

Dear Acorn Class Parents,









Happy New Year. The children have settled back into routines well which is great to see. We have another busy term with some visitors coming into school and a walk to the church too.

This letter gives some reminders about our Reception class and provides an overview of the learning this term. Thank you in advance for your ongoing support, especially with continuing learning at home. We will continue to send an email on a Friday with **phonics videos**, **information about maths learning** and any reminders for the following week – please do check this email and support your child to engage with any learning activities sent out. Reading story books together at home is crucial to support children to learn, so please keep reading and we will continue to **change books on a Tuesday and Friday**. If your child does some other learning at home, we are happy to see it in class and would love to give your child the chance to share what they have done with their friends.

Learning behaviours

We will continue to have a weekly focus on one of our learning behaviours and children can gain certificates in assembly on Fridays.

Learning Behaviours

Keeping going	I keep trying when I find something tricky.	
Risk taker	I have a go and try new things.	
Respect	I think about what I do and say so that I am kind to others.	
Motivated and engaged	I can show that I am listening and learning.	
Taking responsibility	I try hard to make good choices and tell the truth if I make a mistake.	
Team Player	I share with my friends and take turns.	
Aiming High	I complete my work so that it is the best it can be.	
Confident Communicator	I talk about my ideas with my teachers and friends.	

Phonics

Daily phonics lesson will continue with a focus now on blending sounds together to say words to support them with reading.

Please continue to use "Fred Talk" at home,

for example say, "Where is your b - oo - k?" and support your child to blend together the sounds to say "book". When ready, your child will start to segment simple CVC words (eg cat, leg, tip, got, bus) into sounds to support their writing.

The children will learn about "special friends" which is when more than one letter work together to make one sound, for example sh, qu, th.

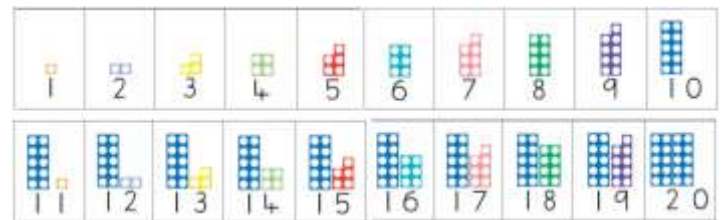


English

We will be reading lots of stories at school and starting to notice words in books. We will be focusing on the story of the Three Billy Goats Gruff which will lead us onto other stories with similar or linked themes, for example around homes/habitats and feelings and families. We will create a story map and use this map to retell and act out the story, including using props and puppets. We will also think about how we could adapt the story and tell our own versions.

Maths

We will continue to use Numicon to support children's understanding of the value of numbers and will extend this



up to 20. We will have lots of practice of verbally counting up to 20, so please do get out some bricks/cars and try this at home as it is important for the children to hear and say the numbers in the correct order as often as possible – thank you for your help with this.

Last term the children learnt how to form numerals 1 to 5 so this term we will learn how to form 6, 7, 8, 9 and 0. We will be focusing on the number bonds for 3, 4 and 5 so we will have lots of practical experience of splitting 3/4/5 objects into two groups (eg split 5 ducks between two ponds, how many ducks are there in each pond?)

We will use simple objects to measure lengths, use balance scales to say how many bricks weigh the same as an object and see how many cups of water it takes to fill different containers.

Spring term learning

This term, to link with our story of the Billy Goats Gruff, we will be learning about homes. The children will describe their homes and the homes that we see near our school. We will think about how homes have changed since the past and will also think about how our school has changed. If you know of any grandparents who attended Tatworth School, please let us know if they would be willing to come into class to talk to the children about what school was like, or to share some photos – thank you.

We will also compare homes that we see to homes used in other countries and cultures around the world.

We will be learning about mosques and we are hoping to visit Tatworth Church so that we can spot features and make comparisons.

The children will be exploring magnetic forces and magnetic materials, noticing signs of Winter and Spring and thinking about weather – frost, ice and maybe even snow! We will be planting seeds and hopefully watching them grow!

We will observe trees and use charcoal to create line, colour and shade.

The children will create simple actions to music, move to a beat and use instruments as part of storytelling.

As part of our new teeth-brushing initiative, we should be having a visit from a dental nurse to talk to the class about the importance of brushing and looking after their teeth. Thank you with your support – it is great to see that we have everyone signed up so we should soon all be getting our new toothbrushes!

We will also talk about the NSPCC Pants rule.



PE Kit

Please bring PE kits to school every Monday. A formal PE lesson will take place every Tuesday with Mrs Churchill. On Friday afternoons, the children are currently having a PE lesson with a focus on music/movement/stories. As the weather starts to improve,

this lesson will move outdoors so the children can use the climbing equipment, explore the forest school area and ride bikes!

PE kits will be sent home on a Friday. It is helpful to include a spare set of underwear and socks incase of any accidents or puddles!

Items to bring to school

Children should continue to bring their book bag every day as school letters and other sounds/books etc can then easily be handed out. Please make sure that your child has a healthy snack each day: fruit, vegetable, crackers/cheese, yogurt, small sandwich etc – no cakes or items containing chocolate please. Children should bring only water in a named bottle every day. Please make sure your child has a pair of welly boots in school on our boot rack and has a coat every day, thank you.

For general queries we can be contacted by email on homelearning@tatworthschool.co.uk or call the office if urgent.

Kind regards Mrs Hewitson, Mrs Bayley and the Reception Team.