Welcome ACORNS

CLASS TEACHER: MISS THOMPSON
TEACHING ASSISTANT: MISS CRICHTON

HELLO AND WELCOME!

We have had a fantastic start to the new school year! The children have settled beautifully into their new routines, and it has been wonderful getting to know each and every one of them. We are so proud of how well they have embraced their first few days at school.

Each term, you will receive a newsletter containing key information and important updates, along with an overview of the exciting learning and experiences the children have been enjoying in class.

PLEASE NOTE ANYTHING WITH A ⭐ IS AN ACTION

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.

OUR SCHOOL DAY

Arrival: 8.30am-8:50am
Morning break: 10.00am-10.15am
Lunch: 11:45-12:45
Afternoon session 12.45pm-3.10pm

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.

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 or trainers
-Black shorts/tracksuit bottoms/leggings
-White t-shirt
-Black jumper or hoodie for outdoor learning please ensure your child has a full length jumper/cardigan and trousers.

KEY DATES THIS TERM

Thursday 3rd September 2026	Children back to school (Years 1-6)
Monday 7th September 2026	EYFS children in half days
Wednesday 9th September 2026	EYFS children in full time
Thursday 10th September 2026	Kent Test Year 6 children
Tuesday 15th September 2026 3.15-3.45pm	Meet the Teacher in classrooms
Monday 28th September 2026 9am	Phonics workshop to parents
Friday 9th October 2026	Wear something yellow for Young Minds
Friday 9th October 2026	Flu immunisations
Tuesday 13th October 2026	School Photographer
Friday 16th October 2026	Re-start a heart - bring a teddy to school
Friday 16th October 2026 2.30pm	Harvest Festival
Tuesday 20th October 2026 3.30-6pm	Parent Consultations
Thursday 22nd October 2026 3.30-6.30pm	Parent Consultations
Friday 23rd October 2026	Last Day of Term

THIS TERM WE ARE LEARNING..

Our first topic of Term 1 is 'Marvellous Me!' We will encourage the children to talk about themselves and what makes them special and unique. Alongside this, we will explore The Colour Monster and other stories to help the children identify their feelings and learn how to manage their emotions.

As we head into Autumn, the children will use their observational skills to notice and discuss seasonal changes in the environment around them. We will create autumnal artwork, enjoy stories about autumn and even make vegetable soup! The children will also learn and practice their Harvest song ready for the Harvest Festival.

PHONICS

During Phonics this term, the children will begin learning individual letter sounds through our Read Write Inc. sessions. We will learn a new sound each day and practice finding, saying and writing our sounds in lots of different ways.

As the children begin learning their first sounds, we will send home a sound to focus on, along with a handwriting practice sheet to have a go at. For example, if the sound is 'm', your child could explore their home to find things beginning with 'm', such as microwave, magnet, mum, mirror, mug or mop.
When practicing at home, please support your child to hold their pencil correctly using a tripod grip and encourage careful letter formation.

MATHS

Our Maths learning this term will focus on developing the children's counting skills beyond 5, using a range of practical objects and resources. The children will also begin exploring number bonds to 5 and develop their subitising skills, recognising quantities up to 5 without needing to count.
We will explore these skills through lots of practical games, activities and songs. The children will also have plenty of opportunities to practice and consolidate their learning independently during Discovery Time.

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.

RE

Our Big Question this term is 'Which people are special and why?' The children will talk about people who are special to them and explore what makes someone special. We will discuss friendship and kindness, learn about people who help us in our community, and explore these ideas through stories.

NAME WRITING

To help develop the children's fine motor and early writing skills, we will send home name tracing sheets to practice. Please encourage your child to trace, copy and, when ready, have a go at writing their name independently. When practicing, please support your child to hold their pencil correctly using a tripod grip with their dominant hand.



PSHE

During our weekly Jigsaw PSHE sessions, our focus will be 'Being Me in My World.' The children will share their interests, hobbies, friends and families, helping us to get to know them as individuals. We will also explore what it means to be a good friend and learn about our school routines and expectations.

PHOTOGRAPH

As part of our PSHE topic, we thought it would be lovely for the children to bring in photos of their families, interests, hobbies or pets. We will display these in our Home Corner to help create a familiar and 'homely' feel for the children.

READING AT HOME

While the children are learning their Set 1 sounds, they will bring home a wordless picture book. Enjoy looking through the book together and encourage your child to talk about what they can see and tell you what they think is happening. As their phonics develops, they will begin bringing home books with words to read.

Please try to read together every day and make a note in your child's reading record to let us know how they are getting on. These books will be changed on Mondays and Thursday

Each week, your child will also bring home a story book to enjoy together. While reading, have a chat about the story. What might happen next? How might the character be feeling? What was their favourite part? These little conversations are a great way to help develop your child's understanding and enjoyment of stories. These books will be changed every Monday.

HIGH FREQUENCY WORDS

The children will begin bringing home a set of high frequency words to practice. Some will be 'red words', which cannot be sounded out and need to be learnt by sight.

The aim is for children to recognise these words confidently without sounding them out. Once they are secure with a set, they will receive new words to learn while continuing to recap previous ones.

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

SHOW AND TELL

We would absolutely love for the children to share any special items, exciting news or events with the class. These can be brought into school for our Show and Tell on Fridays, or photos can be sent via the class email for your child to share with everyone.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

A little note to end...
Little hands and curious minds,
So many new adventures to find.
We'll learn, explore, laugh and play,
Growing a little more each day.
Here's to a wonderful first term together,
filled with happy memories along the way!