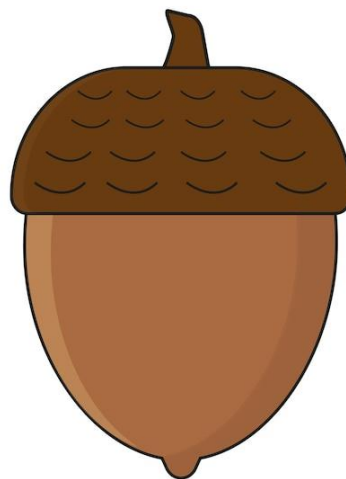




ACORN CLASS NEWS



Acorn Class Term 1 Newsletter

Welcome to Acorn Class

This letter outlines some of the main events for this half term, messages and reminders of weekly routines relevant to Acorn Class.

Finally, after a long summer of waiting, it is time to start school and Acorn Class have had an excellent start to the year already.

Each term you will receive a newsletters to let you know what we will be learning this term and to inform you of any important dates that may be coming up. Our main objective this term is to settle into school and enjoy getting to know each other.

Our Class

Class teacher: Mrs O'Donnell

Teaching Assistant: Mrs Balfour and
Mrs Crichton

Our School Day

Morning session 8.30am-11.45pm

Morning break 10.00am-10.15am

Afternoon session 12.50pm-3.15pm



Water Bottles

Please ensure your child has a bottle of water with them every day so they are able to have a drink whilst in the classroom. We will try to ensure all bottles are taken home at the end of the school day, however this is easier if we can see a name clearly.



Spare Clothes and wellies

Please bring in a bag of spare clothes for your child in case they need to change due to the weather or accidents.

Also, if you could provide your child with their own named pair of wellies that can be kept in school all year round so we can access our outdoor learning throughout the year.

PE and Outdoor Learning

Children should wear their PE kit into school on a Thursday for outdoor learning and PE. Please ensure all clothing is clearly named. Long hair should be tied back and all jewellery removed for PE lessons.

PE Clothes



Plimsolls/trainers

Black shorts/tracksuit bottoms/leggings

White t-shirt

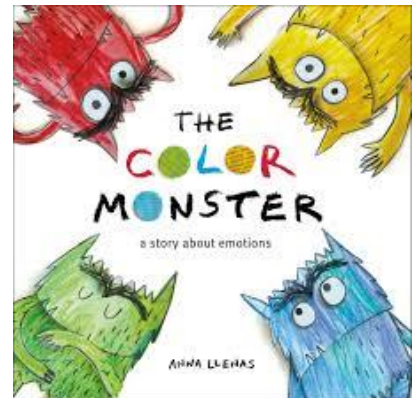
Black jumper/hoodie

For outdoor learning please ensure your child has a full length jumper/cardigan and trousers.

This term we will be learning:

This term we are focusing on settling the children into school. We will be reading lots of books about starting school and will be learning about our feelings and emotions.

For the first couple of weeks we will be exploring our theme 'Marvellous Me!' We will encourage the children to talk about their interests and their families. This will help us get to know the children. We will also be looking further into the book 'The Colour Monster', discussing our feelings and emotions and how we can deal with them. Towards the end of the term, we will be learning about Harvest and autumn. We will go on autumn walks, create autumnal artwork and learn our Harvest songs ready for the Harvest festival. We will be reading lots of books and poems about autumn time and seasonal changes.



Phonics: During Phonics this term the children will be learning individual letter sounds during our Read Write Inc. phonics sessions. We will be learning new sounds every day and we will be practising finding, saying and writing our sounds in lots of different ways.

We will bring books and our new sounds home with us to practise with you too.

Maths: After the first couple of weeks, we will begin to introduce the children to basic number, focusing on numbers to 5. We will be sorting and matching objects and numbers. The children will begin to compare objects and numbers. We will also be repeating simple patterns by making patterns with paint, resources around the

classroom, with the children and objects outside. Lastly, we will be singing, dancing and counting along to many different songs.

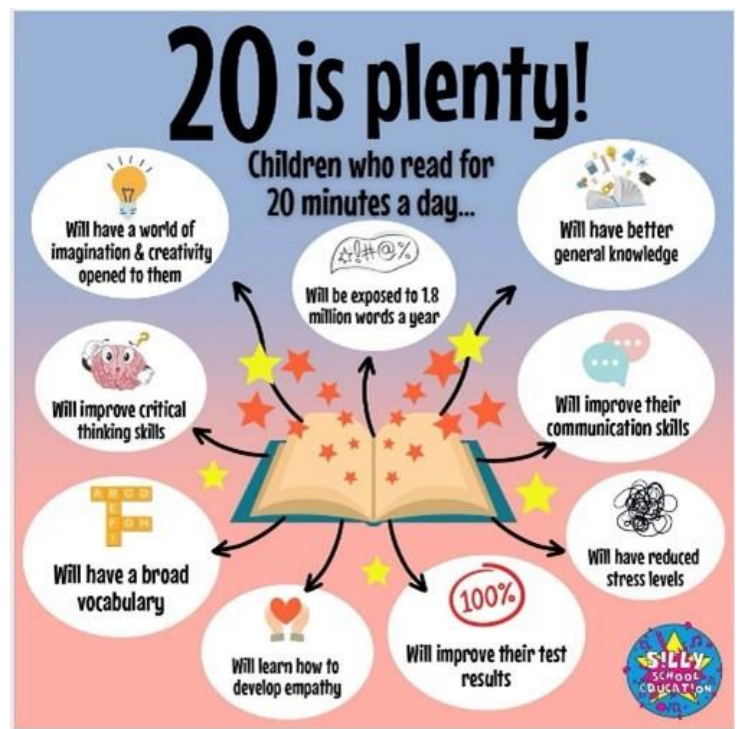
Jigsaw PSHE learning: We have weekly Jigsaw PSHE sessions. Our focus topic this term is 'Being Me in My World.' This children will have the opportunity to talk about themselves, their hobbies, friends and family. This allows us to get to know the children. We will also focus on being good friends and the expectations of school.

