

Acorn Class – Reception Spring Term 1 2026

Our Planet - The One Place we all call Home



Expressive Art and Design

As part of our learning about Neil Armstrong and his journey to the moon, the children will be designing and making their own moon buggies, exploring different materials and joining techniques to create vehicles ready for space adventures.

In Music, we will follow the Sing Up unit **Grandma Rap**. The children will create simple word patterns, chant rhythms together and have a go at echo singing while tapping the beat. They will also practise clapping the rhythm of words to help them hear how syllables match the beat.

Physical Development

This half term in PE, the children will be developing their gymnastics skills. They will explore different ways of travelling, balancing, rolling, and jumping, while learning how to use space safely. The children will also practise taking turns, following instructions, and working with a partner.

Fine motor skills remain a key focus this term. The children will continue building strength and control for more accurate letter formation through activities such as bead threading, Lego and small construction, finger painting, using mini whiteboards, and practising careful cutting and sticking.

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 Smeds and the Smoos*, Neil Armstrong, and Christopher Columbus, they'll be encouraged to retell events, describe different settings such as space, new lands, and imaginary planets, and use topic words like "astronaut," "moon," "explorer," and "voyage." 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 Dreams and Goals. Children will think about what they would like to get better at, set simple goals, and explore how it feels to keep trying when something is tricky. Through stories, circle times, and role play, they will learn to work with others, celebrate their achievements, and recognise the effort it takes to reach a goal. Adults will support children in talking about their ideas, managing feelings, and developing a positive 'I can do it' attitude.

RE

"My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations."
- Isaiah 56:7

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



Understanding the World

Last half term, we explored our families and what makes each of us special. This term, our focus moves to Special People and Special Things. We'll be learning about the people who are important to us, the special objects they use, and why these things matter. Through stories, discussions, and hands-on exploration, children will begin to recognise how different people live, celebrate, and show what is important to them, helping them build a deeper understanding of their community and the wider world.

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 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 9th February so we can celebrate and share them together in class.

Links to school values

Aspiration - We will keep trying new challenges in our writing, using CVCC/CCVC words, beginning to include tricky words, and creating our own story ideas inspired by *The Smeds and the Smoos*.

Respect - We will learn about special people and special things, showing respect for what matters to others and listening carefully to each other.

Community - As **Acorn Class**, we will work together kindly, support our friends in their learning, and celebrate what makes our classroom community special.

Mathematics

This half term, we will continue developing the children's number knowledge through the White Rose Maths units Alive in 5, and Growing 6, 7, 8. The children will build on their early counting and number recognition by exploring numbers to 8, comparing groups, and deepening their understanding of quantity through practical activities.

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 half term, *The Smeds and the Smoos* will inspire our writing as children use the characters and settings to spark their own ideas. Building on their Autumn skills, we'll begin writing CVCC and CCVC words, creating simple story ideas, and composing full sentences with support. Children will also start to use tricky words, with everyone progressing at their own pace — and it's absolutely fine that some may not be ready for every step just yet. Each child will be supported to grow in confidence in a way that's right for them.

Phonics

Children will now move into Phase 3 phonics with Little Wandle, learning new graphemes and tricky words to extend their reading and writing skills. We'll continue to support blending, segmenting, and accurate letter formation using clear pronunciation and handwriting phrases, helping children grow in confidence as they tackle longer words and more complex sounds.

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.