



## Parent/Carer notes - Term 4

### Acorn Class



Our Term 4 topics are 'Ready, Steady Grow!' with the companion topic of 'Puddles and Rainbows'.

During the course of this term we will find out about life on a farm and about baby animals. We will take part in practical activities to explore where food comes from; learn what seeds and plants need to grow and grow a variety of plants. We will explore what constitutes a healthy lifestyle, including eating fruit and vegetables, exercise and teeth brushing. To finish our Ready, Steady Grow project, we will be visiting Godstone Farm

#### Supporting your child at home

- Visit your local library and find books about farms to share.
- Make a shopping list together and go to the shops to buy the food.
- Grow some quick growing plants or make a cress head.
- Talk about healthy foods.
- Share and discuss the 'Did you know?' resource.

In the Puddles and Rainbows project, we will learn about the weather associated with the season of Spring. We will explore natural phenomena, including rainbows, clouds, rain and wind. We will explore colours found in the natural environment and learn how to mix primary colours to make new colours.

#### Supporting your child at home

- Walk in your local environment and talk about the changes that have happened since winter.
- Go on a colour hunt and find objects for all the colours of a rainbow.
- Watch the weather forecast together and make a note of the different weather through the week.
- Go outside on a rainy day and find puddles to jump in.
- Share and discuss the 'Did you know?' resource.

#### Key Vocabulary:

soil • seed • shoot • stem • root • leaf • crunchy • squishy • sweet • tangy • juicy • creamy • soft • smooth • foal • kid • lamb • piglet • puppy • calf • chick • seasons • Spring • Summer • Autumn • Winter • weather • temperature • wind • hail • sleet • snow

#### Phonics: Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised

We have now learned all the Phase 2 and 3 graphemes. This term we will be reviewing and revising Phase 3 (ai ee igh oa oo ar or ur oo ow oi ear er air) and beginning to apply our knowledge to read and spell longer words and compound words (two or more words that have been grouped together to create a new word that has a different, individual meaning) such as carpark, farmyard. We will also be learning to add '-ing', 's' and 'es' to words. Your continued assistance in supporting your child to practise these at home is appreciated.

#### Homework:

Big Cat Letters and Sounds Revised reading practise books will be sent home/changed once a week (Wednesday). 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 practise books will have been carefully matched to your child's current reading/phonics knowledge. 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. We already have many children within the class who have earned their Bronze and Silver Reading Badges and even some who have earned their Gold - well done!

In addition, I am sending home a 'Sharing Book' - Dandelion Launcher and Dandelion Reader Phonics book, which will be changed on a Monday and a Friday, if read at home. Again, these have been matched to your child's phonics/reading ability. These books may not have been read in school.

**Phonics Books:** The pink phonics books are updated each Friday with the new words we have learned in school during the course of the week. Please continue to revise all Phase 2 and 3 graphemes, encouraging your child to say the sound; teach you the 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 and waterfall writing:-

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I am also including some decodable words and tricky words which we will have been focusing on during the course of the week. Please encourage your child to practise these 'Little and Often'.

#### **Ed Shed and Numbots**

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

We will continue to celebrate the success of those children who have played the most games on Numbots in Friday's Praise Assembly alongside the rest of the school.

#### **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:

House coloured T-Shirt, blue shorts and plimsolls.

Please refer to the Term 4 Topic Web for more information about what your child will be learning this term.

Spring is renowned for its unpredictable weather; we will be going on Spring Walks and into the woodland for our Forest School activities, therefore children will require a pair of wellies to be left in school so we can go splashing in puddles.

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 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 20<sup>th</sup> February - return to school  
Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March - World Book Day (dress up as your favourite book character)  
Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March - Trust Day (teacher training - no school)  
Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March - Parents Evening  
Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March - Class Trip to Godstone Farm  
Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March - Parents Evening  
Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March - End of Term