a message with the Teaching Assistant on duty, or a member of the Senior Leadership Team who will be on the playground in the mornings; or message me on SeeSaw.

With kind regards,

Glenda Philpott

### **Acorn Class**

#### **Dates for your Diary**

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September (2pm-3.15pm):** EYFS Coffee and Expectation Afternoon (school hall) *donations of cakes/biscuits would be gratefully received*

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September:** INSET Day - children not in school

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October:** Book Fair after school in the hall

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October:** Acorn Class Trip - Grays Fire Station

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October:** Individual Photographs

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October:** Parents Consultation Evening (school hall)

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October:** Parents Consultation Evening (school hall)

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October:** Last day of Term