RE: Our Big Question focus this term is 'which people are special and why?' During this term, the children will share people that are special to them and explain why. We will talk about how we treat others and being good friends. We will be looking at people in the community that help us.

Music: Our music lessons this term focus on learning familiar nursery rhymes and introducing musical instruments. We will be learning nursery rhymes such as: Pat-a-cake, 1,2,3,4,5 and Five Little Ducks.

Daily reading at home:

Initially, whilst we are learning the Set 1 sounds, your child will come home with a sound sheet that we have learnt each day. Once we have learnt all of the sounds, we will begin to send home blending books for your child to practise reading. Read daily with your children and record daily reading in their yellow reading books. Also, by discussing the story, characters and encouraging children to make predictions will help their comprehension skills. Reading books will be changed on a **Monday** and a **Thursday** so we will need their reading packs in school.



High Frequency Words

The children will begin to take home a set of high frequency words to practise at home. Some of these red words, which means they cannot be sounded out phonetically, will need to be learnt as well. I find say-spell-say helps children to remember and I have encouraged children to learn different red words by repeating it again and again. For example "the, t... h... e... the"

1	am	is	at
2	in	a	it
3	on	I	up
4	cat	me	can
5	dog	we	dad
6	big	he	get
7	mum	the	and
8	yes	no	my
9	this	of	look
10	day	to	went
11	see	she	all
12	for	was	are
13	like	you	go
14	play	come	said
15	away	going	they

Over time, we want your child to be able to sight read these high frequency words, which means being able to recognise the words correctly without sounding them out. Once your child is confident with these words they will then receive a new set of words to learn as well as recapping their previous set.

Weekly Homework

Phonics: To begin with, we will be asking your child to go on a word hunt at home. Each week, we will send home a sound to focus on, for example "m" Your child would then walk around their home,

looking for an object beginning with "m" they might say words like; microwave, magnet, mum, mirror, mug, mop etc. If you then write the words on a piece of paper and try to encourage them to draw a picture.

Name Writing: It would be helpful if your child could practise writing their name at home. We will send home name tracing sheets that you can use. Please encourage your child to trace their name, copy their name and try to challenge them to write it independently, without copying! When writing at home, please support your child with holding their pencil correctly (also known as the tripod grip) with their dominant hand.



Maths at Home: Each week there will be an outline of what we have been focusing on in Maths in your sound book so you are aware of our learning each week and could link to this at home.

Basic Skills: Continue to teach your children basic skills such as independently toileting, putting on their shoes, jumpers and coats (including practising zips!)



Each week, when your child completes homework and hands it in, we will be colouring a square on the homework chart. Once your child has completed ten pieces, they will receive a prize.

Photograph

In Acorn Class we have a role play area which is currently designed into a mini kitchen/home area. Acorn class enjoy spending time in here and love pottering around; cooking, cleaning and relaxing at "home." To make this area more homely we thought it would be nice to design a display board of photographs from home. Please bring in a photo your child would like to share with their friends. It could be of them, your family, a pet or something special to them which they will enjoy seeing on display.

Key Dates and Events this Term

Harcourt Primary School

Draft Dates - Autumn Term 1 2025/26

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
Monday 1st September	Staff Training Day
Tuesday 2nd September	Staff Training Day
Wednesday 4th September	First Day of Term (Yr 1 to Yr 6)
Monday 8th September	Reception Full Time
Thursday 11th September	Kent Test
Friday 19 th September	Non-uniform day for Cancer Research
Tuesday 7 th October	Phonics workshop for parents at 9am or 2pm
Wednesday 8 th October	SEND Parent Coffee Afternoon
Thursday 9th October	Flu immunisations
Thursday 9th October	Wear yellow for Young Minds
Friday 10 th October	Harvest Festival
Tuesday 14 th October	School Photographer
Tuesday 14 th October	Parent Consultation
Thursday 16th October	Parent Consultation
Friday 17th October	Last Day of Term One

Any important messages will be sent home with your child via letter, posted on our Harcourt Primary School Facebook page and/or sent to you via Parentmail.

If you do need to contact the Acorn Class Staff then please use the email address:
acorns@harcourt.kent.sch.uk

We are really looking forward to all this first half term has to offer!

Mrs O'Donnell

Class teacher