

# Acorn Class – KS1 Spring Term 1 2026

## Our Planet - The One Place we all call Home



### Design and Technology

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 a space adventure. They will experiment with the use of axles and wheels to enable their moon buggy to move over bumpy terrain and evaluate their design against the design specification.

### 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.

### Science

In Science the children will be learning about animals, living things and their habitats. They'll identify different types of animals, explore what they eat, and compare their body structures. We'll also look at the differences between things that are living, dead and never alive, and investigate a range of habitats and microhabitats. The children will learn how animals and plants depend on each other through simple food chains.

### History

In History, we will learn about the lives of the great explorers Neil Armstrong and Christopher Columbus. We will learn to understand why these individuals are so significant to history and how their findings helped to inform what we know about our planet today.

### PSHE (Life Skills)

This half term in PSHE, we are following the Jigsaw theme *Dreams and Goals*. We will understand how success feels and how to celebrate it. We will look at recognising our own and others achievements; setting goals, tackling new challenges and overcoming obstacles.

### 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:  
***Who is a Muslim and what do they believe?***



### Music

In Music, we will be exploring the Sing Up unit *Grandma Rap*. The children will develop their rhythmic skills by creating word patterns, chanting together, and practising echo singing while keeping a steady beat. They will also work on clapping the rhythm of words to deepen their understanding of how syllables fit within a musical pulse.

### 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 9<sup>th</sup> February so we can celebrate and share them together in class.

### Mathematics

This half term, we will be focusing on addition and subtraction within 100. We will use related facts to support us when adding and subtracting ones to a 2-digit number. We will use number lines when adding and subtracting as well as ten frames and counters. We will continue to strengthen our knowledge of number bonds when subtracting from a ten.

**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 story *The Smeds and the Smoos* by Julia Donaldson will inspire our writing. We will begin by using adjectives to describe the character of Janet and write a character description of her using the present tense. We will also focus on using pronouns to avoid repetition. Following this, we will compare the Smeds and the Smoos characters, looking at the difference between facts and opinions and write non-chronological reports using subheadings to organise our writing.

### Phonics

This term, we will continue to 'grow the code' by learning phase 5 alternative graphemes for sounds previously taught ee/y, e/ea, w/wh, oa/oe/ou, igh/y, oa/ow, j/g, f/ph, l/le al, s/c, v/ve, u/o-e/o/ou, z/se, s/se/ce, ee/ey, oo/ui/ou, as well as new tricky words. All phonic sessions are taught using the Little Wandle Scheme.

### 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.

### Links to school values

**Aspiration** – We will demonstrate the importance of not giving up when we are faced with a challenge by showing resilience and perseverance like the great explorers we are learning about.

**Respect** – We will explore the importance of respect when learning to appreciate ourselves and each other.

**Community** - As **Acorn Class**, we will work together supporting our friends in their learning, and celebrating what makes our classroom community so special.