



www.littleacornsifold.co.uk



Spring 2016 Newsletter

Welcome

We hope you've enjoyed the start to the spring term, which has focused on several topics/themes: The Post Office, Space, Birds and Mini-beasts. Over the remaining weeks we will be celebrating Chinese New Year, Valentines Day, Book Week and Easter. We will also learn about Feet (all kinds!), Farm Animals and Spring. Our 'Box full of ...' will be changing to Spring; please keep watching the white board for details.

An important part of the EYFS is learning about caring for others. There are many people who have little or no hearing, our very own Catherine uses hearing aids, so our Little Acorns have been learning how to communicate using British Sign Language. Every morning we sign 'good morning friends',

some words such as please and thank you, colours, animals and signing songs. As well as educating the children about caring for others, signing makes learning phonics engaging, entertaining, meaningful and fun!



During our Christmas production of 'Going on a Baby Hunt' the children finished by singing and signing 'We Wish You a Merry Christmas'. It is wonderful to see all of the children using different signs, they love learning new words and we hope to learn a lot more.

Last year we had a fantastic response to the collection of Sainsbury's vouchers, from which we received a lovely wooden table with four stools, a wobble trike, balls, a till, some kitchen items and a groceries voucher which we used to purchase most of the ingredients for the delicious Christmas cakes that the children made. Please start collecting again, your contributions are very valuable.

As you are aware, we are at present a very small group of families and we know that your time is very precious, but if at any time you would like to or are available to help at Pre-school we would love to have you. Please speak to any member of the team regarding arrangements.

Finally, a big thank you to all of the parents/carers who came to our recent lunchtime play date. We had a fantastic turnout and we hope you had lots of fun with your children. We will look at holding a similar event in the near future and hope you will be able to join us again.

Jenny & Team

New Starter

A big welcome to **Luke Relf**, who joins us this term.

Birthdays

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

Annie

Maisie

Ivy S

... and staff members:

Jenny & Linda

Staff News

Brigid Fayers has decided to retire from Little Acorns and will sadly be leaving us at Easter. Brigid has been with Little Acorns for 17 years and has contributed greatly to a successful and happy team. We will be very sad to see her leave but wish her well in her retirement. We will keep you informed on our progress in recruiting a new team member.

Sainsbury's Active Kids is back!

We are collecting Active Kids Vouchers again this year. You can collect vouchers in store, at petrol stations and via online shopping until 3 May. Last year we involved the local community and received an incredible 5,804 vouchers! We are aiming to collect even more vouchers this year, so please support your pre-school and ask your friends, family and neighbours to donate their vouchers too! Vouchers can be put in the box in the foyer. Many thanks in advance.

Easy Fundraising

A big thank you to everyone who has helped us raise **£177.63** 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!



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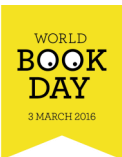
What's Happening this Term?

Pancake Day

Tuesday 9 February is Shrove Tuesday so we will be making pancakes with the children. If anyone could spare half an hour in the morning after drop-off to help prepare the pancakes it would be much appreciated. Please let Jenny or Linda know if you can help. An extra frying pan would also be very useful!

Little Acorns Annual General Meeting

Please come along to the AGM on **Wednesday 2 March, 8-9pm** at Kelsey Hall. This will give you the opportunity to see how the Pre-School has developed over the last year and to hear about future plans. Light refreshments will be provided.



World Book Day

We are planning to take part in World Book Day, on **Thursday 3 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 Day

Please note - Little Acorns will be closed on **Friday 11 March** for staff training.



Social

Parents/carers are invited to an evening social on **Friday 18 March** from 8pm at the Sir Roger Tichborne pub. We look forward to seeing you all there.



Spring Fair - Saturday 16 April, 1:30 - 4pm

We hope you and your family will come and join in the fun at the Spring Fair, our key fundraising event and a highlight in the local calendar! In the run-up to the Fair we really need your support: we will be asking for help with selling raffle tickets, distributing flyers and spreading the word in the community and beyond. Please also look out for the donation deadline dates (for chocolates, lucky cups, soft toys etc) and it would be fantastic if everyone could cover an hour's slot on a stall to ensure we have as many fun games and activities on offer as possible. Last year we raised approximately £2,000 which was an amazing achievement and we hope to raise even more this year!

Diary Dates

- Tuesday 9 February** - Pancake Day!
- Monday 15 – Friday 19 Feb** - Half Term (Pre-school closed)
- Wednesday 2 March, 8-9pm** - AGM @ Kelsey Hall, all welcome
- Thursday 3 March** - World Book Day. Info to follow
- Friday 11 March** - INSET day (Pre-school closed)
- Friday 18 March from 8pm** - Evening social (Roger Tichborne)
- Thursday 24 March** - Last day of term
- Saturday 16 April, 1:30-4pm** - Little Acorns Spring Fair

Keeping you Informed!

Please keep an eye on the whiteboard outside Little Acorns as you arrive each day. This will be used to keep you informed of upcoming events/activities and other relevant information. We will also try to keep you informed of any events/socials etc via email, so please ensure you let us know if your contact details change! In addition, there is a 'Noticeboard' page on the Little Acorns website, which will have details of important dates and upcoming events:

www.littleacornsifold.co.uk

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 **11 & 25 February** and **10 & 24 March**, from 1:20-1:50pm.

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.

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.

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