

HELMDON ACORNS NEWSLETTER

DATE: 2ND DECEMBER 2016

This week ...



A belated warm welcome to Jace and Lucia who started at Acorns in November; we will also be welcoming three new children in January who are coming for a "Stay and Play" session next Monday.

Some of the children enjoyed baking rolls early in the week – kneading is a really good way to improve motor skills. We have been making all kinds of glittery crafts which will be displayed on our Christmas tree soon.

You may also have been treated to

some renditions at home of the new nativity songs; letters concerning the Nativity have been distributed to every child this week.

Our theme of "People who help us" was very popular. On Friday we enjoyed mixing a gloopy portion in the tuff tray adding snow glitter and using different utensils to make it ooze.

As Kim now has 10 key worker children she will sometimes give out two stars of the week.

Your committee needs you

The committee's AGM will be held on Tuesday 17th January and with some of the old guard hanging up their boots, we would love to see some new faces on the committee.

Come along for a glass of wine, find out a bit more about what the committee does without any obligation to join up.



As a charity, Acorn's is heavily reliant on the committee for support, guidance and fundraising so we really encourage anyone with

a few hours free to come and join us.

You'd be supporting your child's education, have your say in the running of the pre-school, it's something to put on your CV and it's a great way to meet other people.

Still not convinced? Come along on the 17th January and see what you think ... see you there!



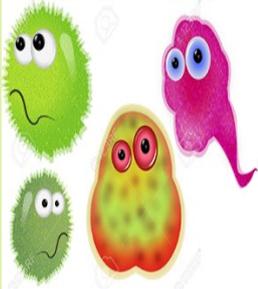
Dates for your diary:

- ◆ Friday 9th December - Brackley Round Table Christmas Collection, in Helmdon, **Volunteers needed.**
- ◆ Monday 19th Dec- Acorns Nativity play during the morning session.
- ◆ Tuesday 20th Dec - Last day of term, please order Christmas dinner lunch by Monday 5th January on live Kitchen if your child is in that day and would like it.
- ◆ Thursday 5th January - First day back in new year.



Stars of the week:

Yellow Group	SOPHIE
Green Group	OLIVER
Blue Group	ALEIGHA
Red Group	JOSHUA SOPHIE H
Purple Group	JACE



Keeping Healthy...

We have had a high level of absence this week due to coughs, colds and also Hand, Foot and Mouth. An email regarding this was sent out on Wednesday, please let us know if you have not received it.

We would ask that parents, where possible, try to avoid bringing poorly children into the cloakroom when dropping off other children, whilst understanding that this is not always feasible.

In order to try to minimise transmission of infection

here, we have re-iterated to the children via demonstrations how thoroughly they need to wash their hands and revised some activities. Additional deep cleaning has been undertaken as well.

Committee News

Fireworks

It's been said before, but we'll say it again - a big thank you to everyone that supported the Fireworks and ensured the night was such a success. Our long evenings spent in The Bell planning the event paid off and we are now recuperating before plans for next year's events begin in January!

Every year is a learning experience for us, but this year we doubled our popcorn production to ensure there were no disappointed children (or adults!) and also sold real ale for the first time which went down very well. Please let us know if you have any ideas or suggestions for next year's event.

A final thank you as well to the small army of volunteers that work so hard behind the scenes to make this important fund raising event possible.

Rain, rain, go away...

I wish it was that easy to direct the British weather, however the Acorns team are making plans to ensure everyone arrives just a little drier than before. With funds raised by the committee, we are planning to erect a small pergola-type shelter at the entrance to acorns to protect visitors from the elements.

We hope this will help ease congestion in Foyer, particularly when the weather is wet as people will have somewhere sheltered to leave umbrellas etc. during drop-off and pick-up.

We are currently getting quotes for this work and hope to have the shelter up by the end of the Spring.



*“Blue sky,
sunshine
every day,
little acorns
love to play”*

Fees

Many thanks to all those who have paid promptly, our fees are set as low as possible as we are non-profit making so we rely on them arriving in a timely fashion to cover our outgoings.

Next week

We will expand our theme to incorporate a hospital role play area.

The children will be busy doing lots of craft activities and practising their fine motor skills and pencil control at the same time. We will continue to introduce different mediums for the children to explore and comment upon. There will be different activities set up for the key workers to use during small group time, allowing the children good opportunities to develop their communication and language and social skills.

Hintons Close
Helmdon
Brackley
NN13 5QP

Phone: 01295 768327
Mobile: 07743 470602
Email:
enquiries@helmdonacorns.org.uk

We're on the web:
www.helmdonacorns.org.uk

*Helmdon Acorns,
a nurturing
environment in the
heart of a beautiful
village, enhancing
the development of
children through
play.*

Sessions for next
September

For those children staying with us next year, a request form for sessions will be issued shortly. If you have a younger sibling to enrol, it is a good idea to do so soon if you have not done so already.

Who's who, staff and committee:

Setting Manager - Liz Hart

Deputy Supervisors – Kim Sadler and Susanna Morgan

Senior Practitioner - Zofija Wilson

Practitioners - Victoria Webster, Gina Rayner, Emma Houghton

Chairperson - Ros Spence

Vice Chairperson - VACANCY

Secretary - Lorna Clarke

Treasurer - Kat Carter

Committee - Lynne McLuckie, John Gray, Lorraine Aust, Jo Page,

Charlotte Riley, Tiffany Swaggart, Gary Wilson.

Spotlight on Kat (Treasurer)

How long have you been involved with Acorns?

Jack started at Acorns in January 2014 and I started on the Committee in the September but was a parent volunteer before then helping out with 'Tea at the Ritz' at the Reading Room that Spring. It's been lots of fun. Jack started at Helmdon Primary in September but I'm still involved as I've got a vested interest with a new small person due to arrive after Christmas.

What's the best thing about Acorns?

There is a real sense of family at Acorns, you know that your little person is in good hands when you leave them at the door. The staff are always giving feedback about how your child is doing and always willing to lend an ear, and a shoulder on some occasions, when you have any concerns or just want a chat about anything.

What were you like at school?

Looking back I really enjoyed my time at school although I probably didn't realise it at

the time!!

I was an average student though think I rebelled a little as my dad was a head teacher (not of my school) but there was always that in the back of my mind when it came to academics so I didn't do too well at my exams first time around. Glad to say I'm fully qualified these days. It was an all girls convent school so boys were a bit of a novelty in my early teens.

What would you do if you won £10m?

What wouldn't I do????

Make sure the family was looked after (luckily it's small!!).

Buy a bigger house and get some ponies to play with. Retire my husband (although he wouldn't know what to do with himself I'm sure) from work that is!!

Invest

Buy a huge Villa in Ibiza as a bit of a holiday home and town house in Boston, USA. I'd donate a fair bit as well and look at trying to put some towards helping keep the Horton Hospital going.



What song are you embarrassed to say you love?

Oh goodness, there's probably a few but as I was a huge Kylie and Jason fan back in the day but if I had to really embarrass myself I'd have to say I love a bit of 5 Star.....Rain or Shine, System Addict. I'm sure that'll take a few of you back.

Your new neighbours are coming over for dinner and you want to impress. What would you cook?

It'd have to be Mexican, a huge bowl of Nachos and cheese with Hot Chilli, rice, wedges, salad and Tequila Nice and easy

What's on the cards for this weekend?

I really want to get the tree up but the husband is having non of it!!