



HELMDON ACORNS NEWSLETTER

DATE: 24TH FEBRUARY 2017

Update from this week.



We have had a really busy week at Acorns. In the Forest School session the children made clay tree masks and explored various different textures. The Pre-schoolers have enjoyed their Dough Disco sessions and these will continue into the middle of next week. The session encourages the children to pat, roll, squeeze and shape the playdough to strengthen their muscles and improve their fine motor skills.

We talked about the arrival of Spring and looked at some garden items which were budding, such as catkins

and pussy willow. The arrival of storm Doris on Thursday gave the children the opportunity to make and fly their own kites. Our key worker group sessions are now being tailored by the practitioners to cover the next steps of their specific children so the groups are doing all sorts of different activities accordingly.

On Friday it really felt like Spring and we enjoyed planting the first of our flowers and vegetables of the season.

Next week

Our sound for Show and Tell is "S"; please provide items starting with that that sound next week.

It is Shrove Tuesday next week; we hope to cook pancakes and then in the afternoon join the primary school when they have a pancake race.

On Thursday it is World Book Day - you should have received a book token this week. We will have a focus on books across all our activities and put out some literature about children's books. We have also been approached by Carousal books who have given us

a set of new published toddler books in return for us succeeding in obtaining some reviews from parents to include in their publication. Each review only needs to be 150/200 words long. The books look very engaging, **if you would like to borrow one or two in return for providing a short review, please email us.** We need 15 parents to take part which hopefully will not be too difficult.

Sainsbury's

Sainsbury's Vouchers

We would be very grateful of your Action Kids vouchers; there is a collection box in the cloak-room.

Dates for your diary:

- ◆ **Saturday 11th March**
- Fundraiser food quiz
- details below.
- ◆ **Monday 20th March-**
Parent Consultation evening - details over-leaf.



Stars of the week:

Yellow Group	OLIVIA
Green Group	LEWIS (TO FOLLOW)
Blue Group	KEIRA
Red Group	NOAH (TO FOLLOW)
Purple Group	ANNABETH



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Forest school now takes place on Mondays to ensure all children get the chance to participate. Please dress your child appropriately

Two way Communication

Our next parents consultation is on **Monday 20th March** and provides for a 10 minute appointment with your child's key-worker to discuss their progress. Liz will also be available throughout the session. Sign-up sheets for appointments are in the cloakroom - we do ask for your understanding in keeping to the start and finish times to avoid other parents having to wait. If there is an issue which requires longer discussion, we are always happy to arrange another appointment.

Each year we ask parents for feedback via a questionnaire. This will take the form of an online survey; more details next week.

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.

Clothes at Acorns

We try to keep your children clean and dry but invariably small mishaps happen sometimes. Please can you ensure that ALL children have a spare change of clothing

in their bag including socks and underwear. If your child is an older pre-schooler we would be delighted to receive any pairs of outgrown socks as we are often short.



Committee News

Hopefully by now you have all seen the publicity about the Acorns Food Quiz. This is a quiz with a twist of all the answers being somehow related to food or drink, including rounds to test your taste buds! Following its success last year, we have decided to stick to the same theme and will look to get the children involved too, but you will have to attend the quiz to see how. Tickets are on sale now from Acorns, or any of the committee. This is the second biggest fundraiser for us, and we are raising money to spend on the outside play area. The pirate ship needs a lick of paint, the 'Octo-pod' needs a spruce up and the wooden slide structure needs new legs, so we are hoping to raise

enough to tackle these jobs for the summer.

Please see the dates listed on the committee notice board for info on the gardening mornings and social events. We have the gardening mornings to prevent us having to pay gardeners to keep on top of the outside space. I would like to thank Astrid for her assistance this week in prepping two of the raised beds for the children to do some planting this week.

Also a huge thank you to Terry (Freya Philbey-Heeg's Grandfather) for the very kind donation of a laptop to enable the committee to complete their admin tasks - extremely grateful, thank you!

Who's who, staff and committee:

Setting Manager - Liz Hart

Deputy Supervisors - Kim Sadler and Susanna Morgan

Senior Practitioners - Zofija Wilson

Practitioners - Victoria Webster, Gina Rayner, Emma Houghton, Rebecca Fletcher

Chairperson - Lorna Clarke

Vice Chairperson - Gary Wilson

Secretary - Kat Carter

Treasurer - John Gray

Committee - Ros Spence, Lynne McLuckie, Lorraine Aust, Jo Page, Charlotte Riley, Astrid Hernandez

Keeping Healthy

There are several children whose eyes look a little sore at the moment. There is no longer a requirement to keep children off if they have conjunctivitis (Public Health England guidance) but if it persists, please refer to your GP and if it is making your child unwell then they should not attend.

Parents are reminded that all NHS sight tests are free for children under the age of 16. Your child will be screened in their Reception Year but there is no need to wait if you notice anything causing concern; this could include rubbing their eyes a lot, showing signs of a squint—the eyes don't look in the same direction. One eye may turn inwards, outwards, upwards or downwards, while the other eye looks forward.