



# Helmdon Acorns

## Newsletter

Monday 12th March 2018

### News from last week



Forest School was popular with the children using a pestle and mortar to crush and ground object they found outside. The children enjoyed the police car visit on Wednesday, many thanks to Grace's daddy for organising this.

We welcomed Fiona Kirkham on Wednesday who has applied to be a bank staff member, covering for sickness if our permanent staff are unavailable to help. Fiona has three children at Helmdon Primary School.

We enjoyed parachute games, lots of Tumble Tots and singing and the children made cards to take home. We hope that they enjoyed watching you open them on Sunday!

### Looking forward ....

We are looking at Spring as our topic this week and will be decorating a new collage to reflect this. There is provision in the planning for water play and a car wash, apologies in advance for any wet/muddy clothes.

We will start to focus on Spring, of which the highlight will be trip to Manor Farm on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March— the consent forms are in the children's drawers.

Due to the Farm trip, Forest School will move to Tuesday for the last week of term (27<sup>th</sup> March). Please note that we re-open after Easter on TUESDAY 17<sup>th</sup> APRIL.

After reflection we have decided to modify the way we award certificates. They will now be worded slightly differently and awarded immediately after a member of staff sees a particular "WOW" moment. This will allow the children to be positively praised instantaneously for a special achievement.

### Parent Consultations

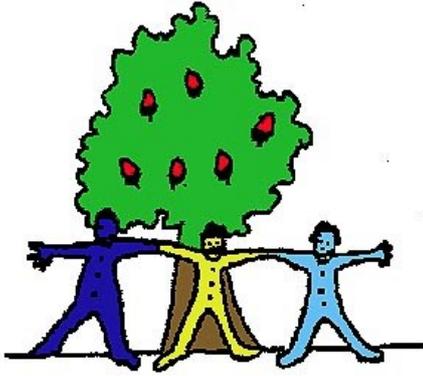
Our consultation evening has been re-scheduled to take place on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March from 4 -6 pm.

This is a chance for all parents to have a 10 minute discussion with your child's key worker and discuss their next steps. Your child's development in the 7 areas of learning in the EYFS was tracked at half term based on general observations on Tapestry, the key worker's knowledge of your child and a detailed handwritten observation which you will also have seen on Tapestry.

In addition a written report has been collated for children staying at the setting next year (those leaving in July 2018 will receive a report in late June). Please note that the reports will be a little out of date as the children develop so quickly!

### Your views

As usual we will ask parents attending the consultation evening to complete a short questionnaire regarding their child's progress. In addition we distribute an annual survey on all aspects of Acorns—last year this was done electronically but as we did not have a particularly high response rate, we will be reverting to a paper one this year, Look out for it at the end of this week!



# Helmdon Acorns Newsletter

## Committee News

It's been another busy week for some members of the Committee who found the time to organise a Kids Quiz at Helmdon School last week, raising money for Acorns, The Little Princess Trust and Friends of Helmdon School. Lots of fun was had by all the Children (and adults!) who attended and lots of money was raised for all the Charities too.

The Committee will be looking at arranging another social/fundraiser sometime in the late spring and it would be great to see some parents out with us too this time. Watch this space and we will confirm the details once it's all been arranged.

Please can we again ask parents to be mindful of little feet walking in the mud on and around the flower beds at the front of Acorns. We'd love to keep the flower beds looking their best coming up to spring and want to make sure any bulbs under the earth have a chance to bloom. Many thanks

**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, Lorna Clarke

## Dates for your Diary

Thurs 22nd March 4-6pm –  
Parents' Consultation Evening  
(rescheduled)

Mon 26th March— trip to Manor  
Farm

Tuesday 27th March— Acorns  
Committee Meeting @ 7:30pm

Thursday 29th March—last day  
of term 4

TUESDAY 17th April—first day  
of term 5



## 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,  
Fiona Kirkham