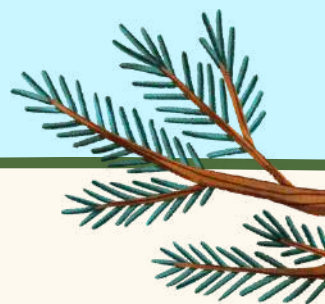




UNDER THE OAK TREE

acorn half termly newsletter
back beneath the oak edition

MESSAGE FROM LORNA



Welcome back to all our Acorn families, and a particularly warm welcome to all of the children and families who have joined us for the first time this September. September always feels like an exciting time at Acorn as we welcome new children, see familiar faces return and watch our children take their next steps in their learning and development. There is always a real sense of new beginnings, and we are looking forward to another year filled with curiosity, exploration, friendship and lots of wonderful learning opportunities.

Here's to a wonderful September and a fantastic year ahead!

Warm regards,

Lorna

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Parents Evenings

Term one - 16th-27th November 2026

Term two - 15th-25th March 2027 (If missed November)

Term three - 14th-25th June 2027

School transition parents evenings

Autumn Term - Wednesday 30th September 2026

Spring Term - Wednesday 21st April 2027

Malcolm Sargent's Open Evening

Wednesday 11th November

Stay and plays

Christmas - Friday 11th December 2026

Bring your grown up stay and play - Friday 5th March 2027

Bring your grown up stay and play - Friday 18th June 2027

Photographer visits

Winter - Friday 13th November

Summer (inc. Graduation) - Mid June TBC

Preschool Graduation

Saturday 26th June



LITTLE ACORNS



Hello everyone! 🖐️💚

I'm Emily, the Room Lead here at Little Acorns, and I'm so excited to introduce myself and be part of your little ones' journey with us!

One thing you'll quickly learn about me is that I LOVE messy play! 😂 Give me some paint, water, foam, sand or anything squishy and I'm happy! There's nothing better than seeing little faces light up as they explore something new.

For our babies, messy and sensory play isn't just about having fun (although we definitely have lots of that! 😊). It's a fantastic way to support their development too. By touching, squeezing, splashing, feeling different textures and experimenting with materials, babies are using their senses, developing their motor skills, building hand-eye coordination and beginning to understand cause and effect.

It's also a lovely opportunity to encourage communication, curiosity, confidence and independence as they explore the world around them at their own pace. 💕 Every little splash, squish and messy hand is part of their learning!

So, my biggest piece of advice would be... PLEASE keep those spare clothes coming! 😂 You never know when we'll be getting stuck into our next messy adventure!

I'm so lucky to be working alongside our lovely team — Emi, Flo, Christine, Chloe, Holly, Katie and Olivia — and together we're looking forward to giving your little ones lots of opportunities to play, explore, learn, grow and make some very happy memories. 🌈🌱

Here's to a year full of giggles, discoveries, messy hands and lots of learning through play! 💚





TINY ACORNS



🌱 Welcome to Tiny Acorns! 🌱

I'm Sara, and I'm delighted to be your new Room Lead. This is my third year at Acorn Childcare, and caring for our youngest children is something I'm truly passionate about. I hold my Level 3 NVQ in Childcare, as well as Level 2 qualifications in Understanding Autism and SEND.

I'm pleased to be working alongside Hydie and Chloe. Together, we are committed to creating a warm, nurturing and welcoming environment where every child feels safe, secure, valued and confident to explore. 🌱

We understand that starting or settling into childcare is a big step for both children and parents. We will take the time to get to know your child, their routines, interests, personality and individual needs, helping them feel comfortable and supported from the very beginning.

Our days are filled with play, discovery and meaningful learning experiences. 🎨👐 We enjoy exploring textures through messy play, getting creative with crafts, baking, singing, dancing, sharing stories and discovering the world around us through sensory experiences. Every activity is planned with your child's development, interests and stage in mind.

We know that every child develops at their own pace, and we will never compare one child with another. Instead, we will celebrate each child's unique progress and provide gentle encouragement as they build confidence, develop new skills and become more independent.

