



Parent/Carer notes - Autumn Term 1 2023

Acorn Class



Welcome to Horton Kirby School and Acorn Class!

Horton Kirby CE Primary School is incredibly passionate about ensuring that our children have opportunities to develop their curiosity through an aspirational and diverse curriculum which has been developed and adapted to meet the needs of all our children and community. We provide a rich, broad and balanced curriculum that celebrates individuality, diversity and builds procedural knowledge to nurture talent and prepare children for the challenges and rewards of life and the wider world. Our school values of Respect, Responsibility, Resilience and Reflection are embedded into our curriculum.

Within your 2023-2024 school year pack you will find:

- A key dates letter: A list of the main key dates for the 2023-2024 academic year. The dates and times listed are subject to change and some dates may only be relevant for specific year groups. If any other events or school trips are organised during the course of the school year then you will be informed of these via a letter, Arbor or SeeSaw.
- A long-term plan: This outlines the learning that will take place for your child within every subject for each term across the academic year.
- A medium-term plan (for Term 1): This gives a more detailed overview of the lessons that will take place each week for every subject. A medium-term plan will be sent out and posted on Seesaw at the start of each term so that you and your child know exactly what they will be learning about.
- Class timetable: A timetable showing when each subject will be taught throughout the week. Some subjects will be taught every other term. In the case of special events at school, experiences or opportunities for cultural capital (learning opportunities which link to the children's learning) children will be off timetable.

Supporting your child at home this term

- 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!

PE Kit:

Our PE day is Wednesday. 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.

Cultural capital opportunities (trips):

Acorn Class will have the opportunity to take part in the following during their time in Reception, these opportunities link to the EYFS Horton Kirby curriculum. This is just a snap-shot of the opportunities children will experience whilst in Acorn Class and will be further enhanced as children's interests become apparent and parents are willing to share their careers with us!

- Grays Fire Station visit - 3rd October - Term 1 (Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Understanding the World: Past and Present/History, People, Culture and Communities)
- St Mary's Church visit - Terms 2 and 4 (Understanding the World: People, Culture and Communities)
- Cinderella Pantomime - come to school dress as a Fairy Tale Character (in school) (Term 2 - Literacy, Expressive Arts and Design)
- CYCLEMe TOTS: Balance Bike training - Terms 3 and 4 (Physical Development: Gross Motor Skills)
- Godstone Farm Trip - Term 4 (Understanding the World: Natural World/Science)
- Beekeeper Visit (in school) - Term 5 (Understanding the World: Natural World /Science)
- Strawberry Picking at Stanhill Farm - Term 6
- First Aid Training - Term 6 (Personal, Social and Emotional: Managing Self)
- Gurdwara, Gravesend - Term 6 (Understanding the World: People, Culture and Communities)

Children will also a range of other experiences throughout the year - a full list can be found on the school website: www.hortonkirby.kent.sch.uk/

Please refer to Term 1 Medium Term Plan 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

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