



# Parent/Carer notes - Autumn Term 2 2022



## Acorn Class

Dear Parents,

Our topics for Term 2 are 'Once Upon a Time' and 'Sparkle and Shine'.

**Once Upon a Time:** This project supports children to develop a love of stories and reading. It encourages children to learn, retell and act out familiar and traditional tales including *Cinderella*, *Goldilocks*, *Little Red Riding Hood*, *The Three Little Pigs* and *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*.

During this project your child will be introduced to the wonderful world of stories. We will listen to a range of traditional tales and have the chance to act out the stories in our play. We will also listen to alternative contemporary stories to see different viewpoints from the characters. We will use the stories to think about how life has changed from when the stories were written. We will also make up our own stories and make masks, props and puppets to act out our stories.

**Sparkle and Shine:** In the Sparkle and Shine topic, we will explore different celebrations that take place in autumn and winter, focusing on the significance and symbolism of light at this time of year. We will take part in a variety of creative activities and discover more about how Christmas, Diwali and Hanukkah are celebrated around the world.

### Supporting your child at home

#### **Once Upon a Time:**

- Read traditional stories and fairy tales to your child.
- Visit your local library and choose picture books to share.
- Talk about the characters in stories and whether they like or dislike them.
- Talk about how the characters in stories behave and what they could do differently.
- Share and discuss the; Did you know? resource.

#### **Sparkle and Shine:**

- Talk about special events that you celebrate at home.
- Share photos of events that you celebrate.
- Talk about how you prepare for special celebrations including the clothes you wear, food you prepare and gifts you give or receive.
- Share and discuss the; Did you know? resource.

### Homework:

**Reading books:** As children begin to decode and blend, they will be bringing home books with words in (how exciting!). These books will have been read three times at school focussing on:-

Read 1: Decoding and Blending - teaching children the ability to apply their knowledge of letter-sound relationships to correctly pronounce written words.

Read 2: Prosody - teaching children to read with understanding and expression.

Read 3: Comprehension - teaching children to understand the text.

Reading books will have been carefully matched to your child's current reading level. If your child is reading it with little help, please do not worry that it is too easy - your child needs to develop fluency and confidence in reading.

Listen to them read the book. Remember to give them lots of praise - celebrate their success! If they cannot read a word, read it to them. After they have finished, talk about the book together. Don't forget to colour in one star each time you read together.

**PLEASE ENSURE THAT THE BIG CAT READING PRACTICE BOOKS ARE RETURNED ON A MONDAY IN ORDER FOR ANOTHER GROUP TO USE THEM FOR MONDAY, TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY'S READING PRACTICE SESSIONS.**

**Phonics Books:** The pink phonics books are updated each Thursday/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 initial sound; trace over the letter; write the letter. I enjoy rainbow writing - write the letter in as many different colours as you have.

Last term, I added our Term 1 decodable words and Tricky Word list to Seesaw, practise reading these words as often as possible. Challenge, ask your child to orally spell the words out for you and try writing them.

### **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:**

Our PE session (when we change) is Thursday afternoon. 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 2 Topic Web for more information about what your child will be learning this term.

As the weather will be getting considerably colder this term, please ensure that children have a warm coat, preferably with a hood, as we will be using the outside area in all weathers. Also, they will require a pair of wellies to be left in school so we can go splashing in puddles and/or play in the snow if we are lucky enough to have any this year.

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 one of the Teaching Assistants at the playground gate, 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 Teacher/EYFS Lead**

### **Important Dates**

Return to School:	Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November
Diwali Dance Workshop:	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> November
Flu Immunisation:	Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> November
Children in Need:	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> November (more information to follow)
CYCLEme TOTS Balance Bike/Road Safety:	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> November
Kent Fire Brigade visit:	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November
Christmas Pantomime - Jack and the Beanstalk:	Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> November (in school)
Christmas Lunch:	Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> November
Nativity Play to parents:	Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> December (TBC)
Christmas Jumper Day:	Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> December
Christmas Party:	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> December (more information to follow)
Term Ends @ 2.15pm:	Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December