



Spring 2015 Newsletter

Welcome from your new Supervisor

Hello to all Parents/Carers and friends of Little Acorns. It has been four weeks now since I joined the lovely children, amazing staff team and supportive committee members of Little Acorns. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for making me feel very welcome.

I have worked in a variety of educational settings for approximately 20 years, having acquired various skills along the way. I started my journey at Pre-school so it is lovely to return to this most important and crucial stage of children's learning and development.



My own children, a daughter and a son, are grown up now but I am fortunate to enjoy my grandchildren who are Darcie, 5 and Dominic, 7. They live in Bristol so school holidays are always quality catching up time for us.

I am committed to continuing the wonderful nurturing and teaching that takes place at Little Acorns. Please feel free to talk to me any time regarding any cares or concerns that you may have regarding Pre-school, not forgetting celebrations as they are equally important to your children's well being.

Looking forward to lots of happy times.

Jenny



New Starters

A big welcome to Kai and William, who have joined us this term. We hope they will be very happy at Little Acorns.

Helping Your Child Learn Their Phonics (Letter Sounds)

Next term, Jenny is planning to focus on early literacy skills via pure letter sounds (phonics) with the children. Sounding out words is at the heart of phonics, and it is therefore a simple and straightforward way of teaching that you can also use confidently at home. As correct pronunciation of the letter sounds is essential in this method of learning, Jenny would like to invite all parents/carers to join her at one of two informal sessions where she will share with you how the sounds will be introduced at Little Acorns and how to support this learning at home in a fun and interactive way. These short sessions will take place in the small hall at **9:15am on Tuesday 10 & Friday 13 February**, so please come along to one of them if you can!

Some of the money raised at last year's Christmas Raffle is being spent on new resources to aid staff in the teaching of phonics and engage the children. You are welcome to pop in and have a look at these new materials or ask Jenny for advice on phonics at any time.

Birthdays

Happy Birthday to the following children celebrating birthdays this term...

Elliott	Henry
Emily White	Olivia
Emily Ward	Hannah Ward
Iris	Megan

... and staff members:

Jenny Jackie Linda

Sickness Policy

With many nasty bugs doing the rounds at the moment, we would like to remind you of our sickness policy, to avoid the spread of infection to other children. If your child has had a bout of sickness or diarrhoea in the last 48 hours or has a temperature above 38°C (before medication) please keep your child at home. Please inform the pre-school as to the nature of any infection your child has so that we can alert other parents if necessary. If children appear unwell during the day, staff will call the parents and ask for the child to be collected.

Sainsbury's Active Kids

We are collecting Active Kids Vouchers again this year. You can collect vouchers in store, at petrol stations and via online shopping from 28 January - 5 May. Last year we received an incredible 3,300 vouchers which meant we could purchase lots of fantastic new equipment, including a zig-zag tunnel, an egg and spoon set, jumbo magnifiers, waterproof trousers and a balance kit.

This year, we are aiming to collect 3,500 vouchers, so please support your pre-school and ask your friends and family to donate their vouchers too! Vouchers can be put in the box in the foyer. Many thanks in advance.

Join Our Committee

Becoming a committee member is an excellent way to meet other parents and benefit your pre-school. It does not need to be time-consuming. Please ask a member of staff or the committee for further information.



What's Happening this Term?

Coffee Morning

Please come along to a coffee morning which will take place immediately after Jenny's introduction to phonics session in the small hall on **Tuesday 10 February**.



World Book Day

This year we are planning to take part in World Book Day, on **Thursday 5 March**. The aim is to create an opportunity for young children to enjoy books and experience a wide range of language through rhymes and stories. More details to follow.

INSET Days

Please note - Little Acorns will be closed on **Monday 9 March** and **Friday 27 March** for INSET days (staff training).



Easter Fair - Saturday 21 March, 1:30 - 4pm

We hope you can come and join in the fun at the Little Acorns Easter Fair, our key fundraising event and a highlight in the children's calendar! In the run-up to the Fair we really need your support to make this another great success. Please look out for the donation deadline dates (for chocolates, lucky cups, soft toys etc) and nearer the time there will be a sign-up list so that we can ensure that stalls are covered and, more importantly, that we all have time to enjoy the day with our friends and family! Last year we raised approx £2,000, which has been spent on 5 new programmable Beebots and playmats, phonics puzzles, posters, an ABC sound/letter formation pack, outside letters, coloured sand, sparkle shapes, rechargeable batteries and much more! Watch out for our improved children's outdoor environment, which is in the pipeline and we are also looking into providing an animal experience day for the children!



Evening Social Events

We are planning a couple of evening social events for parents/carers: drinks from 8pm at the Onslow Arms on **Friday 6 March** & dinner and/or drinks at Julie Stardust's Bond tribute night at the Sir Roger Tichborne on **Thursday 26 March**. More details to follow!

Diary Dates

Tuesday 10 February 9:15am	- Phonics Session for Parents
Tuesday 10 February	- Coffee morning after Phonics Session
Friday 13 February 9:15am	- Phonics Session for Parents
Monday 16 – Friday 20 Feb	- Half Term (Pre-school closed)
Tuesday 24 February 8-9pm	- AGM @ Kelsey Hall, all welcome
Thursday 26 February 7:30pm	- Project Wild Thing @ Pennthorpe
Thursday 5 March	- World Book Day. Info to follow
Friday 6 March from 8pm	- Evening social (Onslow Arms)
Monday 9 March	- INSET day (Pre-school closed)
Saturday 21 March 1:30-4pm	- Easter Fair @ Kelsey Hall
Thursday 26 March	- Last day of term & evening social
Friday 27 March	- INSET day (Pre-school closed)

Don't forget to keep an eye on www.littleacornsifold.co.uk for regular news and updates

Keeping you Informed!

You have probably noticed the new whiteboard outside Little Acorns. This will be used to keep you informed of upcoming events/activities and other relevant information. Don't forget to have a quick read on your way in!

Library Bus

You may not be aware that the West Sussex Mobile Library stops in Ifold (in the Kelsey Hall carpark) every other Thursday. The next scheduled visits are on **12 & 26 February** and **12 & 26 March**, from 1:20-1:50pm

Project Wild Thing

The inspiring documentary film 'Project Wild Thing', which aims to show what parents can do to help reconnect their children to nature, will be screened at Pennthorpe School on **Thursday 26 February** at 7:30pm. Filmmaker David Bond will be at the screening to personally share his experiences. Tickets cost £5 each - please ask Jenny for booking details. Further information and the trailer can be found at www.projectwildthing.com

Easy Fundraising

A big thank you to everyone who has helped us raise **£105.83** so far, simply by ordering your goods online via <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/littleacornsifold>

This costs you nothing but the retailer makes a donation to Little Acorns. Retailers include Amazon, John Lewis, Next, M&S, Argos and hundreds more. Please keep up the good work!

Comments Box

We continually strive to improve the learning and day-to-day provision at Little Acorns. To enable you to give us constructive feedback or suggestions, we will be putting a Comments Box in the foyer and will endeavour to respond to your comments as soon as possible. You are of course still welcome to discuss your thoughts with Jenny, your Key Person or any Committee member.