



# Helmdon Acorns

## Newsletter

February 2019

### Activities

The Acorns really enjoyed playing in the snow—for some children it was the first time they would remember it! We made a great snowman and threw lots of snowballs.



We talked about Chinese New Year and made some lanterns. Noodles were enjoyed by all at snack time with some great efforts with our chopsticks.



We have been doing some self-portraits by examining ourselves in the mirror first to see what colour our eyes are, etc.

The children measured themselves against our height

chart and stuck their photo on so they can see how quickly they grow.

Our role play has been doctors and hospitals— we would like to change this to "office" next—if you have any broken laptops, filing trays, phones or calculators, they will be very much appreciated. We revisited "Going on a Bear Hunt" last week and the children have used it in their play often — many can recite the whole book now.... It's World Book Day soon and we will be reading "Dear Zoo" and the "Poppy and Sam" books.

### Scarlet fever

We have had a couple of cases of scarlet fever and one of scarletina in the last month. Details are in the cloakroom and can be found here: [www.nhs.uk/conditions/scarlet-fever](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/scarlet-fever)

The first signs tend to be a high temperature and swollen neck glands.

### Lost/unidentified items

We would like to ask for your commitment to ensure **all items** brought into the setting are named. This includes shoes (several children have the same style!), coats, gloves, harts, water beakers, jumpers and cardigans which are likely to be discarded. If you could check everything over half term, it would be very much appreciated.

### This Friday

Please don't forget we are **CLOSED** this Friday 15th February and re-open on Monday 25th February. Any hot meals ordered have been deleted and credited to your account.

### Fees

A reminder that the second instalment of fees is due on **Thursday 28th February**.

### Next year

Please ensure that you have completed the form request handed out last month if your child will be here from September onwards as we are now planning staffing requirements from then onwards.

### Lambing

We are hoping to visit a local farm once again before Easter to see lambs being born—details to follow.



# Helmdon Acorns Newsletter

## Committee News

We would like to organise a working party at Acorns on Sunday 24th February to spend a couple of hours in the morning to give the garden a bit of a tidy before the spring and to help dismantle the pirate ship and clear out the guttering and tidy the shed. If anyone is free from 10am and would like to come along and help, your time would be very much appreciated. Tea, coffee and cake will be available for the workers. Children are welcome to come along and help too. Many hands make light work.

**Chairperson:** Kat Carter, **Vice Chairperson:** Sammie Vale

**Treasurer:** John Gray, **Committee:** Judy Wise, Mike Ludwig, Sophie Lander-Ritchie, Avril Servat, Gemma Hull, Gabi Henderson, Colin Whitehead

**Next Committee Meeting: Tues. 19th March 7:30pm.**

## Staffing changes

We were very sad to receive Victoria's resignation recently. Victoria started at Acorns when we were based in the Reading Room in 2008 and completed her Level 3 qualification with us. She had a career break after the birth of her third child in 2012 and then returned to work when Sydney started at Acorns. We wish Victoria all the best in an exciting new chapter of her life—she has promised to remain on our bank staff so we will still see her from time to time. Victoria will leave Acorns in May; her key worker children have been allocated a new key worker from Easter and parents informed separately. Existing staff are increasing hours so there will be no new recruitment necessary.



## Diary Dates

**Friday 15th February—training day—ACORNS closed**

**Monday 25th February—first day of term 4**

**Thursday 7th March—World book day—details to follow.**

**Friday 5th April—last day of term 4**

**Saturday 27th April—7:30pm—Annual Acorns Quiz Night**

**Saturday 5th October—Acorns Harvest Shin-dig at Sulgrave Manor —save the date!**

## Forest School

Sessions will be held on THURSDAYS from 28th February — please ensure your child is dressed for cold weather: mitts, hats, thick coats and trousers or leggings.

## Acorns Team

**Setting Manager:** Liz Hart

**Deputy Supervisors:** Kim Sadler & Susanna Morgan

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