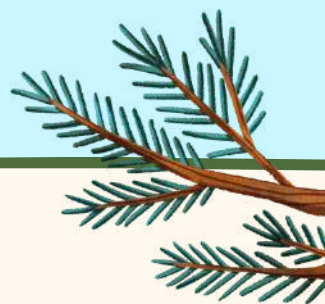




UNDER THE OAK TREE

acorn half termly newsletter

JULY SUMMER CELEBRATIONS EDITION

MESSAGE FROM LORNA

Welcome to our end-of-term newsletter!

As another wonderful term comes to a close, I would like to thank all of our children, families, and staff for making it such a fantastic one. It has been a joy to watch our children grow, learn, and create so many happy memories.

A special goodbye goes to our preschool children as they begin their exciting journey to school. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of you and wish you the very best of luck in your next adventure.

We hope you all have a wonderful summer, and we look forward to welcoming many of you back in September!



Warm regards,
Lorna

DATES FOR THE DIARY

End of stretched funding
Thursday 20th August at 12pm

Gap in funding
Thursday 20th August at 12pm - 31st August

Bank holiday - nursery closed
Monday 31st August

Start of term
Thursday 3rd September

☀ Goodbye and Good Luck to Our School Leavers! ☀

As another wonderful year comes to an end, we would like to say a heartfelt goodbye to all of our children who are leaving Acorn Childcare Centre to begin their exciting new adventure at school.

It has been a privilege to watch each and every one of you grow from little acorns into confident, kind, curious, and capable children. We've shared so many special moments together—from first steps, first words, and new friendships to messy play, outdoor adventures, creative activities, and countless smiles and laughter. We are incredibly proud of everything you have achieved during your time with us.

Starting school is a huge milestone, and although we will miss seeing your happy faces each day, we know you are more than ready for this next chapter. We have no doubt that you will continue to shine, embrace new challenges, make wonderful friendships, and create many more happy memories.

To all of our amazing families, thank you for trusting us to be part of your child's early years journey. It has been a pleasure to support your children as they have learned, developed, and flourished. We are truly grateful to have shared this special time with you.

From everyone at Acorn Childcare Centre, we wish all of our school leavers the very best of luck. Be brave, be kind, keep smiling, and most importantly, never stop being curious and believing in yourselves.

Once an Acorn, always an Acorn. We can't wait to hear about all the wonderful things you go on to achieve. 🌱💚



LITTLE ACORNS



This term has been packed with fun, laughter, learning, and lots of wonderful achievements. Our little ones have enjoyed a wide range of sensory experiences, including messy play, magical water, and plenty of water play, helping them explore the world around them through touch, sound, and discovery.

We've made the most of the lovely weather by spending lots of time outdoors, developing our gross motor skills in the garden, splashing in the paddling pools, going on walks, and exploring new sights, sounds, and textures. One of our favourite activities was watching our magical water sparkle in the sunshine, and we also loved working together to create a giant painting on the decking.

This term, we have placed a big focus on developing our speech, language, and communication skills.

It has been incredible to watch the children's confidence grow, with many becoming more independent, reaching exciting developmental milestones, and some beginning to confidently put sentences together and ask questions. We have also welcomed lots of new friends into the room and have loved seeing new friendships blossom through play.

A real highlight of the term was welcoming our families for our Father's Day Stay and Play session.

It was lovely to see everyone enjoying the activities together and creating such special memories.

Thank you to everyone who joined us—we hope you had as much fun as we did.

Every day has been filled with smiles, curiosity, creativity, and exciting new experiences, and we are incredibly proud of everything the children have achieved this term.

Thank you to all of our families for your continued support. We hope you have a wonderful, relaxing, and sunshine-filled summer, and we can't wait to welcome everyone back for another term full of exciting adventures! ☀️ 🧸 ❤️





TINY ACORNS



What a wonderful and busy term we have had in the Baby Room. The children have been learning, exploring and growing every day, and it has been a joy to watch their confidence flourish.

This term we have been focusing on developing the children's communication and language skills through activities based around their interests. Our animal-themed play has encouraged lots of new sounds, words and conversations, while our role-play areas have been a huge success. The children have loved pretending to be doctors caring for their patients and hairdressers styling hair, helping to develop their imagination, confidence and social interactions.

One of our favourite experiences this term has been caring for our caterpillars as they transformed into beautiful butterflies. The children enjoyed observing the different stages of the life cycle, watching the caterpillars grow, form their chrysalises and finally emerge as butterflies. This wonderful experience sparked lots of curiosity and excitement, and the children loved watching the butterflies spread their wings before we released them into the garden. It was a lovely opportunity to encourage awe and wonder while introducing the children to the natural world.

