

January 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you all had a fantastic festive break and we wish you all a happy new year. May we take this opportunity to thank all of the families for the cards, best wishes and very generous gifts we received at the end of term. They were very much appreciated.

We have had a few new children joining us this term. We are very pleased with how they have settled and how the existing children have been so helpful and kind to the new children in helping them settle.

P.E This term we will be having P.E. sessions on Friday afternoons. We will also be having gymnastic sessions with staff from Border County Gymnastics. These will take place on Wednesday mornings for the next 10 weeks. Please note if your Nursery child attends these sessions they will need a suitable change of clothes for PE sessions.

Dates for the diary -

Tuesday 21st Jan - 'Happiness coaching' workshop for parents 5.15-6.15.
No need to book.

Tuesday 11th February - Safer Internet Day - We will be learning about how we can keep ourselves safe whilst using technology. Look out for a leaflet being sent home closer to the time.

Friday 14th February -Break up for half term.

Monday 24th February- Back to school.

Friday 6th March - Whole school trip to Chester Zoo (including nursery attending on Fridays). Permission letter to follow.

Friday 3rd April - Break up for Easter Holiday

Key worker

We operate a 'key worker' system in the Early Years Unit. This gives the children the opportunity to work with the same member of staff each day for short group times with small groups of children. This is your child's 'key worker'. Your child's key worker will work with your child daily to share news/ feelings/ achievements etc and be a first point of call for your child and yourself. Children do, however, work with all adults across the day/ week for particular activities. As a result of rising numbers within the Early Years Unit we have moved some children into new key worker groups. You will receive a separate message on the app letting you know which adult is your child's key worker. You can of course always come and speak to me directly.

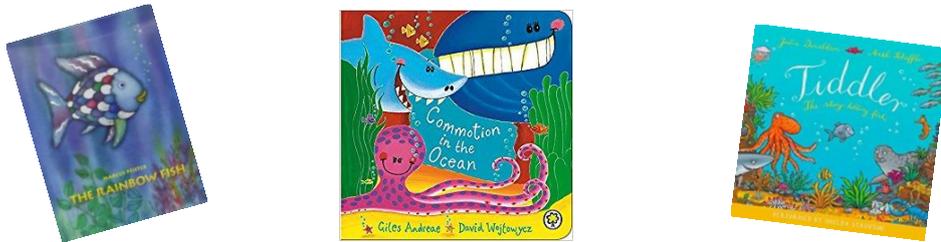
What are we learning over the coming weeks

In Early Years we are always busy learning. Much of our learning is planned in response to the interests displayed by the children, however, below are just a few of the activities that are planned for the coming weeks.

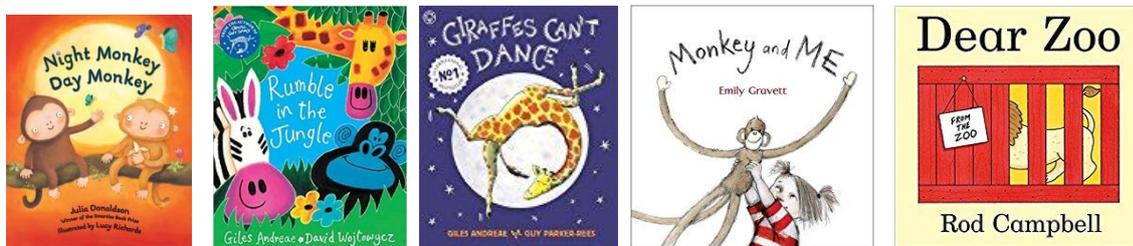


Over the first few weeks of term our focus is 'We're off on a journey'. We will be learning about different types of vehicles and transport. We will be looking at how vehicles have changed over time. We will also be conducting a traffic survey and trying to build our own floating boat for our toys to travel in.

After that our focus is based on 'Under the Sea'. We will be learning about the different sea creatures. We will be reading these books:



Our focus will then turn to the animals and creatures that live in the jungle. We will be sharing these stories:



We will also have a visit from a real Zoo keeper who has also spent time working in the Amazon rainforest. This will then be followed by our whole school trip to Chester Zoo on Friday 6th March. This also includes those nursery children who attend on Fridays. A letter will follow shortly. We are hoping that some parents may be willing to come along and help on the Chester zoo trip. If you are interested in coming along on the trip and are free on Friday 6th March then please speak to a member of staff.

Our focus in our 'Number Crew' sessions will be developing our accurate counting of objects, ordering numbers and beginning to 'take away' and solve number problems. We will also be learning about common 3D shapes such as cylinders, cuboids and cubes.

Nursery Sessions - Please look out for the 'Confirmation of the Nursery Hours' letter which will come home this week. This shows the hours we are claiming for your child for this term. Please check, sign and return these ASAP. Sessions for Summer are very limited so please give us plenty of notice should you wish to change your sessions for the Summer term.

Please collect for us: Small cardboard boxes,
Cardboard tubes
Washed out yogurt pots
Newspapers

If any parents are having a 'post Christmas' clear out of old toys that your children have outgrown we are always looking out for toy cars/ tractors / Lego / dressing up costumes. We would be most grateful of any good quality second hand toys.

Reception children – Please remember to read at home regularly. **At least three times a week is a good minimum.** Those children who read at home or use their phonics cards regularly at home really do make fantastic progress. If any parents or carers could spare some time to come into school as a volunteer reader then please speak to Miss Miller. We are always grateful of another adult to hear the children in school.

A reminder that we try to update your child's Learning Book regularly so please remember to check every now and then. If you need your password/ log-on reissuing then please speak to Miss Miller.



Many thanks to all of the parents who have added comments to 'Learning Book' or uploaded pictures of your child's 'wow' moments at home during the last term. It is greatly appreciated. If you do not have a Learning Book log on for your child then please speak to Miss Miller. If you do not have internet access at home you are more than welcome to pop into Acorn class after school to use our computers to access it.

Improvements to our outdoor area

As we move into Spring we are hoping to carry out some improvements to our outdoor area which is beginning to show signs of being 'weathered' by the elements. We are hoping to repaint our fence, replant the flowerbeds and also re-line our outdoor sandpit before we refill it ready for the sunnier weather. We would be most grateful of any parents who might be able to give us a helping hand with any of this. Could you spare an hour or two to help repaint the fence? Do you have access to an off-cut of thick pond liner to re-line our sandpit? Do you have carpentry skills to build us a sturdy lid to our outdoor sandpit to help keep the new sand dry? Do you have green fingers and could help with our flower bed? Any offer of help is greatly appreciated.

Finally, I would like to remind parents and carers that if you have any questions or concerns then please feel free to speak to any member of the Acorn team who will be happy to help.

Kind Regards

Miss Miller