



Helmdon Acorns

Newsletter

Monday 29th January 2018

News from last week

The children really enjoyed the Hungry Caterpillar Story last week. We sampled almost all the various foods in the book, with the cherry pie being declared "deeeee—licious" by one pre-schooler. Forest School focussed on magic potions. The new mini "Hetty" ride ons for the room are very popular too.

The older children are getting really competent at Dough Disco and we tried a new song this week.

We have made a new ICT and Maths section with jumbo calculators and kitchen scales - if you have any old remote controls or push button mobile phones we would love to have them too.



This week...

We will use the tuff trays to set up a sea scene with sand and sea creatures and later in the week look at how we look after babies. We will be reading "The Tiger who came to Tea" and "The Cat in the Hat".

Forest School will be on FRIDAY this week due to staffing resources on Monday.

Important Information

Please note that fees for paid for sessions will increase to £4.40 per hour from April 2018. This 10p per hour increase (+2.3%) is to cover raising costs due to the living wage increase, pensions and other staffing costs. We try to keep our fees as low as possible but we obviously need to cover our basic costs; we remain competitive with regards to the charging structure of other local providers.

Cake Sale

This Thursday at 3:25pm there will be a cake sale as organised by Vicky and Meri (Year 6 at Helmdon School) who want to raise money for Children in Need. There will be fairy cakes, flapjacks and some cookies for sale at Acorns.

Tax-free Childcare

From 24 November 2017, the Tax-Free Childcare Service opened to parents whose youngest child is under 6 or who has their 6th birthday on that day. Parents can apply via the Childcare Choices website.

Tax-Free Childcare offers parents with children under 12 up to £2,000 per child, per year, towards their childcare costs (or under 17 and up to £4,000 for disabled children). Eligible parents entering the scheme will open an online childcare account that they can use to pay you for childcare. Payments will work just as they would through an online bank account, using a reference number for each child so we can identify your payments.



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Star of the Fortnight

Yellow Group	Walter
Green Group	Jack S
Blue Group	Cici
Red Group	Joshua
Purple Group	Thalia

Committee News

The Committee are continuing to work on fundraising events throughout the remainder of the school year. The Food Quiz is due to take place on the 3rd March and tickets are now available from Liz or a member of the committee. We are also looking into the possibility of holding a summer fete/garden party when the weather gets a little warmer.

Our next gardening morning is being held on Wednesday 31st January under the guidance of Astrid. If you can spare some time after drop off in the morning it would be much appreciated.

The committee are next meeting to continue planning the quiz on Tuesday 30th January at 7:30pm at The Bell for those interested in assisting.

Chairperson: Kat Carter

Vice Chairperson: Sammie Vale

Secretary: Katie Sleath **Treasurer:** John Gray

Committee: Lynne McLuckie, Astrid Hernandez, Judy Wise, Mike Ludwig, Sophie Lander-Ritchie, Theresa Harvey

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 1st - Cake Sale

Friday 9th Feb - last day of term

Monday 18th Feb - first day of term 4

Sat 3rd March - Food Quiz

Lost

A pair of jeans was accidentally sent home with the wrong child last week; please can you check bags and return if found.

Acorns Team

Setting Manager: Liz Hart

Deputy Supervisors: Kim Sadler & Susanna Morgan

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

Bank Staff: Hannah Foulkes