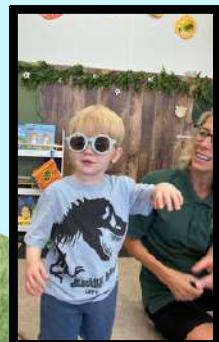
With football fever in full swing, we couldn't resist joining in the excitement! The children have enjoyed singing popular England football songs, dancing, clapping and waving flags together, creating a wonderful atmosphere full of enthusiasm and fun.

The warmer weather has also meant plenty of opportunities for water play. From splashing in our paddling pools to exploring different water activities, the children have had lots of fun while developing their confidence, coordination and sensory skills.

For our older children who will soon be moving to the Toddler Room, we have been gently preparing them for this exciting next step.

They have been practising drinking from open-top cups, sitting on the larger chairs at mealtimes, and spending time outdoors with the Toddler Room children. These visits have given them the chance to meet some of their new friends and become familiar with the staff, helping to make the transition as smooth and positive as possible.

As we approach the end of the term, we would like to wish all of our children who are moving up to the Toddler Room in September every happiness and success in their new room. We are incredibly proud of how much they have achieved during their time with us and know they are ready for this exciting next chapter. Over the coming weeks, we look forward to making lots more special memories together and enjoying every moment with them before they begin their new adventure.





SUPER SEEDLINGS



This month we have made the most of the lovely warm weather by enjoying lots of water play outdoors. One of the children's favourite activities has been washing the cars, where they had great fun splashing, scrubbing and exploring with water. The children have also loved riding the tricycles and balance bikes, developing their confidence, coordination and gross motor skills while having lots of fun.

When the afternoons have been too hot, we have stayed cool indoors by enjoying dancing and parachute games in our lovely air-conditioned room. The children have had lots of fun moving, singing and playing together.

We have also begun experimenting with messy play. So far, we have made sensory dough and foam paint, and the children have loved exploring these new textures. We are looking forward to creating many more exciting sensory experiences over the coming weeks.

Next month, we are especially excited to welcome some caterpillars into our room. The children will have the opportunity to watch them grow and transform into beautiful butterflies, learning all about their fascinating life cycle.





MIGHTY OAKS



What a fantastic term we've had in Mighty Oaks! It's been a very special one as we've enjoyed spending our final term together before some of our children head off to begin their exciting school journey.

For our school leavers, we have been focusing on school readiness, talking about the transition to school, meeting new teachers, discussing which schools everyone will be attending, and chatting about who they might be with. To celebrate this exciting milestone, we held our Preschool Graduation, and what a wonderful celebration it was! We hope you all enjoyed it as much as we did.

This term, we also made some exciting changes to our room. We rearranged the furniture and introduced lots of new resources and toys. The children loved exploring their new environment, and it was wonderful to see how the changes sparked new interests, encouraged curiosity, and kept everyone engaged in their play.

One of the highlights of the term was looking after our very own caterpillars. The children learned all about how to care for them and eagerly watched as they grew, formed their cocoons, and eventually emerged as beautiful butterflies. This was a fantastic opportunity to explore the butterfly life cycle while developing an understanding of how to care for living things.

We were also lucky enough to welcome some very special Secret Readers into Mighty Oaks. The children thoroughly enjoyed listening to stories from a police officer and a gardener, who also talked to us about growing vegetables and caring for plants. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to come in and share these special experiences with us.

A big thank you to all of our dads and special male role models who joined us for our Father's Day Stay and Play session. It was lovely to see so many of you spending time with the children, and we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.

As the term comes to an end, we'd like to wish all of our school leavers the very best as they begin their next adventure. We are so proud of everything you have achieved, and we know you'll all do amazingly well. We will miss you all very much!

Finally, we'd like to wish all of our Mighty Oaks families a wonderful, safe, and relaxing summer.

Thank you for all of your continued support throughout the year—we can't wait to see some of you again in September!





GREAT OAKS



What a busy and exciting last few weeks we've had before many of you begin your new adventure at school. We celebrated World Ocean Day with lots of fun, ocean-themed activities. The children enjoyed exploring an ocean sensory tuff tray filled with different sea creatures, listening to stories about the ocean, and using their fine motor skills to carefully cut out sea animals as part of our 'Save the Sea Animals' activity.

We also created a beautiful Mermaid Garden. Using spoons to scoop and share coloured rice helped develop the children's fine motor skills while encouraging turn-taking and cooperation. We talked about what mermaids might have in their gardens, and the children chose to add shells, stones, and sparkling gems. Throughout the activity, everyone shared their ideas and engaged in wonderful conversations, helping to develop their communication and language skills while exploring both natural and imaginative materials.

We also focused on healthy eating, where the children independently chopped up fresh fruit to make their own delicious fruit salad. This was a fantastic activity for building confidence, independence, and learning about making healthy food choices.

The children have loved exploring some of our new toys, with the ice cream role-play shop becoming a firm favourite! They enjoyed collecting money, serving lots of delicious pretend ice creams, and creating their own menus through mark-making.

