

# Acorns Newsletter

**Providing quality care for Learners before and after school**

*'From Little Acorns... Great Oaks Grow'*

## Welcome

Welcome to Acorns regular newsletter. We hope you are enjoying reading them and find them helpful in understanding all the fun the learners are having when they attend Acorns, the staff are loving it too! 😊 As usual the learners have excelled when using their creative skills, their talents are outstanding and it is such a privilege to witness.

## So Much to do

**Learners are so enthusiastic in all they do.**

Recently we have been discovering lots about the different kinds of animals, big and small. We had a week of focussing on small insects and bugs, some popular, others not so much...spiders! These activities gave us the opportunity to produce some excellent displays. We decided to go with an optimistic *'Spring will soon be here'* theme, allowing us to include our small bugs and insects.



## NEW RESOURCES

Yet more wonderful new resources have been delivered this term, and they have been welcomed enthusiastically. These included: train table, veterinary surgery with waiting room, Barbies, dolls house furniture, multi storey car park/garage, K'Nex, farm set, diversity dolls, easel, new kitchen, lots of craft





## Promoting Independence

### Encouraging our learners.

We realise that our learners are incredibly capable, we therefore made the decision to promote independence and allow them to prepare their own breakfast. The learners love that extra responsibility and trust that comes with it. They were very excited when I explained to them that they would be doing their own food (under adult supervision), one learner even clapped. I am very pleased and proud to say that this has been an incredible success.

Breakfast went so well that we have started letting them prepare their light snack in the afternoons too.

## Visit from the Local Authority

### It's all positive

I am pleased to announce that Acorns had their first visit from Northampton County Council in January. The area support officer for Out of School Clubs was very positive about our facility, and much praise was received.



Having fun with lots of games.



## Please come and visit us

### Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018 from 4.00pm

The last time we invited parents/carers into Acorns, we had great fun, so we would like to do this again! March is such a busy month, so we are going to combine: Mothers Day, World Book Day and Easter, and have an afternoon tea – which may well resemble the Mad Hatters Tea Party! Any family members of Acorn Learners are welcome to come and spend some time with us, whilst enjoying some of our wonderful resources and light refreshments. A perfect time to get further insight into Acorns.



## Donations greatly received

### Further resources

We are very proud of the new resources that we have been fortunate enough to purchase, however we can never have too much. It is a lovely experience to choose, receive and open nice new toys/equipment, but we have also enjoyed the donations from some very kind parents recently. Thank you to those families who have donated to Acorns. I would like to confirm that we would be incredibly grateful of any donations that you feel would be of use to the learners in Acorns. In particular, we are trying to build up a supply of 'stuff'. Resources that can be used for anything, e.g. sheets, boxes, wooden resources, adult old clothes for dressing up etc... Imaginative and role play activities are very important forms of play and development. If you feel you have anything that would be of use to us then please see one of the Acorns staff during Acorns hours. Thanking you in advance for your support.



## Your Feedback

### Thank you so much

I would like to say a huge THANK YOU to all of you who returned our satisfaction questionnaire. The responses were amazingly positive, and heart warming. It was lovely to hear such encouraging and complimentary comments. They confirmed our knowledge that the learners are enjoying every session they attend in Acorns. If you have not returned yours please do so at anytime.

## New Member to the Acorns Team

### Miss Shannon Donegan

I am pleased to inform you that we have successfully appointed a new member of staff to Acorns. Shannon joined us on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March, and has enjoyed a very enthusiastic first week. Shannon has already started to build good relationships with the learners, and is enjoying her new role immensely.



## Holiday Club Provision

We recently sent out an email trying to establish the need for a holiday club. We will endeavour to inform you of the outcome as soon as we can. Thank you for those of you who have replied.

## Helpful Information

### SEND

If you need information or have any questions about the wider services available for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities in Northamptonshire, please refer to the Local Offer for Northamptonshire by using the link to their website below:

<http://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/children-families-education/SEND/local-offer>

The Local Offer provides information and guidance on what is available for parents/carers and children in areas such as:

- special educational provision
- health provision
- social care provision
- other educational provision
- arrangements for children and young people to travel to schools and early years education
- leisure and sports opportunities

If you are having trouble finding a service, the Local Offer team can be contacted on 0300 126 1000, option 5, or by email [LocalOffer@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:LocalOffer@northamptonshire.gov.uk)

If you have any queries regarding SEND provision at WPS, please contact Mrs Claire Woodbridge, SENCo, on 01604 931139 or email [c.woodbridge@woottonparkschool.org.uk](mailto:c.woodbridge@woottonparkschool.org.uk)

### Drop Off & Pick Up

Just a reminder that the earliest Drop off time is 7.30am and collection is before 6pm.

