



Helmdon Acorns

Newsletter

March 2019

Activities



We received a warm welcome from Lisa and Jamie at Manor View Farm on Monday. Many thanks to our parent volunteers for helping with water-proofs and wellies! This year the children

even had the opportunity to hold the lambs themselves...

We have been getting fit on a "mini assault course" balancing, climbing, crawling, sliding and jumping. The children going to school have been doing some sessions which require lots of listening and attention and the opportunity to contribute to group discussions in some science experiments. In small groups we have been looking at shapes—it would be great if you could continue this theme at home!

Last week we enjoyed a walk around the village looking for signs of spring; since it seems to have finally arrived we are returning hats and mitts for replacement with a sun hat.

Procedure for sun cream application

All children should have sunscreen applied by their parents /carers before drop off. For children staying all day, we will apply cream after lunch; as we are busy in the afternoons, we are asking parents to consider giving consent for us to use "Nivea Sun 50+ spray." If you would prefer to supply your own, please ensure it is left at Acorns. A sign up consent form will be in the cloakroom (children who do full days only).

Policies

Please ensure that you have signed the document in the cloakroom acknowledging that you are aware of our policies, in particular the car usage policy 8 11.

Healthy Eating

Our policies state that we do our utmost to promote healthy eating. This includes

- ◆ asking that children bring only water in their beakers
- ◆ providing healthy snacks each morning and afternoon
- ◆ providing advice to parents on what to put into lunchboxes.

There is a wealth of information here: www.firststepsnutrition.org
www.childrensfoodtrust.org.uk

In addition Northamptonshire County Council has issued guidance for primary schools which we have printed off for those starting school in September so the children can get used to the kind of lunchbox they need to have at school.

Funded hours for summer

Please note that as the summer funding term starts in April, we need to confirm all funded hours before the end of this term. Liz will check with parents individually regarding their requirements and obtain signatures on the contracts.

All parents wishing to access the 30 hours extended funding must supply a valid code to us by 31st March if they have not done so already.



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Committee News

Food and Drink Quiz: 27th April 7.30 for an 8pm start at the Reading Room, Helmdon. Tickets are now on sale from the office at Acorns, Kat Carter and Lorna Clarke on the school playground or Helmdon Village. Cash Bar, free table nibbles and some great raffle prizes up for grabs on the night. We are limited on space so get your teams sorted and tickets bought to avoid disappointment.

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. 7th May 7:30pm.

Staffing changes

As previously advised, Victoria will be leaving Acorns on Thursday 2nd May. Her hours will be covered by existing staff increasing their hours. Victoria's key worker children have already started their transition to other groups and this will be complete after Easter. Emma Pegg is also increasing her sessions and will take over as practitioner for green group with three new children whom we are welcoming after Easter.

As we also have several children increasing their hours for the summer term, we are increasing afternoon staffing on two days to four and on two mornings to six. This will ensure that we are still well above ratio for our Forest School sessions. Fiona Kirkham who is a bank member of staff will be working more hours in the summer term to facilitate this and we are also looking to add to our bank staff.

Diary Dates

Friday 5th April—last day of term 4

Tuesday 23rd April— first day of term 5

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

**Monday 29th April—NO HOT
MEALS AVAILABLE**

**Monday 6th May— Bank Holiday
Acorns closed**

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

Forest School

Sessions will be held on **MONDAYS** from 29th April — please ensure your child is dressed in trousers or leggings and long sleeves. On hot days, please supply a T shirt and shorts for afterwards.

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

Bank Staff: Fiona Kirkham