

# Termly Newsletter

14<sup>th</sup> February 2014



Acorn



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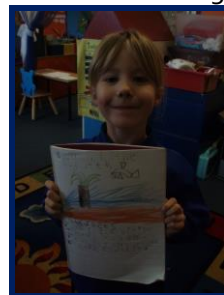
## Note from teacher

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; and a pleasure to teach. They show great enthusiasm in their learning and it great to see how they choose to extend their learning independently during planning to play.

*Mrs Speed and Selina*

## Literacy

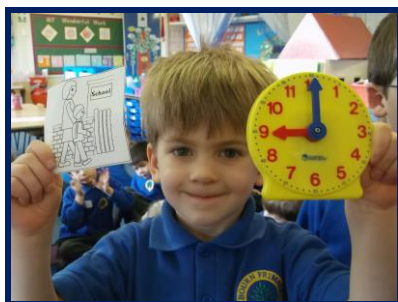
This half term the children have been able to put all their hard work in phonics into practice in their writing. The children have been really proud of their achievements and have been keen to write both in adult led activities and during planning to play sessions. We have been experimenting with different types of writing; writing diaries, writing instructions on 'How to brush your teeth', writing facts about Cuba, writing lists and writing stories. The children have also enjoyed writing during their role play activities. They wrote down patient details in the 'Doctor's Surgery' and wrote down appointments in the role play Dentist Surgery. 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.



## Mathematics

We have covered a variety of topics within mathematics, including time, 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.

Some of the children have even been learning to count on from the biggest number to solve addition problems.



To support their addition skills at home try playing snakes and ladders with two dice so the children can practice 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 spots on the first dice 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.

## International Week

International week was packed full with a wide variety of learning experiences for the children. We were very impressed with how they were able to recall lots of interesting 'Cuban facts' we discussed together as a class. On Tuesday the children helped to make Cuban Banana bread and on Friday we were lucky enough to have a special visitor come in to teach the children a Cuban dance. The children thoroughly enjoyed learning about the Cuban culture and finding the Island on the world map. International evening was a big success and with lots of Cuban theme craft activities in the classroom and a delicious selection of Cuban food in the hall to end the evening.



## People who help us!!

The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about 'People who help us' this half term. They especially enjoyed visits from Mrs Jackson who told the children about her job as a Doctor and Mr Tan who told the children about his job in medicine. We are looking forward to continuing the topic after half term and welcoming more visitors into school.



## Veterinary Surgery

After half term we will be transforming our role play area into a Veterinary Surgery. If your child has a toy pet animal they would like to bring in they would be very welcome.



## Notices



- **Acorn Class Assembly-** Friday 14th March
- **Parents Consultation meetings-**
  - Monday 17th March
  - Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March
  - Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March
  - Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March
- **Easter Activity Morning-**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April
- **Break up for Easter holidays-** Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April

*Have a lovely half term!*