Learning can be seen in many different ways: a smile, a new sound, reaching for a toy, joining in with a song, trying something for the first time, taking a wobbly step or seeking comfort from a familiar adult. These small moments are important milestones, and we will celebrate them with you. ❤️

We are so excited to get to know your family and to support your child as they grow, learn, explore and flourish. 🌱❤️

Here's to happy beginnings, exciting discoveries and many wonderful memories together! 🥰



SUPER SEEDLINGS

Hi, I'm Marie, room lead in Super Seedlings! 🌱

A very warm welcome to all our new children and to those who are continuing their journey with us in Super Seedlings.

Julia and I have stayed in the room, which has helped provide consistency and reassurance for the children. We have also welcomed Vicky and Kerry, who already know the children who have moved up to Super Seedlings. This has really supported the children with their transition into the room and helped them to feel settled and confident.

We are also delighted to welcome Evie to the team. Evie has recently completed her Level 3 at college. She has been working at the school and has also spent time working in the nursery over the holidays, so we are very pleased to have her join us in Super Seedlings.

As the children begin their time in Super Seedlings, we start to encourage and support their independence in lots of different ways. This includes helping them to pour their own drinks, hang up their coats and take responsibility for their belongings. These are important skills that will help prepare them for their next step into pre-school.

Our days are filled with lots of free play, singing and opportunities to explore and learn. We also enjoy our small-group time with our key person, where we can focus on each child's individual learning and development.

We love seeing photographs of what you have been doing at the weekend. The children really enjoy bringing in their photos and sharing their experiences with their friends. It is a lovely way for them to talk about what they have been doing and helps us to build on their interests within the setting.

We also have a Special Helper each day! The children love taking on this important role and get to help with special jobs such as ringing the bell, choosing a story and helping with other little responsibilities throughout the day.

All of the children love being our Special Helper, and it is a wonderful way to encourage confidence, independence and a sense of responsibility.

We are looking forward to a happy, exciting and fun-filled time together in Super Seedlings! 🌱



MINI SEEDS



 Welcome to Mini Seeds!

A very warm welcome to Mini Seeds! My name is Charlotte, and I have been working at Acorn for over 12 years. I am so excited to welcome you and your little ones into our new room!

I will be working alongside Katie, who is currently working towards her Level 3 qualification. We are both incredibly excited to begin this new year with you all and look forward to making lots of wonderful memories together. We can't wait to have fun, explore, engage in new experiences and learn lots of new things along the way!

As the children spend time with us, we encourage them to develop their independence and confidence as they grow. This might be through simple everyday tasks, such as helping to tidy away after mealtimes or getting their sleep mats ready for nap time. These little moments are a great way for the children to feel involved and proud of what they can achieve.

Our days are filled with plenty of free play and opportunities to explore, alongside structure and familiar routines. We find that having a consistent routine helps the children understand what is happening now and next, supporting them to feel secure, confident and settled throughout their day.

We also love hearing about the children's current interests and experiences at home. Please feel free to share photos and updates on Tapestry, whether it's from a family holiday, a fun weekend or something your child has been enjoying at home. These experiences give us wonderful opportunities to build on their interests within the room, while encouraging their communication and language skills as they talk about their home life.

We are so excited for the year ahead and all the adventures it will bring! We can't wait to watch each and every one of your little ones shine, grow and progress as we explore, learn and develop together.

Here's to a fantastic year in Mini Seeds!  





MIGHTY OAKS



🌳 Welcome to Mighty Oaks! 🌳

Hello Mighty Oaks families!

I'm Chloe, your Mighty Oaks Room Lead, alongside our wonderful team, Dakota, Millie and Grace. We are so excited to get to know your children, support them through their time with us and help them blossom, grow and become confident, curious and independent little learners.

