

Acorns Curriculum Newsletter - Autumn 2011

This half term we are learning about colours, shapes and patterns and next half term our theme will be winter and its festivals. Below, under the six areas of learning, is an indication of our activities; however we aim to be flexible in our planning, taking into account the experience and interests of the children. Foundation 1 (F1) refers to our Nursery children and Foundation 2 (F2) to our Reception children.
Library day - Monday. PE - Tuesday mornings (all children) and Wednesday afternoons (F2 only).

Communication, Language and Literacy

We will be reading a variety of stories and non-fiction books related to our theme. F2 children will follow a daily phonics programme, to develop their reading and spelling skills, and our F1 children who are ready will be carrying out simple activities to prepare them for learning letters and sounds. We will practise handwriting and there will be many opportunities for mark making and emergent writing during child initiated activities.

Creative Development

The children's creative development will be encouraged through singing songs and playing musical instruments. They will have lots of opportunities to engage in small world play and role play on a larger scale. There is also a workshop, where they can paint, draw and make models. We aim to provide a variety of sensory experiences, both indoors and outside, encouraging the children to express their feelings and preferences. We endeavour to introduce the children to a variety of media, including paint, pastels and collage. The children will mix their own paints and learn about shades of light and dark.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World

This term we will be finding out about colours and patterns and carrying out some simple investigations. We will also explore the customs and rituals associated with autumn and winter festivals, including Christmas. Each week, the KUW table has a different content, to encourage exploration and investigation. The children are encouraged to observe similarities and differences, and to ask questions about why things happen and how things work. We use ICT and programmable toys to support and enhance the children's learning.

Please encourage your child not to bring precious toys from home as they easily get lost in our busy classroom.

Any toys should be placed in our 'Show and Tell' box in the entrance. Thank you.

For more information about our activities please see our noticeboard in our entrance hall and our very own website: <http://acorns.greathorwood.bucks.sch.uk>

Problem solving, Reasoning, Numeracy

The children will sing counting songs and rhymes on a daily basis, and we will be using the interactive whiteboard to familiarise them with numbers and counting. There are a wide variety of resources in our Counting House, where the children can explore number activities as well as weighing, sorting, shape and pattern. Sand and water play, indoors and outdoors, provides an opportunity to explore weight and capacity. The children are encouraged to solve practical number problems as part of our everyday routines, e.g. counting the plates and cups needed for snacktime.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This aspect of learning will be continually reinforced in our daily routines, for example during snack time, where the children will learn to share, take turns and show respect for each other's needs. There are many opportunities for co-operative play, both with table-top games indoors and on a larger scale with construction toys outside. We also encourage the children to select and use resources independently, and to dress and undress for PE by themselves. There will be weekly "circle" times to discuss particular themes where the children will be encouraged to express their own views and feelings and to be sensitive towards the views and feelings of others.

Physical Development

During PE sessions in the hall, the children will be developing their skills with small apparatus and next half term we will focus on dance activities. They will continue to develop their gross motor skills during outdoor learning sessions, e.g. playing on the bikes and digging the garden. We will be handling simple tools such as scissors and paintbrushes on a daily basis. We will be helping the children to recognise the importance of keeping healthy and what this means, during snack time and PE lessons.