

Principal's Newsletter

September 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

A huge welcome back to everyone in our entire school community. I hope that you had the opportunity to enjoy your Summer break.

School may have been closed to pupils over the Summer months, but many teachers and staff have been in Acorn working on a number of projects to ensure our school is looking wonderful for the pupils on their return. I would like to take this opportunity to say a massive thank you to Mrs Davis who led our Big Paint Project. Our initial aim was to paint one classroom and thanks to the dedication of Mrs Davis and her team of painters, half the school has now been freshly painted. Thank you, Parents and Carers, for all your generous donations that helped raise the funds so our paint project could go ahead. All the pupils agreed that the end results look fantastic.

Mrs Middleton and her husband Mark also made an appearance during the summer. Mark is the owner of Landscape and Garden Solutions LTD. Mark, and his team renovated our P3 Outdoor Classroom. The children now have a beautiful, grassed area to play in!

There is, however, one person who I don't think left Acorn all Summer and that is our very own Mrs. Dawn Davidson. Thank you, Mrs. Davidson, for moving all the furniture around for the painters, for cleaning and tidying and polishing the floors. Thank you to Arleen and Sylvia who joined your cleaning team. It was lovely to return to school and see all the shiny surfaces!

I wish you all a wonderful start to the new school term. September can be both an exciting and busy time. Please take time to read any communication that comes from school. As always, if you have any questions/queries please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind Regards,

Jennifer Fuller

Dates for your Diary

Key Events in September

07.09.23	Swimming lessons begin for P5
04.09.23	After School Clubs begin
12.09.23	P1-P4 Curriculum Meeting
12.09.23	P3 Library visit
12.09.23	First Parent Council Meeting of year all welcome-7pm
13.09.23	Fr. Tom Layden will make his first visit of the year
19.09.23	P3 Library visit
22.09.23	Coffee and Chat afternoon for P1 and Nursery parents
26.09.23	P5-P7 Curriculum Meeting
29.09.23	School Closed Staff Development Day

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Principal

Mrs. J. Fuller

Vice Principal, Head of Key Stage 2 and Assessment Co-ordinator

Mrs C. Hamilton

Head of Foundation & Key Stage 1 and Deputy Designated Teacher

Mrs S. McIlmail

I'M WORRIED ABOUT A CHILD IN SCHOOL.



If you are concerned about the welfare of a pupil in school, please speak with Mrs Rolloos (Designated Teacher for Child Protection and Pastoral Lead).

Breakfast Club

We are delighted to announce that Breakfast Club is now a permanent feature in Acorn. The club will cost £2 per day. Children will be provided with cereal, pancakes, toast, and juice. To book into Breakfast Club please use our School Money App. If possible, please book in advance so that Breakfast Club leaders know which children will be attending.



After School Clubs

After School Clubs will begin on the 4th of September. This year several exciting clubs have been added to our timetable. New clubs include: Max Coding, Little Lego Engineers, African Drumming and Choir. We hope to provide something that will be of interest to all our pupils. Please use our School Money App to book into a club. Some clubs are booked directly with the provider. This information has been sent to all parents via School email on **Friday 25th August**. If you have any questions regarding clubs, please phone the School Office for assistance.



School Uniform Reminder

It is wonderful to see our pupils returning to school wearing correct school uniform items. We believe our uniform gives the children a sense of identity and encourages them to take a pride in their appearance and in school. Please see the images below as a reminder of what should be worn. Children are allowed to wear school PE uniform on PE days. We fully understand that purchasing uniform can be financially difficult. Please reach out to us at school if this is the case and we will help in any way we can.



Parking In School

Our children's safety is our priority. I would like to remind Parents/Carers not to park on the school roundabout. **This is a set down area only.** If you have a Blue Badge or Acorn Parking Pass, **please park in the carpark** to the left of the roundabout. Thank you to all those who use the **"Park and Stride"** facilities at Downshire Church. This facility helps reduce the amount of traffic around school at pick up times.



Acorn's Playgroup

Places are now available in playgroup. You can book a slot using our online enrolment system. Please look out for our flyer which contains a QR code that takes you to a booking form. Booking forms can also be collected from our School Reception.



Mr Robert Annett

We would like to say a huge thank you to Robert Annett, a parent of a P2 pupil. Robert owns a company called Roofresh and he kindly volunteered his time and resources to clean and clear the guttering around school. He also power washed the outdoor play area behind our nursery mobile. The entire school community is very grateful for his hard work. Our school is an expensive building to run, and all help is greatly appreciated. Our gutters and fascias have never looked so clean! Thank you, Robert!



Parent Council

The first Parent Council meeting of the year will take place on **Tuesday the 12th of September at 7pm**. New members are always welcome. Being part of Parent Council is a great way to get to know new people and help to support our school community. Please come along and show your support. You do not have to commit to attend every meeting or event. This year Parent Council are focusing on raising money to improve our Outdoor Classrooms and play equipment. We look forward to seeing you there! We always have time for tea/coffee and a general catch up at every meeting.



Term Dates 2023-24

Term Dates	
August	Thurs 24 th – P2 – P7 return (half day) Fri 25 th – P2 – P7 return (half day) Mon 28 th – School Closed (Public Holiday) Tues 29 th – P2 – P7 return to school full days. Individual times and dates will be sent to P1 and Nursery parents to inform them of their child's first day of school.
September	Fri 29 th – School Development Day (School Closed)
October	Mon 30 th & Tues 31 st – School Closed (Half Term)
November	Wed 1 st , Thurs 2 nd , Fri 3 rd – School Closed (Half Term)
December	Thurs 21 st – School closes 12noon for all pupils. Mon 25 th – Fri 29 th – School Closed (Christmas Holidays)
January	Mon 1 st – Wed 3 rd – School Closed (Christmas Holidays) Thurs 4 th – Pupils return to school. Fri 26 th – School Development Day (School Closed)
February	Mon 12 th – Fri 16 th – School Closed (Half Term)
March	Mon 18 th – School closed (Bank Holiday) Fri 22 nd - School closes 12noon for all pupils. Mon 25 th – Fri 29 th – School Closed (Easter Holidays)
April	Mon 1 st – Fri 5 th – School Closed (Easter Holidays)
May	Mon 6 th – School Closed (Bank Holiday) Tues 7 th - School Development Day (School Closed) Mon 27 th – School Closed (Bank Holiday) Tues 28 th - School Development Day (School Closed)
June	Fri 28 th – School closes 12 noon for Summer Holidays



Reminders:

- School gates open at 8:45am and will close at 9:00am
- Make sure you sign up to Seesaw as soon as your child brings home their QR code
- Please note the dates of the upcoming Curriculum Meetings. These meetings help you to support you child throughout the year
- Please ensure the school is informed of any changes to your contact details. Data Collection Sheets will be sent home this week for you to update and return if changes have occurred.