We absolutely love getting messy in Mighty Oaks! From slime and playdough to water, sand, gloop and everything in between, we believe some of the best learning happens when little hands are busy exploring. Messy play encourages children to investigate, experiment and use their senses, whilst developing their fine motor skills, coordination, language, problem-solving and creativity. It also gives children the freedom to make choices, follow their own ideas and learn through doing — even if it does mean very messy hands!

We love watching our children's imaginations come to life through play. Our continuous provision gives them lots of opportunities to create their own stories, explore different roles, build, design and bring their wonderful ideas to life. We follow their interests and use these moments to introduce new experiences, vocabulary and challenges, helping their curiosity and imagination thrive.

As the year goes on, we will also be encouraging our children to become increasingly independent and confident. From looking after their belongings and managing their own coats and shoes, to making choices, solving little problems and having a go for themselves, these everyday experiences help build the confidence and resilience they need for their next steps and school readiness.

Most importantly, we want Mighty Oaks to be a place where every child feels happy, safe, valued and excited to learn. We can't wait for all the adventures, discoveries, laughter, messy play and special moments we will share together. Here's to a wonderful year of learning, exploring, creating, growing and having lots of fun along the way! ❤️🌳



GREAT OAKS



Welcome to Great Oaks! My name is Amy, and I am the Room Lead. I work alongside Emily, Jasmyrn and Ellen, and together we strive to provide the very best care, support and learning experiences for your children. We are passionate about creating a warm, nurturing environment where every child feels safe, valued and encouraged to be themselves.

In Great Oaks, we love a great tuff tray setup! Tuff trays provide children with exciting, hands-on opportunities to explore, investigate and learn through play. They allow children to use their imagination, develop their curiosity and build confidence as they explore different textures, materials and experiences.

Our tuff tray activities support many areas of the EYFS, including Communication and Language, as children talk about what they are doing, share ideas and learn new vocabulary. They also support Physical Development as children scoop, pour, mix, manipulate and handle different resources. Through imaginative and creative play, children can develop their Expressive Arts and Design, while exploring and investigating helps to build their Understanding the World.

Most importantly, we believe that children learn best when they are having fun! We will provide opportunities for the children to make choices, follow their own interests and develop their Characteristics of Effective Teaching and Learning through playing and exploring, active learning, and creating and thinking critically.

We are so excited to build amazing bonds with the children and their families, getting to know each child as an individual and supporting their unique interests, needs and development. We also look forward to continuing to strengthen the relationships we already have with our existing children and carers.

As autumn arrives, we are especially excited to head out on autumnal walks! 🍁🍂 We will explore our surroundings, look for interesting natural treasures such as leaves, conkers, sticks and acorns, and bring some of our findings back into the classroom to investigate and use in our play and activities. These experiences will support the children's understanding of the world around them, encourage their curiosity and provide lots of opportunities for conversation, discovery and learning. We can't wait for all the wonderful memories, adventures and learning opportunities ahead in Great Oaks! 💛🌳



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PANCO

physical activity and nutritional co-ordinator

Hi, my name is Sally, and I am the PANCO (Physical Activity and Nutrition Coordinator) here at Acorn Childcare Centre.

I am passionate about helping children develop a positive relationship with physical activity, movement and healthy lifestyles from an early age. I believe that being active should be fun, exciting and something that children naturally enjoy, rather than something that feels like a chore. The Early Years are such an important time for developing healthy habits, and I love creating opportunities for children to move, explore and build confidence through physical play.

Alongside my role at Acorn, I also deliver Funergy sessions with preschool children at school. Funergy focuses on movement, physical activity and developing children's confidence through fun and engaging activities. I particularly enjoy seeing how children become more confident in their physical abilities, try new things and discover what their bodies can do.

As PANCO, I also have a keen interest in supporting children's nutrition and helping them to understand the importance of making healthy choices. I believe that introducing children to a wide variety of foods, encouraging positive mealtimes and giving them opportunities to learn about healthy lifestyles can help build positive habits that stay with them as they grow.

I am passionate about making sure that physical activity is accessible and enjoyable for every child, whatever their individual abilities or starting point. Whether it is running, climbing, dancing, balancing, exploring outdoors or simply joining in with a fun movement game, there are so many ways for children to be active and develop their physical skills.

