



Bottisham Community Primary School

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Headteacher: Mark Askew



Acorns Class Spring Term Newsletter



Dear Parents, carers,

Welcome back and Happy New Year.

We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas, and we look forward to an exciting spring term in Acorns Preschool Class. An especially warm welcome to Marcus and his family who are joining us this term.

In Acorns Preschool Class we will continue to focus on preparing the children for starting in Reception Class at their chosen primary school in September. We will provide as many opportunities as possible for the children to explore our wider school and join in with whole school activities to help build confidence.

We have a number of time-tabled activities as follows -

- Tuesday afternoons - school library visits.
- Wednesday mornings - PE/Music and Movement session in the school hall. **Please provide opportunities at home for your child to practice putting on their socks and shoes as we are now working towards them doing this independently for PE lessons.**
- Tuesday and Friday mornings – Numberblocks

We will also be introducing early phonics through letters and sounds activities.

As the weather improves there will be visits to the school playground and wooded area and some of our PE sessions may take place on the school field.

Staff will continue to help the children manage their belongings and manage the routines and expectations of Preschool. There will however be a greater expectation of independence when toileting and managing changing shoes for inside/outside play. We will also be encouraging the children to put on/take off their coats independently.





Developing Children's Vocabulary.

We will continue to focus on the development of vocabulary and language skills and the ability to communicate effectively to support social skills and managing feelings and behaviour. As per last term, at the start of each new topic we will identify key vocabulary that staff will use regularly when engaging with the children in activities. We will encourage the children to experiment with using new vocabulary as they play. Parents will be sent a Key Vocabulary letter listing this vocabulary and providing details of activities and books being used in the classroom to support our learning.

We will also introduce vocabulary and communication techniques to support the children to manage disagreements and resolve conflicts independently.

Topics and Activities

Activities and focused learning are planned around specific topics, details of which can be found in our Spring Topic Web. The Topic Web is also designed to give you guidance as to how you can be supporting your child at home throughout each school term.

Important Reminders...

- Weather - as we all know the weather can be rather unpredictable. As we spend a considerable proportion of our session outside, please ensure that your child is appropriately dressed for the day, has a warm coat, scarf, gloves and Wellington boots. All children will need a **named, empty water bottle in their bags every day**. Water bottles will be filled when the children arrive and refilled throughout the day.
- Independence – Please can we ask that you send your child to Preschool in footwear which supports independence e.g. Velcro shoes, so that they can take them off and put them on independently – **consequently no buckles or laces please unless you know your child can manage these independently.**

Dates for your diary – further information for all events to follow

Friday 6th Feb NSPCC Numbers Day

Monday 16th – Friday 20th Feb – Half Term

Friday 27th Feb – Whole School Author Visit – Joshua Seigal

Tuesday 17th March – Parent Consultation Evening

Thursday 19th March – Parent Consultation Evening

If you ever have any questions or queries, feel free to contact me via email jclaydon@bottishamprimary.org and I will respond as soon as I am able once preschool finishes. Alternatively, if you prefer to speak to me in person, please catch me at the gate **at the end of the preschool day**.

Please note that as there are only two members of staff in the classroom, I am unable to answer questions at the gate at the start of the day.

If you need to contact us in the event of an emergency or there is a change to arrangements for collecting your child, please contact the school office in the first instance as staff in the classroom may not be able to access emails during the school day.





Acorns Preschool Class Staff Timetable

Monday	AM Mrs Claydon (Class Teacher) Mrs Missing (Teaching Assistant)	PM Mrs Claydon (Class Teacher) Mrs Missing (Teaching Assistant)
Tuesday	AM Mrs Claydon (Class Teacher) Mrs Missing (TA)	PM Mrs Claydon (Class Teacher) Mrs Missing (TA)
Wednesday	AM Mrs Claydon (Class Teacher) Miss Dilley (Higher Level TA)	PM Mrs Claydon (Class Teacher) Miss Dilley (Higher Level TA)
Thursday	AM Mrs Claydon (Class Teacher) Miss Dilley (HLTA)	PM Mrs Claydon (Class Teacher) Miss Dilley (HLTA)
Friday	AM Miss Dilley (HLTA) Mrs Missing (TA) (Mrs Claydon PPA – not in classroom)	PM Miss Dilley (HLTA) Mrs Missing (TA)

We look forward to a very happy and busy spring term.

Kind regards,

Jackie Claydon
Acorns Preschool Class Teacher

