



EYFS

We hope you have had a lovely Christmas break. We are looking forward to an exciting Spring term. The children can now follow the daily routine in school, growing their independence by looking after themselves, their belongings and environment, communicating with each other and adults, helping each other and showing their enjoyment and enthusiasm through their contributions in class.

Please help your child by labelling everything your child wears or brings to school and support your child to develop their skills by giving them time to do things for themselves. This term the children will be changing their own clothes in school for outdoor learning!

The children love to show their families how well they can read now, please take time to listen to your child using their sound knowledge to read the phonics books or sheets they bring home. Please also sign your child’s planner when they have read their phonics book/sheet to you. We check planners on Tuesdays and change books on Thursdays.

We hope you are enjoying seeing the children’s learning on Tapestry. We love to see the photos parents have uploaded to tapestry of their children, and the children love to share these with the class. If you have any issues accessing Tapestry, please do ask.

We are looking forward to spending more time outdoors this term, with outdoor learning on Fridays (instead of PE). Children will need to wear school uniform to school every day this term. More details will follow for our exciting class trip to Brooklands motoring and aviation museum on Tuesday 24th March 2026.

As always, please speak to me or contact me if you have questions or concerns.

Many thanks

Mrs. Neale

Curriculum Information

Literacy

This term, the children will be building on their understanding of phonics; learning the sounds letters make and blending these together to read words. The children learn in daily phonics groups which are appropriate for their level. Some phonics groups may be mixed reception/Y1.

Children will continue to develop their handwriting in their literacy and phonics sessions.

Our focus texts this term:



Mathematics

Children will continue to develop their subitising (seeing ‘all at once’ without counting) and counting skills and explore the composition of numbers within and beyond 5.

They will begin to identify equal or unequal groups, connecting this to doubles.

Children will continue to practice connecting quantity to numerals and begin to identify missing parts for numbers within 5.

Children will build on their understanding of shape, beginning to explore properties of 3d shapes. The children will develop their understanding of capacity and volume. Our mapping topic in geography will link to understanding of space and position.

All of this learning takes place through a combination of listening, discussion and practical activities.

Communication and Language

This term we continue to have a strong focus on this prime area, developing the children’s listening, understanding and speaking.

Listening to stories and discussing them allows children to reflect on what they have heard, develop their understanding and predict what happens next. Children’s vocabulary naturally widens as they listen.

In all subjects, the children are encouraged to explain their answers, as explaining their reasoning is a great way to develop both their understanding and vocabulary.

Interactions with each other and adults as they learn through play are a vital part of their learning in Acorns. Talking with you and others at home and sharing books can make a big difference to their development in this area.



Expressive Art and Design

As part of our learning through play, the Art and Craft area will continue to be enhanced with activities related to current topics as well as providing new tools and materials to explore. The children will also begin to use technology to create and alter pictures.

Our construction materials are varied and rotated to motivate learning and to allow children to express their interests. Talking to children in this area can support the children’s learning in Maths and Understanding the World.

In Music we will be learning to sing more nursery rhymes and songs, building on understanding or rhythm and lyrics. We will also learn to sing some traditional nursery rhymes in Spanish. Our morning movement sessions include following dance patterns and improvising.

Role play will continue to be a popular part of our learning through play, with our home corner enhanced as the seasons change to reflect familiar scenarios and our changing role play area to reflect our current topics of learning.

Understanding the World

In Science, we will be learning about food, what it is and what it does for our body. In Design and Technology, we will work as a team to plan and prepare soup using seasonal vegetables.

In our Outdoor learning session on Fridays, we will have time to explore the natural world, investigating plants, wildlife and seasonal changes. We will also be learning about plants in our learning activities linked to our focus texts this term.

In Geography, the children will begin to understand how to create and use maps, through exploring our school layout and our local area.

In R.E. children will build on their understanding of their community by learning about places of worship and why they are important to people.

Physical Development

The children have many varied opportunities during the school day to develop their gross and fine motor skills. This term the outdoor learning area gives further opportunities to clamber over, balance and negotiate obstacles.

Developing core muscle control and strength in the shoulders, arm and hand muscles underpins the ability to control a pencil. The activities in continuous provision, our daily dough disco and co-ordinated movement breaks will continue to support both fine and gross motor development.

Allowing your child to be independent this term with their own clothes fastenings may take longer but will support this development!

PSED (Personal, Social & Emotional Development)

In PSHE we will be discussing our dreams and goals, as well as continuing to work on understanding and expressing feelings, and building a strong sense of self.