I love seeing the joy that movement can bring to children and feel very lucky to be able to support them in developing confidence, resilience and a lifelong love of being active. Through my role, I hope to inspire children to get moving, try new things and understand that looking after our bodies can be fun!



SEND CORNER

special educational needs and
disabilities



Hi, my name is Sarah, and I am the Lead SENCO (Special Educational Needs Coordinator) here at Acorn Childcare Centre.

I have over 15 years of experience working within the Early Years sector and have always had a strong passion for supporting children throughout their individual educational journeys. I believe that every child is unique, with their own strengths, interests and ways of learning, and I am committed to ensuring that every child feels valued, understood, included and supported to reach their full potential.

Building positive, trusting relationships is at the heart of my role. I love getting to know not only the children I support, but also their families and the wider professionals involved in their journey. I understand that every child and family is different, and that accessing support can sometimes feel overwhelming. I aim to provide families with a friendly, approachable person they can talk to, while working alongside them to understand their child's individual needs and identify the right support.

I am passionate about creating an inclusive environment where every child can learn, develop and thrive in a way that is right for them. By working together, sharing knowledge and maintaining open communication, we can create a strong network of support around each child and celebrate their progress, achievements and individuality every step of the way.

Hi, my name is Emily, and I am the Deputy SENCO here at Acorn Childcare Centre, as well as the Room Leader for Little Acorns.

SEND is something that is particularly close to my heart due to my own personal experiences. I have a son and a niece who are autistic, as well as a close friend with autism, which has allowed me to see first-hand the different experiences, challenges and triumphs that can come with navigating life with additional needs.

Through these personal experiences, I have seen how important it is for children and their families to feel understood, listened to and supported. I understand that it can sometimes be difficult to know where to turn, what support is available or how best to help a child who may be struggling. I have also seen the incredible progress and achievements that can happen when a child is given the right support, understanding and opportunities to flourish.

These experiences have helped shape my passion for SEND and have encouraged me to develop my knowledge and understanding so that I can support other children and families within our setting. I believe that every child has their own individual strengths, abilities and way of learning, and I am passionate about helping children to feel confident, included and celebrated for who they are.

As Deputy SENCO, I am committed to working closely with Sarah, our wider Acorn team, families and other professionals to ensure that every child receives the support they need. I want families to feel that they have someone approachable who will listen without judgement, work alongside them and celebrate both the small steps and the big achievements along the way.



ELKLAN

speech and language



NURSERY RHYME (SONG)



You are my sunshine
My only sunshine.
You make me happy.
When skies are gray
you'll never know, dear, how
much I love you please don't
take My sunshine away

ELKLAN UPDATE

Hello from Maria - Speech and Language Coordinator & Elklan Lead

Hi, I'm Maria, the Speech and Language Coordinator and Elklan Lead at Acorn Childcare Centre.

I'm passionate about supporting children's speech, language and communication development and helping every child find their own voice. I'm proud that our nursery is a Communication Friendly Setting, where communication is at the heart of everything we do – through play, stories, everyday routines and conversations.

I work closely with our practitioners to create a communication-friendly environment and support children with their individual communication needs.

I'll be sharing some simple ideas, tips and activities on Tapestry to help you support your child's speech, language and communication at home too.

If you ever have any questions or concerns about your child's speech, language or communication, please feel free to contact me via Tapestry or email me at: maria.nowak-swatowska@acornchildcarecentre.co.uk

I'm always happy to help!

 Visit Our Book Nook

We would like to invite you to our Book Nook in the Reception Hall! 

Families are welcome to choose a book to borrow and enjoy together at home. Sharing books is a lovely way to support your child's language, vocabulary and love of stories. 

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE TIP

Comment More, Question Less

Children learn lots of language through hearing adults talk about what they are doing, rather than being asked lots of questions.

Try to comment on what your child is doing and add a few words to what they say.

