FLOURISH FEDERATION

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Carol Jeary

2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to a new school year in Acorn Class! We are very excited for the year ahead and look forward to working closely with you and your children.

For some of our families, this will be your first year in Acorn Class, while for others, we are delighted to welcome you back. Whether your child is new to our class or already knows us well, the start of a new school year brings new experiences, friendships, routines and opportunities for learning.

We recognise that returning to school after the summer holidays can be a big change for children. Over the first few weeks, we will spend time settling back into school life, revisiting familiar routines and expectations, building relationships and creating a calm, positive and welcoming environment. For our returning children, this will be an opportunity to reconnect with their friends, rediscover our classroom and take on new responsibilities, while those joining us for the first time will be supported as they become familiar with Acorn Class. Our aim is for every child to feel **safe, valued, confident and ready to learn**, and for families to feel comfortable knowing that their children are well cared for and supported.

Acorn Class is made up of a range of areas both inside and outside the classroom, providing children with opportunities to learn through play, exploration and hands-on experiences. The children can access areas such as writing, reading, maths, construction, creative activities, role play, small world, sensory exploration and more. Our outdoor space provides further opportunities for physical development, problem solving, collaboration and imaginative play. As the year progresses, these areas will continue to develop and change in response to our curriculum, topics and, importantly, the interests and ideas of the children. We want the children to feel that Acorn Class is **their** classroom, a place where their curiosity, creativity and imagination are encouraged.

The wellbeing of every child in Acorn Class remains at the heart of what we do. Throughout the year, we will support children to build positive relationships, understand and express their feelings, develop independence and resilience, and learn how to manage the different emotions and challenges that school life can bring. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's wellbeing, learning or experiences in school, please do not hesitate to speak with us. **Working together with families is an important part of helping every child to feel happy, secure and successful.** The more we know about how your child is feeling and what they may need, the better we can support them.

Below is a bit more information about some of the important aspects of life in Acorn Class.

Which adults will be in Acorn class?

 Miss Scarlett  Mrs Boggis & Mrs Lawrence will teach Tuesday PM

Early Reading

Early reading is a key part of our learning. We teach phonics as part of our daily practice to develop the children's knowledge of sounds and blending skills. The children will bring home reading books matched to their phonics learning.

Reception children will begin with wordless books for you to look at and talk about at home. The purpose of these books is to generate 'talk' , widen their vocabulary, develop imagination and inspire interest in books. You might like to ask them questions such as:

- I wonder what is happening?
- I wonder who that is?
- I wonder what he or she is doing?
- I wonder how he or she is feeling?
- I wonder if you have ever felt like that?
- I wonder if that has ever happened to you or your family?

We cannot over emphasise the importance of reading at home with your child. This does not need to be a long reading session, especially for early readers, but 5-10 minutes daily practice does make all the difference! We will provide your child with a reading record book which will travel between home and school. Please record a short note in the reading record to let us know which pages they have read.

Please keep this safe in their bag so it comes to school everyday.

How do I keep updated?

For **all children** this year, we will use **Tapestry**, an online learning journal, to record day-to-day achievements and progress. Parents and carers are also encouraged to add entries to their child's account to document their child's achievements at home. Details about how to access your account will follow shortly.

Class Dojo

The school will be using the Class Dojo app to communicate with parents with regards to behaviour. By downloading this free app, you will be notified when your child is given dojo points and it will say what it is for. Parents will be sent an invitation shortly via email or text message or letter to join the class. Please note, teachers **will not** be responding to any messages sent on Class Dojo, so please continue to contact the school office for messages and enquiries.

School Office Text messages and email are sent from the school, please ensure your details are always up-to-date. Please inform the office if your child will be absent or collected by someone different.

What does my child need to bring to school?

- ☐ A labelled waterproof coat (We access outdoors in all weathers!)
- ☐ A pair of wellies (to keep at school, they will wear these whilst playing outside)

- ☐ Appropriate layers under their uniforms to stay warm when it is cold outside (e.g. vests, thicker tights, thicker socks, and of course gloves and hats).
- ☐ Labelled Water bottle
- ☐ Reading book & reading record

All items must be **clearly named** to avoid mix-ups.

Can my child have a school meal?

Children in Acorn class are entitled to Universal Free School Meals, you need to order your child's lunch using the **Arbor App -**details about how to access this will be sent soon - Alternatively, please send your child in with a healthy packed lunch [we have a healthy eating policy].

When is PE?

We have P.E on **Thursday afternoon.** We continue to ask that you please make sure your child **comes to school on Thursday wearing their P.E kit** (with jumpers and tracksuit bottoms in cooler weather). ***(White t-shirt, blue or black shorts / jogging bottoms, navy PE hoody / jumper and trainers)*** Please ensure jewellery is removed and long hair tied up. No football t-shirts or other sporting kits should be worn.

