

# Acorn Class – Reception Autumn Term 2025

## Turn Back Time - Fire! Fire!



### Expressive Art and Design

As part of our “*Turn Back Time – Fire! Fire!*” topic, children will explore food and nutrition by making bread - inspired by the bakery on Pudding Lane where the Great Fire of London began. This hands-on experience will support learning about historical events while developing fine motor skills and understanding changes in materials.

Children will also take part in a range of creative activities to express their ideas and emotions. These include colour mixing, experimenting with warm tones to represent fire, and creating firework-inspired art using different tools and textures. Through painting, collage, and sensory play, children will be encouraged to make choices, talk about their creations, and build confidence in expressing themselves visually.

### Physical Development

This half term in PE, children will develop their gross motor skills through fun, game-based activities such as running, jumping, balancing, throwing, and catching. They’ll also learn to take turns, follow rules, and move safely.

Fine motor skills remain a key focus as we begin letter formation. Activities like threading, using tweezers, playdough, cutting, pegboards, and small construction help build strength and coordination for confident, accurate writing.

### Communication & Language

This half term, children will continue developing their communication skills by expressing their ideas in full sentences, using new vocabulary, and engaging in meaningful conversations. Through storytelling and role play linked to the Great Fire of London, they’ll be encouraged to retell events, describe settings like Pudding Lane, and use topic words such as “fire,” “bucket,” “bakery,” and “Samuel Pepys.” Adults will continue to model rich language and support children in asking questions, taking turns, and listening carefully to others.

### Life Skills

This half term in PSHE, we are following the Jigsaw theme “*Celebrating Difference*.” Children will learn to recognise and talk about their feelings, understand how their actions affect others, and celebrate what makes each of us unique. Through stories, circle times, and role play, we’ll explore emotions like happiness, sadness, and worry, while practising kindness, turn-taking, and problem-solving. As part of Anti-Bullying Week, we’ll also talk about what bullying means, how to spot it, and what to do if something doesn’t feel right - helping children build positive relationships and feel confident in their school community.

### RE

**“Teach them to celebrate the Lord’s festivals at the appointed times.”**  
*Leviticus 23:4*

This term, the children will be learning to answer the question:  
***What times are special and why?***



### Understanding the World

Last half term, we explored our families and what makes us special. This term, we’ll build on that by learning about people and communities in the past, comparing homes, jobs, and ways of life with today. This supports the EYFS goal of Understanding of the World, helping children recognise change over time and how people live and work together.

#### Half Term Information

#### **PE – Wednesday afternoons**

As the weather turns cooler, children should come to school in full PE kit: a white t-shirt, black or navy shorts or joggers, trainers, and a waterproof top layer. A black sweatshirt or zip-up top is also recommended for warmth. Please ensure long hair is tied back, earrings are removed, and all clothing is clearly named to avoid mix-ups.

**Mobile Library Visit** - Children will receive books from the mobile library bus on alternate Tuesday afternoons. Please ensure books are returned on the following alternate Tuesday so your child can borrow a new one. Unfortunately, if books aren’t returned, we won’t be able to issue another - thank you for your support.

#### **Water Bottles**

Please ensure your child brings a clean, filled, and clearly labelled water bottle to school each day - water only, please.

#### **Homework**

A homework menu will be sent home with a selection of optional, topic-based activities for children to enjoy and complete over time. We’d love to see any finished projects in school by Monday 15th December so we can celebrate and share them together in class.

#### Links to school values

**Aspiration** - We will continue to aim high by challenging ourselves in our learning, especially as we begin letter formation and explore new topics like life in the past.

**Respect** - We will deepen our understanding of respect by learning about how people lived and worked together during the Great Fire of London, and by listening carefully to each other’s ideas and experiences.

**Community** - We are proud to be part of the Naburn community and will focus on working together kindly and safely. We’re especially looking forward to coming together for our Nativity in church - a special moment to celebrate with families and share our learning with the wider community.

### Mathematics

Whilst we are settling into school, we will begin to develop our knowledge of number. We will provide lots of opportunities for the children to recognise numbers and start to form their numbers to 10. The children will then be introduced to matching, sorting, and comparing.

**Numbots** – Your child has a login for this app in their reading diary. It’s a fun and effective way to build number knowledge and fluency. We recommend using it at least three times a week to support their learning.

### Literacy

This term in Literacy, we’re building on last half term’s focus on identity and moving into our *Great Fire of London* topic. Children will explore key vocabulary and begin retelling events through drawing, mark-making, and early writing. Some are starting to write simple sentences, while others are still building foundational skills and that’s perfectly okay. We support each child at their own pace, encouraging confidence and creativity in their writing.

### Phonics

Children will continue Phase 2 phonics with Little Wandle, learning new graphemes and tricky words. We’ll support blending, segmenting, and letter formation using clear pronunciation and handwriting phrases.

### Reading

**Reading every day for 10–15 minutes at home is a compulsory part of homework.** This daily routine is designed to help build fluency, confidence, and enjoyment in reading, while supporting your child’s progress and fostering a lifelong love of books.

Your child will bring home two types of reading books:

- A reading practice book matched to their current phonics level. This may be a wordless book at first, until more sounds (GPCs) are taught. Please send this book and their reading record into school each day, as we read with your child regularly.
- A sharing book chosen by your child from the mobile library every other week, to enjoy together at home.

Practice books will be sent home each Thursday. If your child finds the book easy, that’s okay — it’s designed to help build fluency, confidence, and enjoyment in reading.