For example, if your child is playing with a car, you could say:

"Wow, your car is going fast!"

If they say, "Red car," you could expand this to:

"Yes, a big red car!"

This helps children hear new words and sentences in a natural and enjoyable way.

Remember: follow their lead, comment and add language!





HEALTHY RECIPE

sweet potato mini pizzas

INGREDIENTS

- 3 small sweet potatoes
- 10 heaped tbsp of plain flour (the amount will vary depending on the size of your sweet potatoes)
- Tomato puree
- Dried oregano
- Grated cheese
- Toppings of choice

DIRECTIONS



- Peel, chop and boil your sweet potatoes.
- Preheat your oven to 180°C and line a baking tray.
- Mash your sweet potatoes and gradually add in your flour until a dough is formed. You don't want your dough to be sticky as you're going to roll it out. So keep adding as much flour as needed, little by little.
- Once your dough has come together, add a little flour to your work surface and rolling pin and gently roll out the dough to your desired thickness.
- Using a glass or cookie cutter, cut out circles.
- Spread a little tomato puree onto each pizza base and top with your dried oregano.
- Sprinkle over your grated cheese and add your toppings.
- Bake for 15 minutes.



DON'T FORGET TO SHARE PHOTOS ON TAPESTRY IF YOU MAKE THIS RECIPE!



PARENT PARTNERSHIP

updates and important information

Nursery News: Keeping Our Little Ones Safe and Comfortable

As the seasons change, we want to remind families of a few important things to help keep children safe, comfortable, and happy while they're with us:

Weather-Appropriate Clothing: Please make sure your child comes in with clothing suited to the weather. Coats, hats, gloves, and waterproofs help us enjoy outdoor play in all conditions.

Spare Clothes: Each child should have a bag with a few spare clothes inside. Please update these with seasonal items (e.g., warmer layers in the colder months, lighter clothing in summer).

Labelling Clothing: With so many children and lots of similar items, it's very easy for coats, jumpers, and hats to get mixed up. Please label all items clearly with your child's name—this helps us keep belongings safe and ensures nothing goes home with the wrong child.

Extra Clean Clothes & Allergies: We ask that children have plenty of clean spare clothes in their bag. This is especially important for avoiding cross-contamination. For example, if a child spills milk, having a full change of clean clothes ensures the safety of children with severe allergies.

Allergy Awareness - What Not to Bring: To keep all children safe, please do not bring in nuts in any form (whole, chopped, spreads, etc.), pesto (often contains nuts) or chocolate (can contain traces of nuts)

Your support helps us keep the nursery a safe, inclusive, and happy environment for everyone.
Thank you for working with us to care for all of our little ones

Tapestry Memos

We use Memos on Tapestry to share important information, reminders and updates with families. This will help us keep your child's Learning Journal focused on their learning and development, without filling it with general communications.

Please make sure you regularly check your Tapestry Memos so that you don't miss any important information, updates or reminders from the Acorn team.

Thank you for your continued support! ❤️

OUR TEAM

SLT



Donna
Deputy manager & DSL



Lorna
Centre manager



Sarah B
Deputy manager &
SENDco



Sally
0-2yr lead
& Panco



Sarah K
H&S AND OOSC
manager



Martha
Office manager



OUR TEAM MIGHTY OAKS



Chloe
Room lead



Dakota



Millie



Grace



OUR TEAM GREAT OAKS



Amy
Room lead



Jasmyn



Ellen



Emily



OUR TEAM MINI SEEDS



Char
Room lead



Katie



OUR TEAM SUPER SEEDS



Marie
Room lead



Julija



Kerri



Vicky



Evie



OUR TEAM TINY ACORNS



Sara
Room lead



Hydie



Chloe



OUR TEAM LITTLE ACORNS



Holly



Emily
Room lead



Christine



Katie



Chloe



Emi



Olivia



Flo



THE REST OF OUR TEAM



Lara - Housekeeper



Jamie -
Administrator



Sophie - OOSC



Ellie R -
OOSC Lead



Maria -Speech &
Language

