

Termly Newsletter

10th February 2012



Acorn



Acorn

Note from the teacher

It is hard to believe that we are about half way through the children's time in Class Acorn, the time has gone so fast. They are such a lovely class of children; so hard working and a pleasure to teach. They show great enthusiasm in their learning and it is great to see how they choose to extend their learning independently during planning to play. I hope you all have a great week and we look forward to seeing you all back in school on Monday 20th February.

Miss Jones, Selina, Helena and Jo ☺

Communication, Language and Literacy

This half term the children have been able to put all their hard work in phonics into practice in their writing.

The children have been really proud of their achievements and have been keen to write both in adult led activities and during planning to play sessions. Some of their writing activities have included: writing diaries, labelling the animals on the Chinese Zodiac, writing directions using positional language, making books, writing speech bubbles and filling out chemical order forms in 'Class Acorn Science Lab'.

The children are also showing a keen interest in reading and are demonstrating good comprehension skills during their weekly guided reading sessions. The children show a good understanding of characters and sequence of events when they role play the stories we have been reading together in class. The children acted out 'Owl Babies' using props and puppets and role played the story 'The Animal Race' using masks they had made in the Creative Area.



Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy

We have covered a variety of topics within numeracy, including shape and space, measuring, weighing, addition, number recognition, counting skills plus much more. When learning about addition we introduced the children to resources they can use to help them solve addition problems. The children have learnt how to use a number line to find a number and then count on and have been using various countables to combine two groups of numbers.



To support their addition skills at home try playing snakes and ladders with two dice so the children can practise combining two sets of numbers. Can the children count the spots on both dice to see how many spaces they should move across the board?

The children may even progress to recognising the amount of spots on the first die and then counting on to find the total.

Phonics



This half term we have been revisiting the digraphs and trigraphs we have learnt so far. The children are doing really well recognising them in words and even using them in their writing. After half term we will be looking at alternative phonemes (where different graphemes can make the same sound). This can be a little confusing but with lots of practice it becomes easier. Thank you very much for all the phonic work you do at home with the children; it really shows in their confidence at school.

'Class Acorn Science Lab'

The children have really enjoyed having their very own science lab in the classroom and have been fantastic scientists. We have investigated waterproof material and made Barney a brand new raincoat, observed changes in liquids turning still water to fizzy water and watched as bubbles made raisins 'dance'. The children have also become familiar with the science lab equipment and have used pipettes, microscopes, test tubes and tweezers to help conduct the experiments. We still have lots of science experiments planned for next half term so Class Acorn Science Lab will still be up and running after half term.



Here is a link to a great website which has lots of ideas for science experiments the children can do at home with you.

<http://www.gsc.org.uk/sciencebites.aspx>

'Junk Modelling'

After half term the children will be making 3D models using junk modelling resources. If you have any cardboard boxes or plastic bottles that you could bring into school we would be very grateful.



'All About Me'

After half term we will be choosing one special person each week to create a poster about themselves at home with you. We will provide children with poster paper and ideas of things to include. The children will then have a chance to present these to the class and then they will be displayed in the classroom.

Notices



- **Parents Consultation meetings-**
-Tuesday 21st February
-Thursday 1st March
- **Acorn Class Assembly-** Friday 9th March
- **Science Week-** 12th March-16th March
- **Easter Activities Day-** Thursday 29th March
- **Easter Assembly-** Friday 30th March
- **Break up for Easter holidays-** Friday 30th March

Have a lovely half term!