Close the Classroom Day

Close the Classroom Day is an opportunity for children to develop their learning outdoors, this means we will be out of the classroom for the entire day. Outdoor learning is fundamental in developing essential skills from problem solving and critical thinking to confidence and resilience. Close the Classroom Day will occur at least once every half term and you will be informed of these in advance.

As well as Close the Classroom Day, Acorn class will have constant access to outdoor areas. We ask that your child has weather appropriate clothing. I.e. waterproof coat, warm layers, hats and gloves, sun hat. We have waterproof trousers in school for all children.

Term dates:
Start of Autumn 1 term: Thursday 3rd September 2026
Last day of Autumn 1 term: Thursday 22nd October 2026
Back to school for Autumn 2 term: Monday 2nd October 2026
Last day of Autumn 2 term: Friday 18th December 2026

Child Wellbeing/Mental Health:
We will always do our best to support you and your child if tricky issues do arise, but do also visit justonenorfolk.nhs.uk for support.

Family Hubs
If you need additional support, services including **Breckland Family Hub, Schools and Community Team, ASD Helping Hands and CAP Money and Debt Service** are available. Please contact the school for further information.

We are looking forward to another wonderful year of learning, exploring and growing together!

Miss Scarlett and Mrs Boggis

Curriculum information for Acorn Class Autumn 2026:

Reading/Writing

We will be using our story based phonics scheme, 'Twinkl - Rhino Readers'. Reception children will be working on recognising and writing their name. Reception will begin to read and write letter sounds. Year 1 and Year 2 children will be recapping sounds learnt so far, we will be addressing gaps and build on the foundations they built last year.

Mathematics

We will be learning about number. We will be learning to recognise numbers, representing numbers in different ways and one to one counting. In Year 1 and 2 we will be introducing place value and addition and subtraction.
We will begin to look at shape.

Communication and language

During this settling in time, we will be supporting children to develop relationships with the children and adults in the class. We will work on developing children's confidence in speaking in front of other children, listening to others and taking turns in conversations. Children will be encouraged to express their thoughts and feelings using full sentences. Providing a rich vocabulary will be a key priority.

Physical Education/PD

Acorn class will be having PE on a Thursday afternoon. Children will also develop their fine and gross motor skills every day during a range of different activities.

We will also be learning about other areas in the curriculum in outdoor areas involving more physical aspects.

The children have constant access to outdoor activities.

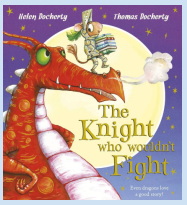
Personal, Social & Emotional Development

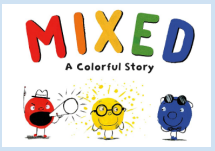
We will be supporting your child to settle in and learn the new daily routine. We will explore new beginnings, this will allow the children to nurture a sense of belonging, recognising diversity and establishing class rules and rewards. We will discuss healthy bodies and healthy minds which will allow the children to develop personal responsibilities and teamwork.

Story Focus:











Art

We will explore how artists use colour to create different effects and feelings. We will experiment with mixing colours, discovering what happens when colours are combined, exploring light, dark, warm and cool colours through activities.

Design & Technology

Children will explore how toys are designed and made. They will follow instructions and use different materials and joining techniques to design and make their own toy.

Science / Understanding the world

The children will explore a variety of everyday materials and investigate their different properties. They will explore how materials can be used for different purposes and how they can be changed or combined.

The children will also observe and explore the changes that happen throughout the seasons, noticing changes in weather, temperature, plants, animals and the environment around them.

History / Understanding the World

Here the children will discover events and people from the past that have shaped our history. The children will investigate 'What were castles like and why were they built?' They will explore the different parts and purposes of a castle, learn about the people who lived and worked in castles, and investigate how castles have changed over time.

Music / Expressive Arts and Design

We will explore the unit 'Hey you!' where the children will use instruments and focus on pulse and beats.
Children learn nursery rhymes with actions.
The children can discover sound through the classroom environment as well as our music wall.

Religious Education

The children will explore the questions:
'Why is light an important symbol in religion and belief?' and **'How do Christians belong to their faith family?'**

The children will explore how light is used as a symbol of hope, goodness, celebration and new beginnings in different religious traditions. They will discover how light is used in celebrations such as Diwali, Hanukkah and Christmas. The children will also explore how Christians show that they belong to their faith family through worship, prayer, church, celebrations and special symbols.

Computing / Understanding the World

The children will explore 'How can we use technology safely and creatively?' They will learn how to use technology safely and respectfully, understanding the importance of keeping personal information private and knowing how to ask for help when something online makes them feel uncomfortable. The children will also use technology purposefully to create and share their own digital content.

Geography / Understanding the World

We will explore **'What are hot and cold places like?'** The children will use geographical skills to locate hot and cold places around the world and compare their climate, weather, landscapes and animals. They will explore how the weather and environment can be different in different parts of the world.