



# The Children's NEWS



6<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Christmas has started in Acorn Class!! We have had lots of fun over the last two weeks preparing for the festivities. We have decorated the classroom and set up a cosy Christmas lounge area which the children have enjoyed decorating and snuggling up in to read Christmassy stories. We have also been practising our Christmas songs which will be recorded on Wednesday. Watch out for a lovely compilation of festive songs. We have also shared the Nativity story and talked about why Christians celebrate Christmas. We looked at a children's Bible and talked about the fact that it is a very special book for Christians.

Talking about the Nativity story and the long journey that Mary and Joseph took, prompted us to think about how we do long journeys. It also got us thinking about where we live and the name of our school. Most children thought that the school was called Acorn Class so we went outside to look at the Gothic Mede Academy sign and talk about how we are part of the main school and that Acorn is the name of our class. We talked about the fact that Arlesey is the name of the place in which our school is located. These are all quite big concepts so we will drop these ideas in to discussion regularly. **Why not have a chat about where you live, the name of your street and your town/ village. Talk about how you do long and short journeys. Do you walk, use the car, go on the train or an aeroplane?**

Story stones were a big hit last week. The children really enjoyed choosing stones with objects and characters on and making up stories or role playing with them. Making up short stories is great for building communication and language skills. **Why not have a go at making up stories with cuddly toys or small world characters you have at home. We would love to see them on Tapestry.**



During child initiated learning this week, some children used the large wooden blocks to build Father Christmas's sleigh. Mrs Pedley helped them to wrap up some boxes to be the presents and they had a lot of fun pretending to deliver them. All the children have enjoyed helping to decorate the Christmas tree, working together, sharing and talking about what they were doing. They have also enjoyed using the foam bricks to create roads and towers using lots of good language to compare length and height. The safari tuff tray was really popular with all the children this week and provided the stimulus for lots of play based around animals. We talked about predators and prey, different habitats and thought about how the different animals might move.

Over the last couple of weeks we have started to do 'Dough Disco' regularly. The aim of this is to strengthen the muscles in the hand and help children to develop fine motor skills and coordination. Each child has their own pot of playdough and use it to make shapes, roll balls, squeeze and flatten all whilst singing songs. It is great fun and the children all really enjoy it.



## Early Maths

We read the book *Dear Zoo* by Rod Campbell and used it as a stimulus to talk about size and to think about which animal might fit in which container. The children are beginning to be able to use the language of size, explaining that animals were either too big, too small or too tall. They investigated this further in child-initiated play, choosing boxes from the junk modelling box to put different animals in.

Last week, we thought about simple repeating patterns. We started off by saying and singing patterns, then looking at patterns on wrapping paper. We moved on to making our own simple two-colour patterns. The children had to think very hard about which colour would come next and were real Persevering Parrots and Concentrating Crocodiles. We made our own wrapping paper – watch out for it, it will be making an appearance soon.....



## Tapestry

### Observation focus of the fortnight:

Can your child spot a two colour/ two item repeating pattern? Can they create a simple repeating pattern? Can they spot a mistake in a simple repeating pattern? Can they make a pattern with household objects e.g: knife, fork, knife, fork, knife, fork .....  
Shoe, sock, shoe, sock, shoe, sock .....



## Show and Tell:

### Acorn A:

7<sup>th</sup> Dec – Christmas preparations  
10<sup>th</sup> Jan – A Special Christmas present

### Acorn B:

9<sup>th</sup> Dec – Christmas preparations  
13<sup>th</sup> Jan - A Special Christmas present

## Diary Dates:

Christmas song recording Acorn A & B. Wear a Christmassy outfit: Weds 8<sup>th</sup> Dec  
Christmas Jumper Day – Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December  
Christmas Party – Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December  
**END OF TERM** – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December  
Term starts - Acorn A & B – January 5<sup>th</sup>

## Important Reminders:

- On Wednesday 8th December we will be recording the Christmas songs that we have been practising so that we can share them with you. Please send your child in to school wearing a Christmassy outfit e.g a jumper/ dress etc. They will need to wear the outfit for the whole session so please make sure they are warm and comfortable. They will be having snack time and free access to a range of activities as usual so please send them in something you can wash if needed.
- Please don't forget to apply for your child's school place. Children born between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018 are due to start school in September 2022. You need to apply **before 15 January 2022**, even if your child already attends a nursery or pre-school on the school site. [https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/5/school\\_admissions/496/apply\\_for\\_a\\_new\\_lower\\_or\\_primary\\_school\\_place](https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/5/school_admissions/496/apply_for_a_new_lower_or_primary_school_place)
- Can I ask that you name all hats, scarves, gloves etc so we can easily reunite them with their owners more easily? Thank you

**Wishing all our families a very happy Christmas and  
New Year.**

**Thank you for all your support this term.**

