



## **Acorn class - Newsletter Spring term 2021 - Take 2!**

This newsletter was originally intended to reach you 9 weeks ago! A lot has gone on since then so please find the edited version!

Welcome back! We hope that you all enjoyed a peaceful Christmas break followed by the Lockdown! It is so good to be able to have all of the children back in with us again.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my heartfelt thanks to all of you as parents who, without notice, took up the mantle of home schooling and have supported your children in the best possible way that you could, often whilst juggling working from home.

We welcome some new children into Nursery and Reception this term. We look forward to getting to know both the children and their families and hope that they enjoy their time with us.

There a few changes this term, including some staffing changes. Mrs Davies and Miss G. Parry are joining Acorn class who we welcome warmly.

### **Settling back in**

There is lots of talk in the media about children needing to 'catch up'. This is not our priority in the immediate weeks. Our focus for the coming few weeks is re-settling those children who have not been in since December and also helping those children joining the school this week to settle. Whilst we have been able to offer some academic support via our teaching videos on Seesaw we haven't been able to replicate the social interaction with other children and this will be our focus initially. You may find that the children are tired from the switch of socialising with just their family to a whole class of children and getting back into the routine of school. We are planning lots of fun activities to help children settle. If your child is particularly anxious then please speak to an adult at the gate or contact us through Seesaw.

**Hot school Meals** - We are now in a position to offer hot school meals again this term. Children can choose a hot meal, a school grab bag or alternatively bring a packed lunch from home. Please see Week 1 of the menu for the choices this week. This can be found on ParentApp or our [website](#).

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**Allergies** – Please be aware that we have a number of children with severe nut allergies in the class. Please can we ask that children do not bring nuts as a snack or in their lunchboxes. We appreciate your understanding with this matter.

**Important changes to PE times.** This term P.E. will continue to take place on a Wednesday morning with our Sports coach Mr. Evans for our Reception and Nursery 2 children (Those children joining Reception in September). Please continue to send children in P.E kits on a Wednesday morning. Please can I ask that children in Reception wear school uniform P.E kit (Navy jogging bottoms and a plain blue or white P.E t-shirt, with trainers). P.E begins Wednesday 10th March for Reception and Nursery 2. If your Nursery 2 child is only joining our class for the first time this week you may feel it best to let them settle in first before joining P.E sessions in a few weeks.

We will not be doing P.E on a Thursday. Instead we will be taking part in Forest school type activities this half term. Please see the table below to see when your child will do this.

Tuesday afternoon	Wednesday Morning	Thursday afternoon
<p><b>All Nursery: Forest / field learning</b> - Please come in old warm clothes and bring wellingtons, waterproof / coats, gloves, hats.</p> <p>First session 16<sup>th</sup> March</p>	<p><b>P.E session with Mr. Evans. Reception and Nursery 2</b></p> <p>Please come into school in P.E Kit</p> <p>First session 10<sup>th</sup> March</p>	<p><b>Reception children: Forest field learning session</b></p> <p>Please come in old, warm clothes and bring wellingtons, waterproof / coats, gloves + hats.</p> <p>First session 18<sup>th</sup> March</p>

