



Acorn Class

I hope you have all had a fantastic half term holiday and the Acorns have been able to rest after such a busy start to big school! We are so proud of how the Acorns have settled into school life, and Mrs Beeton, Mrs Jackson and I are enjoying having such a lovely class!

We have a fun filled and very busy half term ahead jam packed with things to look forward to. We are focusing on 'Celebrations' as a topic this half term and we have a lot to celebrate and look forward to. We have bonfire night, Diwali, Christingle, Advent and Christmas to look forward to- albeit a COVID friendly version this year! I am excited to see where the term ahead takes us.

Mrs Marsden

What we are learning this term...

Topic (Understanding of the World) - This half term we will be focusing on 'Celebrations' covering birthdays, weddings, bonfire night, Diwali and of course Christmas. We will talk about what things we do to celebrate and explore how other cultures may celebrate and follow different traditions. We will also learn about Remembrance Day too. Our role-play area has been turned into a 'school' inspired a lot of 'teacher play' we have seen in their play last half term. This area will evolve as Christmas gets closer into more a festive theme!

Literacy- We have become blending champions over the last half term and now it is time to focus on segmenting. We will be learning how to break down the sounds to spell a word. We count the sounds using our fingers- we call these 'phoneme fingers'. This will be our main focus in Literacy for the first few weeks and then we will be looking at reading and writing labels, captions and lists. We will be also be enjoying the stories 'The Gingerbread Man', 'Scarecrows Weddings' and 'Kipper's Birthday' to link to our Literacy and Topic themes.

We are speeding through our phonics now with lots of enthusiasm! Over the next 6 weeks, we will start to explore new letter sounds including digraphs (two letters that make one sound). The letter sounds we will focus on this half term are:

j	v	w	x	y	z	zz	qu	ch	sh	ng	th
ai	ee	oa	oo	ar	or	ow					

I will add these letter cards to the sound packs once we have learnt them and will let you know when we need the sound packs returned so we can update them.

Alongside this, we will focus on pencil grip and letter formation. We will be continuing with the Jungle Journey programme throughout this half term, which challenges us with a variety of fine motor activities every week plus a gross motor session too. We will have regular 'Dough Disco' sessions and focus on building up our finger muscles with our weekly finger gym challenges.

Maths -Our work in Maths will include some recording but will mainly involve mental and practical activities. The children will be working on simple addition and subtraction, including finding one more and one less of a given number. We will be talking lots about representing and comparing numbers 1-10 to deepen their understanding of numbers. They will also be looking at 2D shapes and positional language too.

Physical Development- Our P.E sessions will continue to take place on Tuesday mornings and led by Tom Bigg, our sports coach. The focus for this half term is Gymnastics and will mostly take place in the school hall.

Expressive Arts and Design= Our art lessons will focus on construction methods using different materials such as salt dough. We will also be looking at colour mixing and different ways to join our creations. The children will continue to take part in the weekly music session where the theme for this term is 'Journeys and Adventures'.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development- Our circle times will focus on 'New Beginnings' where we will be looking at emotions, making friends and following rules. In R.E, we will be focusing on the question 'Why do Christians perform Nativity plays at Christmas?'

Show & Tell Schedule

Show & Tell will take place on Friday afternoons. This is a chance for your child to bring in something special to share with the class. I have allocated children per week to share their object, so please ensure your child brings their show and tell only on their allocated date. Please can we make sure it is something that can fit in an A3 size zip wallet, as this is what we will keep them in. They will be asked to put their show and tell object in their zip wallet at the beginning of the day and it will remain there until show and tell time.

Friday 6 th November	Maise, George, Jack, Teddy & Harper
Friday 13 th November	Layla, Evalyn, Anna, Saffie & Noah
Friday 20 th November	Toby, Béné, Wolf, James O & Sophia
Friday 27 th November	James G, Morgan, Theo, Teddie & Alice
Friday 4 th December	Jed, Amelia, Chloe, Edith & Sam

Reading Books

Please can you ensure that your child's Reading Record and Reading book remains in their book bag **every day**.

If you read with your child at home, we ask that you record this in the reading record.

We check book bags every day to see if we need to change the reading books.

Sound Packs

Don't forget to practise sounds and tricky words at home! I will add to them once we have learnt new ones like we did last half term. I will include some homework for those that are keen but please know this isn't compulsory.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES!

Below you will find a few dates to note in your diaries for the following half term. There will be more as the term evolves!

Friday 13th November- Children in Need- all children are invited to come to school wearing non-school uniform and donate £1. We will be taking part in Children in Need activities in Acorn class this day.

Friday 11th December- Christmas Jumper Day- all children invited to wear a Christmas jumper to school this day and donate £1 to the Save the Children charity. We will be making Christmas decorations on this day in Acorn class.

COVID Christmas!

Alas, COVID has proved to be problematic to some of our usual Christmas traditions at All Saints. We unfortunately this year will not be having a Christmas production or our school trip to the pantomime. I can assure you though that all the teachers are working hard to make sure that the children will still be taking part in plenty of Christmas themed activities and bring the Christmas cheer to All Saints. We have some ideas up our sleeves and will keep you updated with what plans we have in store for our little ones.

Nevertheless, please be assured, we will not let COVID ruin our Christmas!

