



Acorn Class

Meet the teacher/s - September 2025



- Welcome to Acorn Class
- 20 children: 11 boys, 9 girls
- Teaching assistants: Miss Smith, Mrs Bechnnati
- Teachers: Miss Baggaley (Monday – Thursday) & Mrs Weston (Friday). Tuesday afternoon Miss Rowe.



Beginning and end of the day

- Drop off between 8:45 and 9am
- Please drop children outside the classroom. Parents are not able to come inside the building.

This is not a time to talk to the teaching team as they are welcoming and settling children. Please pass a message to the staff on the playground (SLT in high viz), send a Dojo message, speak to the teacher at the end of the day or leave a message with the office.

- Collection is 3:20pm
- Please do not allow children of any age to play on playground equipment or go onto the field



What will we be learning?

- The key learning for all subjects each half term is shared in a topic web – see the class website page and Dojo (Autumn 1 on next slide)
- There will continue to be updates in the newsletter each week
- Every half term we will ensure children experience a visit, trip or special event to enhance their learning – keep an eye on emails for details

Me and My Amazing World

Literacy

Talking about their pictures
Writing their name
Hears and says the initial sound in words
Acting out familiar stories

Mathematics

Sing number rhymes
Count and move objects at the same time
Start counting from 1
Find the total number up to 3
Understand one more and one less
Create sets of objects e.g. by size, colour
Spot patterns in the environment
Match objects and pictures

Expressive Arts and Design

Painting a self portrait
Drawing a picture of their family
Singing songs and saying rhymes
Body sounds and rhythms
Begin to mix colours
Use a variety of media (chalks, felt tips, crayons)

Characteristics of Effective Learning

Exploring the classroom environment and resources
Looking around the school and meeting the staff
Asking questions about the classroom, school and staff
Trying out new activities

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Understanding of school behaviour
Share their thoughts with others
Share and take turns with resources
Know what makes me special and what is special about others
Can tidy up after an activity
I can change my shoes and boots
I know which adults can help me

Physical Development

Using writing tools to make marks
Using scissors to cut paper
Making models with playdough
Making shapes with my body
Using the climbing frame
Sit on a chair with two feet on the ground
Thread beads on a string
Use tweezers to pick up objects

Communication and Language

Listen to stories
Join in with nursery rhyme
Contribute to class discussions
Follow simple instructions
Talk about my family
Say words and clap the number of syllables

Understanding the World

Talk about who is in my family
Identify people in school who help me
Talk about celebrations that I have experienced (Birthdays, Bonfire night)
Identify what makes me special
Talk about what I can see and hear around me
Talk about the weather



English

Daily English:

- Consists of teacher input, shared text, practical activities, guided groups, group work, independent work, teacher or TA assisted work.
- 15 minute sessions of each, everyday:
Handwriting, guided reading, phonics/spelling
- Mixed and ability groupings
- Catch up sessions and interventions as needs arise



Reading & Phonics – Little Wandle



Phonics is:

making connections between the sounds
of our spoken words and the letters that
are used to write them down.



Little Wandle Website

- Programme overview
- Support for phonics
- How we teach
- Support for reading
- Grapheme print outs
- Capital Letter print out



Reading practice book

- **Reading practice book** matched to their phonics ability that they can read independently. This will come home on a **Friday** and will need to be back in school the following **Thursday**.
- **Fully decodable** – it will only contain taught GPCs (phonemes/sounds) and tricky words that they have learnt
- Reading book used for **practice reading sessions** timetabled three times a week in school. Delivered by Teacher or TA
- Each book is **read 3 times** in school: *decoding, prosody, comprehension*
- This book is then sent home to **'celebrate'** their reading
- Reading record book – Will be sent home next week. To record children's home reading. Staff will check these but not write in them. There are details of how to track your child's progress with reading though the book levels.



Reading for Pleasure

Alongside their reading practice book they will bring home a sharing reading book (a story book or non-fiction book)

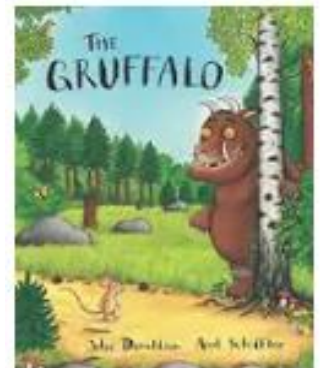
Please share this book with your child.

These can be changed as many times as needed from the class or school library. Children will be encouraged to make these book choices themselves with some adult support



**A love of reading is the biggest indicator
of future academic success.**

OECD (The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development)





Maths

- Every day

Consists of teacher input, practical activities, group work, independent work, teacher or TA assisted work.

- Mental Arithmetic/Recall and Times tables

15 minute sessions of both every day

- Mixed and ability groupings.

