



# Acorn Class

## Spring Term Newsletter 2020

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!  
**2020**

We hope you all had a fantastic festive break and would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy New Year. We have lots of things planned to brighten up the darkest of Januaries!! As most of you will be aware Miss Richardson is currently on maternity leave and we wish her well on her upcoming happy event. Mr. Wilson will be the class teacher on a full time basis until she returns and Mrs Woodcock will continue to be the Teaching Assistant.  
The Early Years Team.

### **LONDON**

#### Topic

Our topic this term will be **London** and we will be exploring our capital city with the help of the book *The Queen's Hat*. During the week beginning the 27th January we shall leave London for a week as we will be finding out all about The Chinese New Year, which this year is the Year of the Rat! Read on to see what we have planned at school up until February 14th!!

#### Our 7 Areas of Learning

##### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We are going to be focussing on understanding and expressing how we are feeling. We shall explore a range of feelings, what things can make us feel a certain way and how we can recognise how others are feeling.

##### Communication and Language

We are going to develop our communication and language skills through regular Circle Times. Watch out for mystery objects that might spark conversations as well as the occasional Discovery Bottle! And what might have left those footprints??

##### Physical Development

This half term we are going to focus on some simple gymnastics in our PE lessons. We will also have the opportunity to develop our gross motor skills in the outdoor environment. We are also looking to enhance our fine motor skills and our ability to use small tool with increasing effectiveness. And during Chinese New Year week we will be trying our hand at some Dragon dancing!

##### Literacy

Our main story this half term will be *The Queen's Hat*. This will lead us into a number of literacy opportunities. Story maps, speech bubbles, lost hat posters, writing about London landmarks, freeze frames and writing tea party invitations are all going to be happening. Daily phonics will also continue for all children.

##### Mathematics

Our mathematics this half term is very much based around number. We will be looking at addition and subtraction and number bonds up to 10. We will explore place value and introduce the class to the part-whole model!

##### Understanding the world

The nature of our topic lends itself to geography so we will be finding out about the landmarks of London. We will contrast London with our own environment and compare St.Paul's Cathedral to our local church. This will include a visit to our church. We will look at maps and use ICT to support us in finding out about the capital. We will also find out a little bit about The Queen herself. Whilst learning about The Chinese New Year we will also be looking at a different culture.

##### Expressive arts and design

We are going to start the half term with some wintry landscapes to focus us in on the signs of Winter. Then as the Queen has lost her hat we are going to have to design her a new one!

We will also be using a map of the London Underground as inspiration for our artwork as well as using the technique of line drawing to create pictures of London landmarks as seen in *The Queen's Hat*.

We will be using construction materials to build famous buildings.

Finally we will be holding a tea party in the Queen's honour and cooking our own party food during the last week.

#### PE Lessons

PE will continue on a Monday and Friday afternoon. Please ensure your child's full PE kit is in school every day and that all items are clearly named.

*Please could you also ensure that any earrings can be taken out or that tape is provided for your child.*



#### The Chinese New Year

As part of our mini-topic we hope to make a large-scale Chinese Dragon. We are going to need a number of cardboard boxes to do this and we would be grateful if any were to be donated by our parents and carers.

#### Other Information

##### Reading

The class teacher will endeavour to hear all children read on a one to one basis at least once a week. To help this to happen each child will be given a specific reading day. You will be informed of this day during the first week. Please ensure your child has their reading books on this day. Your child may read with other staff members or volunteers on different days so it is a good idea to always send their books with them.

##### Class Behaviour System

Our weather chart promotes positive work/behaviour and allows children to see the consequences of their actions. All children begin on the **Sunshine** every morning (pictures of their faces) and either move up for positive work/behaviour (onto the **Rainbow** and then **Pot of Gold**) or move down if they haven't followed the rules (**Cloudy**, **Rainy** and then **Thunder and Lightning**). Children will always be encouraged throughout the day to move themselves back up for positive work/behaviour.

##### Whole-School Reward Systems

'Ted' points are awarded daily to children in school for positive work/behaviour. Each time they reach 20 ted points, they receive a certificate in the Friday assembly (you will be notified about this and invited to attend in advance). The certificates include: Bronze 1, Bronze 2, Bronze 3, Silver 1, Silver 2, Silver 3 and then Gold. Children are also awarded with special teacher certificates for exceptional work/behaviour.

##### Resources

Before you throw anything out please think if we could use it in Acorn Class. We are always on the lookout for resources to enhance our provision. Dressing up clothes, junk modelling materials, blankets, cushions, tyres, wooden toys and books will be greatly appreciated. If you think we might be able to use it please bring it in!

Many thanks for your continued support.  
The Early Years Team