

Dear Acorn Class Parents,

Wow! What a fantastic first week. It has been wonderful to see the confidence and bravery your children have shown during their first week of school. Thank you for your fantastic support in facilitating their smooth transition into reception. I envisage nothing short of a fantastic year of learning ahead.

This letter will set out some key information to support with school life and provide an overview of the learning this half-term.

Learning behaviours

Children at Tatworth work towards achieving badges which serve as hallmarks of outstanding behaviour. These badges are known as 'learning behaviour awards'.

Although we don't work towards our learning behaviour badges in reception, we of course do have high expectations for behaviour and aim to lay the foundation for our children to become positive, reflective and motivated learners.

A key element in laying this foundation is to ensure excellent behaviour is routinely publicised and celebrated. As part of this, as a class, each week we will discuss a specific learning behaviour which we will then work toward demonstrating as a class

Children who consistently demonstrate the identified learning behaviour will have their names added to a celebratory roll call and receive a ticket at the end of the week. The ticket will mirror the imagery and language of the learning behaviour badges and therefore prepare the children for expectations across the school.

These tickets will be slipped into book bags – so keep an eye out for these and celebrate the achievement they represent, as they will be well-earned!

Each week two children will also achieve our behaviour for learning certificate for a particular personal achievement. This may be for showing consistently high standards of behaviour, such as working really hard to achieve a particular goal, or for a stand out moment which deserves to be recognised. There will also be a platinum bag award – an opportunity for the children to showcase their learning to the rest of the school during our weekly celebration assembly.

Numicon

We use a resource called 'Numicon' as a basis for much of our learning in maths. Numicon supports children to construct a powerful mental representation of number through linking a cardinal value to a coloured shape and number pattern. Use [Numicon guide for parents | Oxford Owl](#) to familiarise yourself with this resource and support your child's learning.

Phonics

Phonics teaching facilitates early reading by explicitly teaching children the units of sound (graphemes) which can be 'blended' together to construct words. The process of sounding out each grapheme in word in order to read is called 'decoding'. Alongside language comprehension, fluent decoding is a vital in enabling children to become fluent readers.

We follow the Read Write Inc phonics scheme of learning as we believe this programme provides a fantastic foundation in early reading. Keep posted for details of our upcoming parent phonics meeting, which will include all the information you need to help support your children's learning in phonics.

Please support your children at home by reading to them regularly. Every book you read will strengthen your child's language comprehension and help nurture a love for reading.

School Councillors

Two children from reception will be chosen to represent Acorn class as part of the school council. This role will see them working together with other children to help make decisions which will have a real impact across the school.

PE Kit

Please bring PE kits to school every Monday. A formal PE lesson will take place every Wednesday. This session will supplement the time dedicated to developing children's physical skills as part of our extended provision.

Book Bags

Book bags with reading books and records will go home every Monday. Please fill in the reading record as you read with your children at home and return book bags by the following Monday morning.

Bags, home snack and water

Please only bring one daily bag to school (PE and book bags to be brought back once a week). Please bring a healthy snack and water bottle each day to school.

Autumn term learning (specific areas)

Understanding the World

We will be finding out all about people who help us, which will include hot-seating a headteacher and a nurse during each half term.

As part of our learning about people and places and objects from the past, we will find out about our great grandparents in Autumn 1 and Vincent Van Gogh in Autumn 2. We will also be looking in detail at cameras (Autumn 1) and radios (Autumn 2) – finding out about how these have changed and been used within the course of history.

We shall carry out a locational study of our classroom (Autumn 1) and the whole school (Autumn 2) using maps and our experiences and observations.

We will also be preparing a Christmas cake (Autumn 1) and cooking samosas (Autumn 2) whilst exploring and comparing the celebrations of Diwali, Bonfire Night, Christmas and Winter Solstice.

As part of our study into the natural world, we will be investigating the processes of heating, freezing and melting as well as observing in detail sunflowers, oaks and birches.

Literacy

In phonics, we will start learning our set one sounds and begin to learn to blend simple words.

In English, we will learn to recite the story of Goldilocks using a story map and then adapt the story by thinking about what other mischief Goldilocks might get up to in the absence of Daddy Bear, Mummy Bear and Baby Bear

Supporting texts which explore themes raised in our key text will include: *The Tiger Who Came For Tea* (Judith Kerr), *We're Going On A Bear Hunt* (Michael Rosen), *Into The Forest and Me And You* (Anthony Browne).

Maths

Our learning in maths for autumn term will focus on oral counting, subitising, object counting and comparing.

Art and Expressive design

During Autumn 1, we will complete collage representations of dying sunflowers as a representation of the passing of summer. We will also produce oak leaf and bark rubbings using pastel and water colour as part of our oak tree study.

Within Autumn 2, we will create an autumnal shades map using oak and birch tree leaf prints and bark rubbings. We will also be performing a Bhangra dance and rehearsing for our nativity play as part of our musical exploration of contrasting cultures, religions and traditions.

PE

We will be learning to negotiate space and obstacles safely, with consideration for ourselves and others and to demonstrate strength, balance and coordination when playing.

Kind regards,

Mr Johnston

<i>Keeping going</i>	
<i>Risk taker</i>	
<i>Respect</i>	
<i>Motivated and engaged</i>	
<i>Taking responsibility</i>	
<i>Team Player</i>	
<i>Aiming High</i>	
<i>Confident Communicator</i>	