- Catch up sessions and interventions where needs arise



Weekly Timetable

Acorn Class	8.55 – 10.30				10.30-10.45	10.45 – 11.55		12.15-1pm	1.15 – 2.30		2.30 – 2.45	2.45-3.15
MON LB	Registration	Phonics	Wake n shake	Literacy & Group Reading	K	Maths & Group Reading		H	Topic (Foundation subject/s) & Group Reading		K	Whole School Assembly
TUES LB	Registration	Phonics	Wake n shake	Literacy & Group Reading	A	Maths & Group Reading		C	Library		A	Story Time
WED LB	Registration	Phonics	Wake n shake	Literacy & Group Reading	E	Maths & Group Reading		N	Topic (Foundation subject/s) & Group Reading		E	Story Time
THUR LB	Registration	Phonics	Wake n shake	Literacy & Group Reading	R	Maths & Group Reading		U	Topic (Foundation subject/s) & Group Reading		R	Story Time
FRI JW	Registration	Phonics	Wake n shake	Literacy & Group Reading	B	Maths & Group Reading		L	PE		B	Whole school assembly



Home learning

Reception

5 – 10 minutes per day

Reading to parents – books are sent home weekly

Numeracy e.g. counting (practical and recording) activities directed by the teacher

Early phonics reinforcement work as required

Topic work: Some examples of activities will be sent home at the beginning of each half term and children can choose any of these activities or come up with a similar project of their own.



P.E.

- PE is on **Friday**
- Children to come dressed in their kit
- Plain navy or black shorts and house colour t-shirts if warm
- Plain navy or black jogging bottoms and sweatshirt if cold – no hoodies
- Trainers – plain
- Long hair tied back, earrings, jewellery watches to be removed
- Email required if child is not able to do PE



Therapeutic approach to behaviour

Staff will promote positive and helpful behaviour

We will always try to understand what a child's behaviour might be communicating

We have a consistent approach to managing situations and responding to incidents, using the same language and techniques. We will use consistent scripts and routines and positive phrasing

We will focus on preventative strategies and de-escalating incidents, rather than reacting to them

We use a restorative approach - teachers and children will work together to rebuild relationships and repair any harm done and we aim to teach children to make the right choices and motivate them to behave positively – we want them to develop internal discipline

Meridian Consequences: See displayed in classroom. Clear and consistent consequences are set out for all levels of behaviour and are shared with children. We are no longer using the diamond approach.

Behaviours will have logical consequences, rather than just punishments

"This has happened, so obviously, this is the consequence".

There will always be some learning and a restorative conversation or task when there is a consequence.

Behaviour policy on website.



Awards

Dojo points:

- Children collect Dojo points for their house team and individually.
- Each term, the winning **house team** will get a non-uniform day
- **Individually**, children can experience a treat at different Dojo point milestones. Treats to be decided by the school council. For example 20 points means they can sit on a chair in assembly for a week, 80 points means they can have afternoon tea with a friend and teacher of their choice, 150 points means they can teach the class a lesson on any subject they want....
- **Class reward** as the class hits 500 points – voted on by the class



Awards

- School values Award for demonstrating the school values of:
Kindness, Respect, Community, Resilience and Curiosity
- Maths Whizz award
- Star Writer award

You are invited to celebrate during a Friday Celebration Assembly if your child is receiving any of the above awards

Other awards celebrated throughout the week:

Play Leader award for positive playground behaviour

Golden Table award for good manners and behaviour in the lunch hall



Communication

- We will always let you know if we have any worries or have any questions.
- A member of the senior leadership team is on the playground every morning and can pass on messages to your child's teacher. These messages can be urgent or non urgent. This facility is for any message.
- Messages can also be passed to breakfast club who pass it to your child's teacher.
- Emails (office@meridian.cambs.sch.uk) and phone – these are also for urgent and non urgent issues. Emails are forwarded to the appropriate person
- If you require a meeting or phone call with a teacher, please email the office to arrange
- Always check emails and Class Dojo – this is where we communicate everything
- Always read the newsletter for updates and dates for the diary



How can you help?

- Everything should be named
- Please ensure your child has a water bottle for use throughout the day in the classroom
- Please ensure your child is wearing the correct school uniform including school shoes (trainers are only for PE days)
- If your child brings a snack, please ensure it is only fruit or veg
- Outdoor learning – Coats & rain coats in school. Wellies for YR
- Support us to build children's resilience, independence and stamina.
- Ensure your child attends regularly – try to arrange routine appointments during school holidays and send them into school unless they are really poorly. Children are ok to be in school with light coughs and colds
- Support with home learning
- Keep an eye on channels of communication, especially emails, Dojo and newsletters
- Please do communicate any concerns or worries straight away so we can act on them