

Acorn Class – Reception Summer Term 1 2026

Roots, Shoots and Muddy Boots



Expressive Art and Design

In Music, children will explore rhythm and pulse through the Sing Up *Play Percussion – TIME* unit. They'll experiment with a range of percussion instruments, learning to keep a steady beat and respond to musical patterns. We'll also use the progression activity from *Tańczymy Labada* to support movement, coordination and creative expression.

In D&T, children will explore food and nutrition through making fruit kebabs. They'll learn about different fruits, their colours, textures and where they come from. Children will practise simple food-prep skills such as chopping, stirring and safely using utensils. We'll also talk about making healthy choices and combining ingredients to create balanced snacks.

Physical Development

This half term in PE, the children will be developing their athletics skills through running, jumping and throwing activities. They'll learn how to move with control, speed and accuracy while exploring different ways to travel and change direction. Children will also practise simple techniques for distance, power and coordination as they take part in fun athletic challenges. These sessions will help build confidence, stamina and enjoyment of physical activity.

We will also continue to develop children's fine motor skills through a range of focused activities. Children will work on using scissors with control, including cutting around shapes and operating scissors using finger and thumb. They will also practise safe cutting skills when using a knife during food preparation. Alongside this, we will strengthen the muscles needed for writing through Dough Disco, threading and small construction. Children will continue to form most letters correctly, hold a pencil effectively and show increasing accuracy and care in their drawings.

Communication & Language

This half term we will continue building children's confidence to speak in whole-class situations, for example by sharing ideas and answering questions during story time. Children will be encouraged to use recently modelled language independently across everyday classroom activities. They will also be applying new vocabulary from the stories, poems and texts we read together, using this language naturally in their play, conversations and role-play.

Life Skills

This term, we will be learning about relationships and how to build positive connections with others. Children will explore what it means to be a kind friend, including sharing, taking turns and showing empathy. We will talk about feelings and practise expressing them in healthy, respectful ways. Children will also learn how to resolve small disagreements, listen to others and work cooperatively during play and group activities.

RE

" So God created mankind in his own image... male and female he created them."
- *Genesis 1:27*

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

Which people are special and why?



Understanding of the World

This half term, children will explore the natural world by learning to identify common wild and garden plants. They will look closely at flowering plants, naming simple parts such as roots, stems, leaves and flowers. We will also be planting our own seeds to watch how they grow and change over time. As part of our wider topic on farming then and now, Mr Atkinson, a local farmer, will visit to talk to the children about life on a farm.

Half Term Information

PE – Wednesday afternoons - As the weather is beginning to turn warmer, children should come to school in full PE kit: a white T-shirt, black or navy shorts or joggers, trainers and a light top layer. A black sweatshirt or zip-up can still be brought for cooler mornings. Please ensure long hair is tied back and earrings are removed on PE days. All clothing should be clearly named to help 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. This is especially important now that the weather is getting warmer and children need to stay well hydrated.

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 18th May** so we can celebrate and share them together in class.

Mathematics

This half term in maths we'll be exploring numbers **to 20 and beyond**, building confidence with counting, recognising numerals and spotting patterns. We'll also be asking **"How many now?"** as children add, take away and talk about changes in quantity through practical activities. Finally, we'll **manipulate, compose and decompose numbers**, using resources to build and break apart amounts in different ways.

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 will continue our Talk for Writing work on *The Papaya That Spoke*, retelling the story with actions and key vocabulary. Children will create simple story maps and rehearse sentences to help them build their own versions. We will then move on to our non-fiction text, *The Tree Giant*, where children will learn to sequence information and create simple fact pages through pictures, labels and shared writing.

Phonics

This half term in Little Wandle, children will continue to secure their Phase 3 phonemes while beginning to explore elements of Phase 4. They will focus on long vowel sounds, consonant blends and reading more complex word structures. Children will also practise reading longer words, tricky words and simple sentences to help develop greater fluency and confidence.

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 skills, from identifying different plants and trees to creating simple fact pages and observing how our own seeds grow.

Respect – We will show respect by learning how to build positive relationships in PSHE, showing kindness, listening to others and working cooperatively. We will also show respect for the natural world as we explore plants and learn how to care for living things

Community - As Acorn Class, we will strengthen our sense of community by supporting our friends, sharing ideas and working together during story work, planting activities and all our learning this half term.