Some children even wrote the correct letters, which was fantastic to see!

We welcomed daddies into nursery to celebrate Father's Day, thank you to all that came to celebrate with us!

With the recent hot weather, we've made the most of lots of water play to help us cool down. We even set up a pretend lemonade stand, where the children used fresh lemons, ice, and water to make refreshing pretend lemonade while enjoying imaginative role play.

Finally, we would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who came to our Graduation Celebration. It was such a lovely day, and we were so proud to celebrate each and every one of you.

The Great Oaks team are incredibly proud of everything you have achieved and wish you all the very best as you begin your exciting new adventure at school.

We can't wait to see photos of you all in your school uniforms and hope to see some of you around school in the future!

We hope you all have a wonderful, safe, and happy summer. ☀️





A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PANCO

physical activity and nutritional co-ordinator

Celebrating 70 funergy sesisions with Sally.

We are delighted to celebrate 70 Funergy sessions with Sally in the school studio! What an incredible milestone, and what a wonderful journey it has been.

Over the past 70 sessions, our children have explored music through music, rhythm, movement and creative dance. Each session has been filled with laughter, imagination and opportunities to learn through play in a fun, safe and supportive environment.

Together, we have:

- Learned action songs and nursery rhymes.
-
- Explored a variety of musical styles and rhythms.
-
- Developed balance, coordination and gross motor skills through movement and dance.
-
- Used props such as scarves and ribbons to inspire creativity.
-
- Built confidence, communication skills and friendships through group activities.
-
- Celebrated different cultures by experiencing music and dances from around the world.

It has been wonderful to watch the children grow in confidence, express themselves creatively and develop a love of music and movement. Every session encourages curiosity, teamwork and joyful learning while supporting their physical, social, emotional and language development.

Thank you to all our families for your continued support. We are so proud of everything the children have achieved over these 70 sessions and look forward to many more exciting musical adventures together!





SEND CORNER

special educational needs and disabilities



Inclusion, SEND and Celebrating Every Child



At our nursery, we believe that every child deserves the opportunity to learn, grow and thrive in an environment where they feel safe, valued and included. In line with the EYFS Statutory Framework and the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Code of Practice, we are committed to meeting the individual needs of every child through high-quality inclusive practice.

Children develop at their own pace, and some may have, or be in the process of being identified as having, additional needs or SEND. These needs may affect how a child communicates, plays, learns, manages emotions or interacts with others, and they are not always visible. Some children may receive additional support from our SENDCo and practitioners, use visual timetables or communication aids, follow personalised routines, or work alongside external professionals to ensure they can fully access the curriculum and make progress.

As children learn alongside one another, they may notice that their friends have different ways of communicating, learning or responding to the world around them. We embrace these opportunities to promote kindness, empathy, respect and acceptance. Through our daily interactions, books, play experiences and curriculum, we help children understand that everyone is unique, everyone learns differently, and everyone belongs.

We value the partnership we have with parents and carers and appreciate your support in reinforcing these positive messages at home. We also ask families to respect the privacy and confidentiality of all children. While we are always happy to discuss your own child's development and learning, we are unable to share information about another child's needs or the support they receive.

By working together, we can continue to build an inclusive nursery community where diversity is celebrated, individual needs are recognised, and every child is supported to achieve their very best.



ELKLAN

speech and language



NURSERY RHYME (SONG)

Open, shut them,
Open, shut them,
Give a little clap, clap, clap.
Open, shut them,
Open, shut them,
Lay them in your lap, lap, lap.
Creep them, creep them,
Creep them, creep them,
Right up to your chin, chin, chin.
Open up your little mouth...
But do not let them in!

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE TIP

Give your child time to respond.

After you've said something or asked a question, try counting silently to five before speaking again. Children often need extra time to process what they've heard and think of a response. Waiting patiently encourages communication and helps build confidence.

ELKLAN UPDATE

the SLT scrapbook

YOU COULD NAME THE Colours



OR, YOU COULD TALK ABOUT...

WHAT IT FEELS LIKE (E.G., COLD, SOFT, SQUISHY, ETC.)	WHAT YOU'RE BUILDING (E.G., A BALL, A SNAKE, A SNOWMAN, A FUNNY FACE, A CUPCAKE, ETC.)	THE TOOLS YOU'RE USING (E.G., KNIFE, ROLLING PIN, SHAPE CUTTERS, ETC.)	WHAT YOU'RE DOING WITH IT (VERBS- SQUASH, ROLL, PRESS, CUT, TEAR, PUT, ETC. PREPOSITIONS- IN, OUT, ON, OFF, ETC.)	USEFUL CORE WORDS (OPEN, HELP, MINE, YOURS, GIVE, I DO IT, WANT, I LIKE IT, NO, YES, STOP, ETC.)
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I will learn to read
but first I need to...

