

Acorn Pre-school, Shefford

What's what - September 2014

A what-we're-up-to newsletter from the Acorn staff and Committee
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Welcome back!

We hope that you enjoyed your summer break and welcome to the new families joining us this term.



On-line shopping

Please don't forget when you are doing your online shopping to visit the Acorn online shopping portal at www.easyfundraising.org.uk/acornshefford. Your purchases will help to fill the pre-school coffers.

The Duck Race

This year we raised £2500 at the Duck Race on a beautiful summer's day. Our grateful thanks go to our all our sponsors, the hard work of the committee and staff and not forgetting all of you who spent lots of money to help us reach that figure. Thank you all very much. ☺

Slapped cheek syndrome

We have a child at Acorn for whom Slapped Cheek Syndrome is a serious infection and requires that they are admitted to hospital immediately and in the worst case it may become life threatening. We would therefore ask that you let us know straight away if your child comes into contact with someone who has this, normally quite harmless, infection.

The following information with regard to the infection has been taken from the nhs.uk website.

"Slapped cheek syndrome (also known as "fifth disease" or erythema infectiosum) is a type of viral infection that is most common in children, although it can affect anyone of any age.

Slapped cheek syndrome usually affects children aged between six and 10 years. Most cases develop during the late winter months or early spring.

In children, the most common symptom is the appearance of a distinctive bright red rash on the cheeks. This is how the condition got its name."

Dates for your diary

26 th Sept	completed funding forms need to be returned by this date
24 th Oct	last day of half term
3 rd Nov	first day back after half term
17 th Dec	last day of term

Parent Help

At Acorn we welcome any parent or carer who would like to help during any session that their child attends. By helping, you will get a real insight to what your child does and who they play with during the session.

Unfortunately, if you have a younger child, we would ask you to arrange child care for them as you are not able to bring them into the session.

If you would be interested in helping, please speak to Julie or Lynn for more information and to arrange a convenient date.

Session preferences

Session preferences forms for next term (from January 2015) should be sent out around half term. Please return the completed form as soon as possible as any changing of sessions will be done on a first come, first served basis.

Money

When sending any money in for Acorn please put it in an envelope with your child's name and what the money is for on the outside of the envelope.

Bags on the caterpillar

Please **do not** leave any medicines, food or drink in bags on the caterpillar as the children have access to these bags during the session.

Change of circumstances

A change in a child's home life can have a significant impact on their attitude and behaviour in pre-school.

If circumstances have altered in your child's life we would be grateful if you would let us know (in confidence) so that we can help support them.

Bumps and scrapes

Please do not forget to inform us if your child has an accident outside of Pre-school. Our "Bump Book" is used to record any bumps, scratches etc. that happen **outside** of Acorn. This is so that we can be more certain about any injuries that happen whilst a child is in our care. If your child has even a minor accident at Acorn we are required to enter it into our Accident Book, you will be notified and given a copy of the report when you come to collect your child.

Term dates

We finish for half term on **Friday 24th October** and we come back on **Monday 3rd November**. The last day of this term is on **Wednesday 17th December** and we will return on **Wednesday 7th January**. A list of all the term dates for the coming year for both Acorn and the Lower school can be found on the notice board in the lobby.

Car parking reminder

There are now **no** car-parking facilities for Acorn Pre-school or the Mighty Oaks. Please do not park in the Lower School car park, in School Lane or in the grounds of Robert Bloomfield Academy.

Supplies shop

The Pre-school Learning Alliance shop will be open on the **15th October** from 12.30 to 1.45pm in the Shefford Community Hall. You can buy paper, pencils, crayons, glue, scissors, gummed shapes, sequins and much, much more. Do pop in and take a look.

Clothing

Please could you ensure that any clothing that your child wears to Acorn is easy for them to take on and off themselves. Complicated fastenings and clothing, such as dungarees, are difficult for the children to take off by themselves and can lead to toileting accidents.

Phonics

This website has been recommended for parents to look at to support their child's learning of letter sounds.

<http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/home/reading-site/expert-help/phonics-made-easy>

Next committee meeting

The next committee meeting will be an open committee meeting held on **Wednesday 12th November 2014** at 7.30pm. All are welcome and more information will be sent out shortly.



Magic Moments

Please could you use this magic moment to share with us something that your child has done and that you would like to share with the other children. Maybe they have learned a new skill or improved an existing one. This star will also go on our notice board and in your child's record book.

Name.....

