

Early Years Newsletter- Spring Term

Welcome!

We have loved seeing all the children this week; welcoming back those who were with us last year and welcoming some new friends to join Acorn class.

We have had a brilliant first few days, the children have so excited telling us all about the Christmas activities you have been up to!

Tapestry

We continue to add observations to Tapestry on a regular basis. Please contact a member of staff if you cannot log on, and please remember that we love to see your uploads and what activities the children have been up to.

Reminders

- **Water bottles.** Please make sure your child has a named water bottle every day.
- **Appropriate clothing:** warm coats (waterproof coats are good) hats and gloves for the coming colder weather. If your child comes in wellies, please also bring some shoes to change into indoors.
- **Independence and dressing:** The children in both Acorns and Maples have been practicing putting on and zipping up coats and putting on hats and gloves by themselves – if the children could be encouraged to independently dress at home it would really benefit their growing independence and fine motor skills.
- ***Please name anything the children are bringing into school, including clothes.***
- **Packed Lunches:** We are a Healthy Eating school – it would be appreciated if chocolate in packed lunches was limited to 1 bar (eg a Penguin biscuit) rather than sweets.

Topic

Our topic for the first few weeks will be ***People who help us***. We will be thinking about people who help us and have several visitors to Early Years including a Vet, the police and the Fire Service. If you are in a job which could be considered 'helping others' would you be able to visit and talk about your job? If so, please speak to a member of staff. The sessions can be very informal and can be planned around your availability.

Reading Books

Maple class: We would ask that books be returned every Thursday so that we can send home new books on a Friday. Thank you for writing in the yellow reading record when you have read together – we love to read the comments!

Donation tin

The donation tin is available at drop off time in the morning. A donation of 20p per week will help with costs towards cooking ingredients and other items – please ask a member of staff if it is not out.

Facebook

A reminder about our Facebook page - search for **Ashfield Primary School Early Years**. We only post photos of the work we have been doing and clues to our new topics. No photographs of the children are posted.

PE for Maples

Maples will have PE on Monday and Thursdays. Please can named PE kit be brought in. PE kits can be left for the whole $\frac{1}{2}$ term and then taken home for washing.

Maples Maths

For the spring term, our maths focus is deepening our understanding of the numbers 1-5, including subitising, number bonds, doubling, 1 more, 1 less, zero, and mass and capacity, moving on to 6, 7 and 8, length and height and 9 and 10 towards the end of term.

Practicing subitising (recognising amounts of 5 or less just 'by noticing') is a great activity for the walk to school – "how many sheep" or "how many cars" – can the children tell you without counting? If you get it wrong (!) children love to correct you!

Acorns Maths

Acorns are practicing counting, in particular looking at numbers up to 5 and showing the numbers on our fingers, counting out loud and counting objects. We are also going to be measuring objects- comparing heavy and light and long/tall and short. We will also continue singing lots of counting songs!

Maples Phonics

In Maples, we have reassessed the children just before Christmas in order to ensure they continue to be taught at their appropriate level. Some children will bring books home to read, whilst other continue to focus on the green books they already have at home, practicing the individual letter sounds. Some children may also have green and red words to practice using 'Fred talk' (saying the individual sounds then the word – eg bin would be 'b-i-n bin').

Our Read Write Inc scheme has an excellent website aimed at parents full of useful resources. Free e-books are also available, but please don't progress past the colour band your child is working at.

<https://www.ruthmiskin.com/parentsandcarers/>



Acorns Phonics

In phonics we are listening to and identifying lots of everyday sounds, experimenting with instruments and singing nursery rhymes. We will be practicing our rhyming and also thinking about letter sounds through alliteration- making silly sentences with our names!

Bedtime Stories

We will be having a special Bedtime Stories session on Wednesday February 7th.

More details will follow, but this will be an after school event to allow the children to go home and change into their favourite pyjamas or onesies and grab a teddy.

Dates For Your Diary:

6.2.24	Safer Internet Day
w/b 29.1.24	National story telling week
9.2.24	Break up for half term
19.2.24	Back to school
28.2.24	Parent Consultation afternoon and evening
8.3.24	World Book Day
15.3.24	Red Nose Day
21.3.24	Friends of Ashfield Easter Disco (tbc)
28.3.24	Break up for Easter holidays
15.4.24	Back to school

Thank you as always for your support

Mr Ross, Mrs Willford, Mrs Joyce and the EY Team.