



# Autumn 2015 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

The children have settled well into the new school term and are enjoying the activities relating to our current topic, Autumn. Our next topic (from 16th November) will be Christmas, so it would be fantastic if you could involve your child when bringing out the decorations and festive items and let them select some (nothing precious please!) for our 'Box full of Christmas'. In addition, if you are having a real Christmas tree this year, please could you let us have any spare branches?

We have introduced a weekly 15 minute 'rhyme time' session this term, focussing on language enrichment. The children take part in their key groups for these special sessions, led by Jenny (Owls), Linda (Squirrels), Catherine (Foxes), Brigid (Badgers) and Sarah (Hedgehogs).

Lastly, we'd like to say a big **THANK YOU** to all involved in the Halloween Disco - whether you donated items, helped with preparations, set up or cleared the hall, assisted with the dancing and games, or simply bought tickets for your children. Fundraising is vital for Little Acorns as it enables us to provide equipment and materials to facilitate quality learning experiences. We have recently been able to purchase a new water play table as well as lots of crafting resources and there are plenty of other items on our wishlist, so we are very grateful for your ongoing support!

*Jenny and Team*

## Halloween Disco 2015 - a Spooktacular Success!



*The Mummy-Wrapping game!*

Great fun was had by all at our first ever Halloween Disco fundraiser on 31 October, where the children enjoyed lots of dancing, fantastic party games and of course the spooky snacks and slimy squash! There was an impressive variety of fancy dress, from witches to ghosts and pumpkins to black cats, and the face painting table was busy for the duration (many thanks to Max's mum Laura and Sienna's sister Katie for their artistry). We raised an amazing £150 for Little Acorns - well done to all involved!

### New Starters

A big welcome to Annie, Skyla and Ivy L, who joined in September, and to Hattie, Maisie, Ivy S, Eleanor and Isla, who joined Little Acorns after half term.

### Happy Birthday!

Many happy returns to everyone celebrating their birthday this term:

**Sept:** Indio (4), Catherine (staff)  
**Oct:** Sienna (4)  
**Nov:** Kai (4), Willow (3)  
**Dec:** Elsie (4), Matilda (4)

### Staff News

We are delighted to inform you that Linda Mack has taken on the role of Deputy Practitioner at Little Acorns.

### Keeping it Clean!

Now that the weather is getting wetter, please could you ensure that your child brings a pair of slippers or indoor shoes to wear at pre-school. We have plenty of wellies and coats available to change into when using the outside area. Many thanks.

### Christmas Cards

You should all have received your child's sample Christmas card and order form (unless your child has only just joined us). If you wish to order packs of cards, gift tags, mugs or tea towels, please could you return your form by this Friday (13th November). These items make lovely keepsakes or gifts for friends and relatives.

### Easy Fundraising

With Christmas fast approaching, don't forget to make online purchases through [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/littleacornsifold](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/littleacornsifold). This is a cost-free way of raising money for your pre-school.



www.littleacornsifold.co.uk



## Autumn 2015 Newsletter

### What's Happening this Term?

#### Children in Need - Friday 13th November

The children are encouraged to come to pre-school wearing something spotty or stripey this Friday! There will also be some Pudsey activities to enjoy.

#### Coffee Morning



You are all invited to a coffee morning at Hattie's mum, Sophie's house on **Thursday 19 November**, from 9:30am. Please pop along for a cuppa and a chat, children (and siblings) welcome too if they are not at Little Acorns that day.

#### School Admissions

Parents of children born between 1 September 2011 and 31 August 2012 must apply for a Primary School place for September 2016. The deadline for applications is **Friday 15 January 2016**. You can apply online at [www.westsussex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/admissions) or phone **03330 142 903**.

#### Childcare Vouchers

If your child does not yet qualify for the government-funded pre-school sessions or is attending pre-school more than their funded 15 hours a week, make sure you are taking advantage of the childcare voucher scheme. This is a special Government scheme operated through employers that allow you to pay for childcare from pre-tax salary. It might not sound big, but the impact can be huge. Visit <https://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/childcare-vouchers> for further information.

**INSET Day**  
Please note - Little Acorns will be closed on **Monday 30 November** for staff training.

#### Social Evening

Please come along for some Christmas drinks on **Thursday 3 December** at the Onslow Arms, Loxwood from 8pm.



#### Children's Christmas Party

On the last day of term, **Friday 18 December**, we will be holding our Christmas party for the children. There will be food, drinks, music and a very special visitor! Please note that Little Acorns will close at **12:15pm**.

#### Christmas Performance

On **Tuesday 15 December**, parents and carers are invited to come along at 1:30pm to enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and some mince pies prior to the performance of "We're Going on a Baby Hunt".



#### Christmas Carols

We would like to gauge interest in taking the children carol singing to raise money for Little Acorns, on **15 & 17 December**. Please could you let Jenny know ASAP if you and your child would like to be involved. It would be lovely to get a big group together.

#### Christmas Postbox

The Christmas postbox will be put out in December for the children to post cards to each other, if they wish.

#### Spread the Word!

We are still taking registrations for children wishing to join Little Acorns. If you know anyone with children coming up to pre-school age, please let them know. If you would like to pass on a prospectus please just ask a staff or committee member for a copy.

#### Late Payment Fee

Please note that due to some late payments in the last year there is an addition to our fees policy: Little Acorns Pre-school reserves the right to charge a late payment fee of 2.5% of the invoice total if payment is not received by the start of the following term. Thanks for your understanding.

### Diary Dates

- |                             |                                |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Friday 13 November</b>   | - Children in Need             |
| <b>Thursday 19 November</b> | - Coffee morning               |
| <b>Monday 30 November</b>   | - INSET day                    |
| <b>Thursday 3 December</b>  | - Christmas drinks (parents)   |
| <b>Tuesday 15 December</b>  | - "Baby Hunt" Performance      |
| <b>Friday 18 December</b>   | - Christmas party with Santa   |
|                             | <b>Term ends at 12:15pm</b>    |
| <b>Monday 4 January</b>     | - Spring Term starts           |
| <b>Friday 15 January</b>    | - School applications deadline |
| <b>Mid/late January</b>     | - AGM (date TBC)               |