



Helmdon Acorns

Newsletter

Monday 16th September 2018

Welcome!

Welcome to the autumn term at Acorns. Last week the staff completed home visits for the new starters and it is lovely to see how well they are all settling in. We have some new children in our pre-school group who are already making friends, as well as our new little ones.

We were delighted to see how tall our sunflowers have grown over the summer, they provided the inspiration for some great painting not dissimilar to that of Van Gogh!

We are concentrating on really getting to know all the children, their likes and dislikes, getting them to look at how big their hands are, in comparison to their friends' and asking them what they like doing when they are at Acorns; this will ensure that our planning of activities meets their needs and interests as much as possible.

Last week our role play was a tent set up with sleeping bags; this week we will have tea parties outside.

We work in our key worker groups with the children looking at their next steps, as well as having differentiated activities which are age/stage related, for example this week the older children are having some "Dough Disco" sessions to strength their hand muscles in preparation for developing a good pencil grip.



Wellies please!

Please ensure that your child has a named pair of wellies at Acorns.

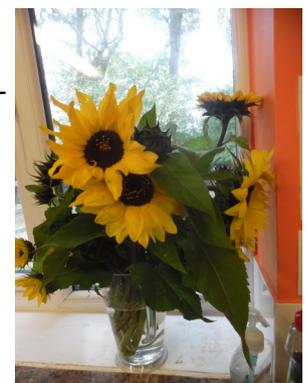
Fresh start

The new meals provider has been generally well received by the children. Please note that you must order and pay by Tuesday for the following week. If you order the Jacket potato option, please email the setting with your required topping when you order, as we need to tell the kitchen what to wrap up for us.

Items of interest

We have had lots of Minecraft lego dropped in the main room this term and can't locate its origin. We think it is being brought into the setting in pockets—please let Liz know if you are missing some at home. Children should be discouraged from having small items in their pockets when arriving at Acorns.

Instead we are asking for items relating to "autumn" to be put in the "Show and Tell" box in the cloakroom. Items should be named so that we can talk to the individual children about them and return them afterwards.





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Committee News

We hope you've all had a lovely summer and welcome back to the first term of a new school year. Members of the Committee, staff and other volunteers were busy over the holidays, making sure that the setting was ready for opening last week, looking fresh and tidy. Thanks to all who gave up their time, we do so appreciate it.

Chairperson: Kat Carter

Vice Chairperson: Sammie Vale

Secretary: Katie Sleath

Treasurer: John Gray

Committee: Judy Wise, Mike Ludwig, Sophie Lander-Ritchie, Theresa Harvey

Setting Manager: Liz Hart

Deputy Supervisors: Kim Sadler & Susanna Morgan

Practitioners: Victoria Webster, Gina Rayner, Emma Houghton, Rebecca Fletcher, Lorraine Aust, Emma Pegg

Bank Staff: Fiona Kirkham

Acorns Fireworks

We have our first planning meeting this week on **Wednesday 12th September** at 7.30pm at The Bell Pub in Helmdon. Our annual fireworks display will be held on Saturday 10th November this year and we look forward to seeing staff, parents, children, friends and family there for what is always such a fun evening. We have so much fun planning this huge event and if anyone can offer an extra pair of hands in the run up to or on the day then any help is greatly appreciated. We will also be looking to scout out any local businesses who would be interested in offering us sponsorship in return for advertising on our banners. If anyone wants to get involved then please come and speak to Liz or one of the Committee.

Diary Dates

Forest School will take place every Friday starting from 21st September. Please ensure that your children is wearing a top sleeved top and trousers or leggings.

The primary school is holding an open morning on Thursday 11th October between 11am and 12 noon for parents of children starting school in September 2019.

Invoices were sent out yesterday to all parents. If you wish to pay in instalments, please note that the first payment date is Friday 28th September. If you did not receive an invoice, please let Liz know.

Next Committee Meeting

Our first Committee meeting of the new school year will be held at Acorns on **Tuesday 18th September** at 7.30pm. We would love to see some new faces at this meeting so anyone who wants to come and find out a bit about what we do to help at Acorns please feel free to come along and say Hi!! Wine and Snacks supplied.