

Acorn Class – Reception Spring Term 2 2026

Once Upon a Time



Expressive Art and Design

In Music, we will be continuing our work on 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 clap the rhythm of words to deepen their understanding of how syllables fit within a musical pulse.

In Art, we will focus on the texture of different materials when creating a collage fairytale scene. The children will use a variety of materials and tools to create their desired effect.

Physical Development

This half term in PE, the children will develop key movement skills such as balance, coordination, agility, and spatial awareness. They will also build important social skills, including teamwork, cooperation, turn-taking and positive communication

We will also continue to work on our fine motor skills this term. We will focus on developing our scissor skills to cut along lines using one hand and plan daily opportunities to strengthen the muscles needed for writing through activities such as Dough Disco, threading and small construction.

Communication & Language

We will be building our confidence to speak in whole class situations e.g. by answering questions at story time. We will use recently modelled language independently, across everyday contexts and we will use newly learnt vocabulary from the stories and texts we have read and apply these in our own contexts.

Life Skills

This term, we will be learning to recognise how exercise makes us feel and explain what we can do to keep our bodies healthy. We will talk about which foods are healthy and learn about the importance of sleep.

RE

Jesus said, 'I am the way and the truth and the life.'

- John 14:6

This term, the children will be learning to answer the question:

Which stories are special and why?



Understanding of the World

This term, children will be exploring the natural world by talking about different animals, what they eat, and noticing similarities and differences around them. They will also observe seasonal changes, using their senses to spot how the weather and environment shift. They'll begin to learn that our planet is made up of different continents, and through maps, stories and play, they'll start to develop a sense of the wider world while enjoying the Continents Song to help remember their names.

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 23rd March** so we can celebrate and share them together in class.

Mathematics

This term in Maths, we will be developing our knowledge of 3D shapes. We will learn to recognise 2D shapes when describing the faces of 3D shapes and we will search for 3D shapes in our environment based on their properties. We will also begin to explore measurement by comparing length and height using key vocabulary such as shorter and longer.

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, we are beginning our new Talk for Writing unit focusing on the story, *The Papaya That Spoke*. The children will learn the story and retell it using actions to help them remember and understand key vocabulary. We will create simple story maps to understand the structure of narratives and orally rehearse sentences to create our own version of the story.

Phonics

We will continue to review phase 3 graphemes this term. We will also begin to read longer words and words with more than one digraph. We will apply the phonics learnt so far to read longer words with double letters as well as compound words.

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 show aspiration by challenging ourselves to learn new storytelling skills in our Talk for Writing unit, aiming high as we create our own versions of the story.

Respect – We will show respect by learning how to look after our bodies and minds in PSHE, and by appreciating and valuing ourselves and others.

Community - As **Acorn Class**, we will strengthen our community by encouraging our friends, sharing ideas, and working as a team across all our learning this half term.