Rhyme I need to recognise the sounds that letters make before I can read	Look at books I need to be interested in words and books to read
Track I need to follow objects with my eyes to read	Talk I need an extensive vocabulary to understand what I read
Build I need to use my fingers and hands independently to hold books and turn pages	Do puzzles I need to differentiate size, shapes, lines and directions to read

... and I need someone to read to me every day!



HEALTHY RECIPE

raspberry lemonade slushies

INGREDIENTS

- 600g frozen raspberries
- juice 3 lemons
- 225ml soda water
- 9 ice cubes (roughly 170g)
- 3 tbsp agave nectar

DIRECTIONS



step 1

- Put all the ingredients in a blender or food processor and blitz until you get a smooth slush. Divide between six jars or cups to serve.

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

Although this smoothie recipe is quick and simple, there are still lots of ways your child can get involved!

Making smoothies together is a great opportunity to support your child's learning while encouraging healthy eating habits. Children can help by:

🍓 Choosing and naming the fruits and vegetables.

1 2 3 4 Counting and measuring the ingredients, developing early maths skills.

🔑 Adding the ingredients to the blender and practising their hand-eye coordination.

👁️ Observing what happens as the ingredients change from solid pieces into a smooth drink (with an adult operating or closely supervising the blender).

💬 Talking about colours, textures, flavours and where different fruits come from, helping to develop language and communication skills.

❤️ Discussing why fruits and vegetables are good for our bodies and the importance of a healthy, balanced diet.

Smoothie making is also a great opportunity to introduce children to kitchen safety, helping them understand that some appliances, such as blenders, should only be used with an adult. We hope you enjoy making this delicious smoothie together! We'd love to hear what your little one thought of it or see any photos of them getting involved.



PARENT PARTNERSHIP

updates and important information



EXCITING NEWS

We are delighted to announce that the role of Deputy Manager has been filled by one of our own team members, Sarah Blades!

Sarah joined Acorn Childcare Centre last September from Malcolm Sargent Primary School and has already become a valued member of our Mighty Oaks team. With her wealth of knowledge and experience, Sarah has made a fantastic contribution to the nursery, and we are thrilled to see her take the next step in her journey with us.

Sarah will officially begin her new role as Deputy Manager in September, and we have no doubt that her passion, dedication, and commitment to providing the very best for our children, families, and staff will make a hugely positive impact across the whole nursery. Please join us in congratulating Sarah on her well-deserved promotion. We are incredibly proud to have her as part of the Acorn team and look forward to all she will achieve in her new role.

ABSENCES DURING THE HOLIDAYS

If you know your child will be absent from nursery for any reason, such as a family holiday, appointments, or planned time away, we would really appreciate it if you could let us know as far in advance as possible.

Having advance notice helps us to:

Plan our staffing effectively.

Make the best use of our available spaces.

Offer extra sessions to families who are looking for additional days where possible.

Your support really helps us to ensure we can provide the best experience for all of our children and families.

GAP IN FUNDING

We would like to make you aware of an upcoming gap in funding from 12:00 pm on Thursday 20th August 2026, up to and including Monday 31st August 2026.

Our setting will return to normal from:

Tuesday, 1 September 2026 for our all-year-round children.

Thursday, 3 September 2026 for our term-time-only children.

During the funding gap, you have the option not to send your child(ren) to nursery. If you choose not to attend during this period, you will not be charged for those sessions. If your child(ren) does not attend without the proper notice these sessions will be chargeable.

However, if your child(ren) attend any of their regular booked sessions during the funding gap, you will be charged for those sessions, as they will not be covered by funded hours.

If you wish to cancel your child's attendance during this period, please let us know by Friday 31st of July 2026.

STAFF SHOUT OUT'S

from parents and fellow staff



SARAH

For being my son's favourite!



VICKY

For being so kind, caring and eager to learn

JULIJA

I can't put into words how wonderful and caring she is with my son. He recently started potty training and i really appreciate how patient and encouraging she's been with him. I love the way she communicates any concerns without making us feel alarmed. We are very grateful for her



EMI

Emi has been an amazing keyworker for our child and we couldn't be more grateful for everything she has done. From day one, she has made our child feel safe, happy, and valued, and the bond they have built is so special. Emi's kindness, patience and genuine care shine through in everything she does and it's clear how passionate she is about supporting every child's development. Our child has absolutely loved her time with Emi and we've seen her confidence and independence grow so much. We feel incredibly lucky to have had her as their keyworker.

KATIE

For always being kind and caring



MARIE

My daughter loves her. Thank you so much for your care and love

SARA

For helping my child settle in so well



EMILY

My daughter has made such a lovely bond with Emily and has loved spending time with her.



LORNA

She's so kind and helpful