



Parent/Carer notes - Summer Term 1 2023

Acorn Class



Our topics for Term 5 are 'Amazing Animals' and 'Sunshine and Shadows'.

This half term we will be exploring our local environment to see how it has changed throughout the year. We will observe minibeasts in their natural habitat and create shelters for them to live in. We will be studying the lifecycle of a butterfly and releasing our very own Painted Lady butterflies as well as exploring what minibeasts, such as worms, our African Land Snails and our new addition of Stick Insects, need to survive. We will also be comparing the features of minibeasts to learn the names of their body parts.

In the Sunshine and Shadows project, we will be learning about natural phenomena, including shadows, reflections and echoes. We will find out how shadows are formed and how they change shape and size throughout the day. We will explore how different materials and surfaces reflect the light. We will be taking part in lots of outdoor learning activities and finding out how to stay safe in the sun.

Supporting your child at home

- Go on safari to look for minibeasts that live in your garden or park.
- Make a bug hotel from plant pots, small rocks, stones, bark and leaves and see if minibeasts visit.
- Research some fantastic facts about minibeasts from around the world.
- Find objects from around the house in which you can see your reflection.
- Draw around shadows outside and see how the shape and size of the shadow changes through the day.
- Explore places to hear echoes, such as in tunnels, under bridges and in large open-plan rooms.
- Share and discuss the 'Did you Know?' resources.

Key Vocabulary: *Explore these words together - what does each word mean - use them in a sentence correctly.*

air, animal, flower, leaf, petal, plant,

antennae, butterfly, chrysalis, insect, wing

root, shell, soil, stem, sunflower

sun cream, sunglasses, sun hat, sunlight, water, warmth

bounce, echo, reflection, shadow, shiny, smooth, dark, light, opaque, mirror, symmetrical, transparent

Phonics: Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised

This term we will continue to revisit and review all the Grapheme Phoneme Correspondences we have learned so far to help us to read CCVCC, CCCVC and CCCVCC words with short vowels; longer words (e.g. freshness and chimpanzee); compound words (e.g. windmill, handstand); words ending in -ing (swimming, squelching); words ending in -ed (sounding like 't' e.g. bumped and 'id' e.g. grunted) and superlatives which are words ending in -est (e.g. strongest).

We will also be learning some new Phase 4 tricky words, which the children are extremely excited about!

Each week our focus words and new tricky words will be added to the Pink Phonics book and Seesaw for you to practise at home. Your continued assistance in supporting your child to practise these at home is greatly appreciated.

Homework:

Reading practise books will have been carefully matched to your child's current reading/phonic 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 phonic/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, together with the sentences we have read and written. 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, spot the digraph and trigraphs in words you are reading to them or on television subtitles. I have introduced the children to rainbow writing - write the letter in as many different colours as you have and waterfall writing:-



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Ed Shed and Numbots

A reminder that all children have been issued with log-ins for Ed Shed and NUMBOTS - these can be found in their reading diaries. Ed Shed will support the children with using the graphemes to spell and is used throughout the school for children to practise their spellings.

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.

Mrs Philpott's Library

Library books will continue to go home on a Friday and are to be returned by the following Friday in order for the children to choose another book. Enjoy talking to the children about the books; the storyline, characters and settings. In class, the children are extremely good at recognising our tricky words, digraphs and tri-graphs in sentences I am writing. Encourage the children to pick out the digraphs, tri-graphs and tricky words we have learned so far.

Many of these books are my own so I request that they are handled with care please!

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 colour T-Shirt, blue shorts and plimsolls.

Please refer to the Term 5 Topic Web for more information about what your child will be learning this term.

As the weather will hopefully be getting warmer this term, please ensure your child has their own filled water bottle (**water only please**) and a sun hat. If the weather does become hot, please apply sun cream before school.

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 in the morning or a member of the Senior Leadership Team who will be on the playground; or message me on SeeSaw.

With kind regards,

Glenda Philpott

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