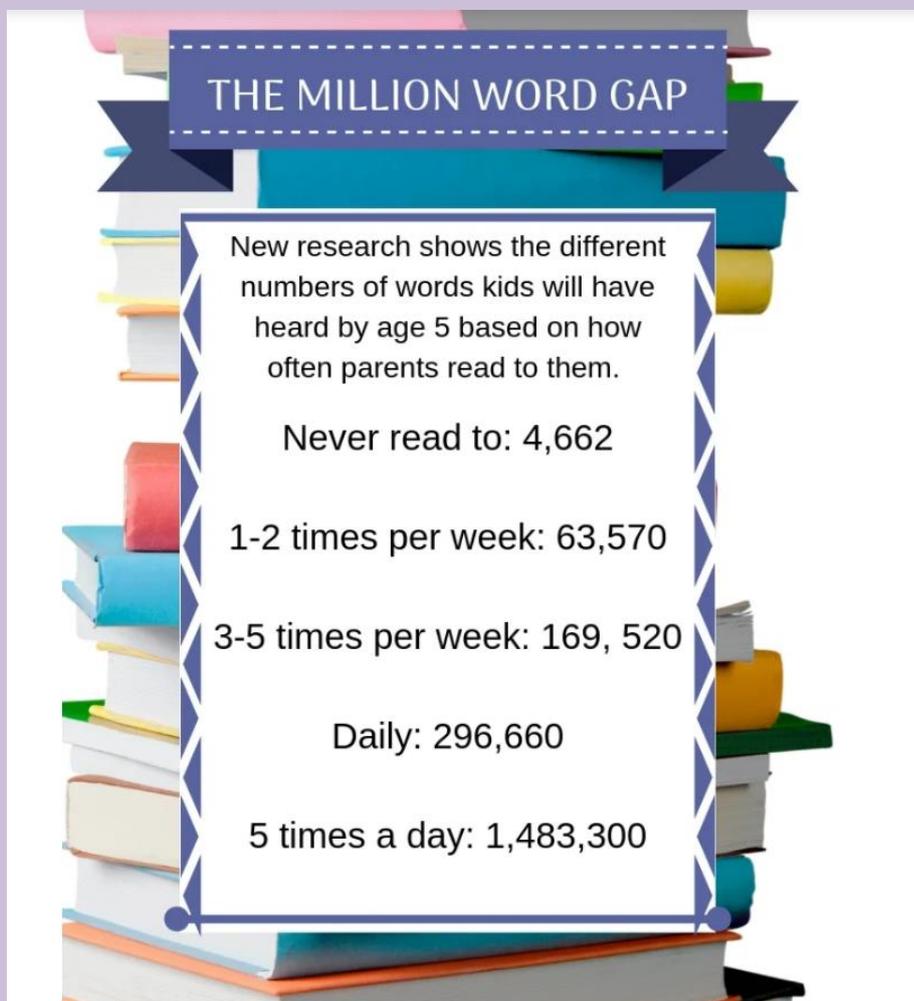
## **Reading at home: Just 5 minutes a day can last a lifetime!**

Sharing books at home with your child is one of easiest ways that you can be sure to have a dramatic impact upon their learning. The brains of children under the age of 5 are developing at a faster pace than at any other time in their lives. Language development is a key and vital part of your child's develop. As you share stories/ books with children their language skills develop rapidly. Begin by looking at the pictures, encouraging children to discuss what they can see and asking them what they think might happen next. Then share the story together perhaps discussing unusual words. All children are welcome to borrow a

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book from our supply of picture books. We quarantine these upon return before other children can choose these.

## Did you know?



Children in Reception have letter cards sent home to match the sounds they have been taught in school during our phonic sessions. Alongside these are lists of words that children can make using their letter cards (or you can make the words for the children to then blend the sounds together and read the word).

Once children are confident at making and reading individual words with their letter cards we then send home a reading book from the reading scheme. These contain words that your child will hopefully be confident reading.

We ask that children in Reception read at home or use their phonics cards **at least 3 times a week** as a minimum. This helps to build confidence and fluency.

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All children in Nursery and Reception have a reading diary to record the sharing of books together or using phonics cards / reading books themselves (in Reception). At the back of the reading diary is a reading map. Each time that you read at home please sign the map. Once each map is completed children will receive a certificate, book mark and eventually a book of their own to keep.

**Just 5 minutes a day can really have an effect that can last a lifetime!**

Remember to keep checking on Seesaw. We share all of the wonderful things your children achieve on there as often as we can.

Should you have any questions or concerns please feel free to speak to a member of staff. We will be happy to help.

Miss Miller and the Acorn team