Children will continue to build their confidence in resolving difficulties and negotiating relationships with each other through discussion, role play and stories.

Home Learning

At Meadow Park Academy, we believe that home learning can provide valuable opportunities to consolidate and practice learning.

We expect all children in EYFS to complete the following weekly:

Reading

The children will be sent home with a reading book or practice sheets matching their phonological knowledge so they can continue to practice their learning at home.

They are expected to read 5 times per week. Please record this reading in your child’s planner.

Phonics

As a school, we follow Read Write Inc phonics. Please continue to watch the Ruth Miskin videos to support your child’s learning at home.

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





If you are struggling to access any of this homework, please speak to your child's class teacher about alternative arrangements.

Other information

School Uniform

All children should come to school in the correct school uniform, which is:

- Meadow Park sweatshirt
- Plain white polo shirt
- Plain grey or white socks
- Grey trousers
- Grey skirt
- Black, sensible shoes (no heels)



Outdoor learning

Acorns Class will have Outdoor Learning every

Friday

On this day, please ensure your child brings a full change of clothes (including underwear) suitable for keeping them warm and dry. Please make sure that all items are labelled with your child's name.

Outdoor Learning will go ahead in all weather conditions, so appropriate clothing is essential.

Items your child will need:

- Warm layers (jumper or fleece)
- Waterproof coat
- Waterproof trousers
- Hat and gloves
- Spare socks
- Wellies or sturdy outdoor shoes

At the end of the day, children should be **collected from the Outdoor Learning area** rather than the classroom.

Any issues?

In the first instance, please speak with the class teacher at the end of the day. If you are unable to be there on collection, please contact the school office to arrange a time to meet with the teacher.

If you are still unsatisfied, please arrange a meeting with the phase leader.

Acorns, Cherry, Apple, Maple – **Mrs Pack**

Beech, Sycamore, Elm, Chestnut, Ash, Holly, Hazel, Oak – **Ms Geary**

If after that meeting, you continue to be unhappy with the resolution, please contact the school office to make an appointment with **Ms Holehouse, Ms Voisey** or **Ms Drysdale**.

If you require specific support regarding a child with SEN, please arrange a meeting with **Ms Mughal**.



Lunchtime

Our delicious lunches are provided by Educatering, formally known as Crumbs.



Lunches must be ordered by **midnight on Tuesday**, to ensure that your child has lunches for the **following** week. As the lunches are cooked to order, there are usually no spare lunches.

You can place your lunch orders through MCAS.



Snacks and Water Bottles

Please make sure your child has a clearly labelled water bottle in school, so that they can stay hydrated.

We also welcome the children to bring in a healthy, nut free snack to enjoy at playtime.



Key Dates for your diary

- Monday 5th January 2026 – Staff INSET day
- **Tuesday 6th January 2026 – Children return to school**
- Thursday 8th January 2026 – Reception Open Morning
- Thursday 15th January 2026 – Winter Safety Assembly
- Wednesday 28th January 2026 – Breakfast Workshops for Year 5
- Thursday 29th January 2026 – Breakfast Workshops for Year 5
- Wednesday 4th February 2026 – Year 5 Fire Safety Session
- Tuesday 10th February 2026 – Safer Internet Day
- Tuesday 10th February 2026 – Parents Evening
- Wednesday 11th February 2026 – Online Safety Workshops
- Wednesday 11th February 2026 – Parents Evening
- Friday 13th February 2026 – Last Day of Half Term
- **HALF TERM – Monday 16th February 2026 – Friday 20th February 2026**
- Monday 23rd February 2026 – Children return to school
- Tuesday 24th February 2026 – Year 2 to Oxford Ashmolean Museum
- Thursday 5th March 2026 – World Book Day
- Thursday 13th March 2026 – Year 3 to RHS Wisley
- Wednesday 18th March 2026 – Year 4 to Hampton Court Palace
- Thursday 19th March 2026 – International ‘Read to Me’ Day
- Friday 20th March 2026 – Red Nose Day
- Friday 20th March 2026 – Year 1 to Winsor Castle
- Tuesday 24th March 2026 – Acorns to Brooklands Museum
- Tuesday 24th March 2026 & Wednesday 25th March 2026 – Year 3 & 4 performances
- Thursday 26th March 2026 – Easter Egg Hunt
- Thursday 26th March 2026 – Clubs end
- **Friday 27th March 2026 – End of Spring Term – Finish at 1:30pm**
- A reminder that in the Summer Term, on **Thursday 7th May 2026**, Meadow Park Academy will be **closed for all children, apart from Year 6**, as we are being used as a Polling Station.