



We would like to welcome all the new children and their families who have joined us here at Acorns this term, we hope that you have all settled well and are enjoying the wonderful activities that take place every day.

#### Staffing:

There have been a few changes this term to our staffing, Sarah the room leader of Bumble Bees will be going on maternity leave in October so from September she has moved through to Caterpillars to help with all of the babies who have moved up over the summer. Covering the room leader role while Sarah is on maternity leave in Bumble Bees is Sophie and Natasha.

Emma, the room leader of Caterpillar room has also just been promoted to Deputy Manager and will work alongside Nicola who is already Deputy Manager in a shared role.

#### A little look into some of the things we have been up to already this term:

Bumble Bees have had lots of fun exploring their new sensory house, with sound and lights. Caterpillars have been making fruit smoothies, role play office as well as exploring the new loose parts play introduced this week.

Ladybirds have been making soup and learning where our food comes from, the human body and body parts, letter sounds and sequencing with the use of stories like the Gruffalo, and The Three Little Pigs, remembering what comes next.

You can see some of the activities we do by going onto our website and clicking on the Facebook link, which will take you to our page. Children's pictures will only be displayed if we have prior written consent from you, or if the child's face is not visible, so the picture is taken from behind. Should you wish to check or change your permissions please come and speak to your child's key person or anyone from the office who will be happy to help.

#### FEE Free Early education Funding:

As you may already be aware the government offer 15 hours of FEE which all children are entitled to the term after their third birthday, you do not need to do anything other than fill in a parental declaration form with us and we can claim the funding for you. They also offer an additional 15 hours funding (making 30 hours) should you meet the requirements, this you do have to apply for yourselves, both the criteria and how to apply can be found on the childcare choices website, [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk).

We only have a limited number of 30 hour places at nursery of four per term and currently have all of our September and January places taken, we have two left for April which will be given on a first come basis.

#### Winter clothes:

The weather is a little unpredictable at the moment so please can I ask that you make sure your child comes to nursery with a coat as the children go out, whatever the weather every day.

If possible as the weather gets wetter please can you bring in wellington boots as the garden can get very muddy. We also ask that all children bring in a spare set of clothes to keep on their peg and change them into should they need it.

Fruit for snack:

Please can you remember to bring in a piece of fruit with your child for each session they are in for.

Bumble bees would like to ask if their parents can bring in some of the softer fruit like banana, melon, grapes, plums, oranges...

You can also provide things like bread sticks, dried fruit, and crackers if you wish.

Parents can you help:

We are currently building up a stock of loose parts and natural play objects, as these offer the children open ended play and help with building imagination. Some example of these would be: Wooden pegs, egg cups, cotton reels, buttons, bowls.....

Metal bangles, egg cups, napkin rings, tins, trays, tea pots.....

Shells, pine cones, stones....

Old cardboard gift boxes and lids.

If you have any of these at home and no longer want them we would be happy to put them to good use.

We are running low on spare clothes at nursery, if your child has been sent home in nursery clothes please can we ask you to bring them back in as soon as possible so we do not run out. If you have any clothes that you no longer need we can always do with more spare clothes at nursery and would be happy to have them.

Online Safety:

Attached to this letter is a copy of Vodafone digital parenting magazine with lots of helpful tips on how to keep safe online.

Bringing toys in from home:

Please can we ask you not to bring in toys from home as these can get lost or broken at nursery, Thank you.

Date for your diary:

Term time only children

The October half term which is from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> to Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October, and will return as usual from Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

The last day of term will be Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2018, however you are invited to the Christmas tea party on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2018 from 3.30pm until 5pm.

The term time only children will return as usual on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019

All year round children will break up for Christmas on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> at 6pm and are welcome back to nursery after the Christmas holiday on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2019.

Parents Christmas decoration making workshop and a chance to look at your child's journal and chat to the key people is on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 9.15-10.30am.

From all the team at Acorns.