



Newsletter

October 2023

Welcome to our October newsletter,

We have a busy month coming up with lots of important dates for your diary. We cannot wait to spend this next term getting ready for the happiest time of the year!

Lorna

Dates For Your Diary

Nursery photographer
16th November

Christmas Jumper day

Thursday 7th December

Christmas parties

Little Acorn- 12th Dec

Great Oaks-13th Dec

Mighty Oaks- 14th Dec

Super Seedlings-15th Dec

Reindeer visit

Thursday 21st December

Nursery closes for Christmas between 23rd December to 1st January.

Book Of The Month



The book of the month for October is "The room on the broom" by Julia Donaldson.

This is a popular book with children of all ages due to the memorable illustrations and repetitive rhyming text.



This supports our older children about the importance of friendships and the benefits of being kind to others.

Speech And Language Tip Of The Month

Supporting children with unclear speech

Children often do not realise they are mispronouncing words so correcting them can be confusing. For example if a child says "I like fis" instead of fish and you ask "did you mean fish?"

Modelling the correct word back to them is a great way for them to learn without telling them they are wrong, or knocking their confidence such as "I really like FISH". It helps if you emphasise the sounds the child mispronounced.





Healthy Recipe Time!

Freaky Fruit Platter

Method

STEP 1

For the mummy bananas, melt the chocolate in a heatproof bowl set over a small pan of simmering water or in the microwave in 20-second bursts. Cool to room temperature. Put the bananas on a tray lined with baking parchment and drizzle over the chocolate in a criss-cross pattern to make 'bandages'. Stick on the eyeball decorations or use black icing or an edible ink pen to draw the eyes on the bananas, then chill until set, about 30 mins (they will start to discolour after about 2 hrs).

STEP 2

For the tangerine pumpkins, cut tiny 'stalks' from the celery piece and push these into the tops of the tangerines where the segments come together.

STEP 3

For the apple fangs, cut a small wedge from the peel side of the apple wedges to make lips, then fill the 'mouth' with the nut butter. Push the raisins into the mouth to look like wonky teeth.

STEP 4

For the lychee eyeballs, stuff each lychee with a blueberry. Stick the eyeball decorations onto the blueberry using some of the melted white chocolate from step 1, or skewer the fruit together. If you like, drop these into a punch bowl.

STEP 5

For the grape snakes, thread alternating green and red grapes onto skewers, then stick on eyeball decorations with white chocolate as in step four.

STEP 6

Arrange the freaky fruits on a large serving platter. Fill gaps with any leftover blueberries and decorate with spooky Halloween figures and decorations, if you like.

Ingredients

- 70g white chocolate, plus extra for sticking on the eyeballs
- 3 small bananas, peeled and cut in half crosswise
- eyeball cake decorations or black writing icing or edible ink pen
- small piece of celery
- 6 small tangerines, peeled
- 1 red apple, cored and cut into 6 wedges
- 2 tbsp nut butter (we used almond)
- 25g yogurt-coated raisins
- 425g can lychees in juice, drained
- 150g blueberries
- eyeball cake decorations or skewers
- 250g black and green grapes
- short wooden skewers
- black writing icing or edible ink pen, or eyeball cake decorations



0-3 Year Rooms

This month in Little Acorns we have been exploring autumnal colours and textures. We've been foraging in the garden looking for leaves and conkers and we have been on lots of walks looking for spooky pumpkins. We have made some special paintings which you will all receive soon.

This month in Super Seedlings we have been exploring different story sacks at group time, including "We're going on a bear hunt" and "The three little pigs". The story sacks encouraged the children to look at different textures such as sticks, stones and straw and different weather bags for the bear hunt. We have also explored Halloween messy play with jelly, decorating pumpkins and making pumpkin pies in the mud kitchen.



Preschool

Mighty Oaks have had a lovely month exploring, learning, and playing together and we are starting to see some lovely friendships blooming. We've been busy playing with different vehicles this month, creating our own tracks and ramps both inside and outside. We've also been talking about our families and added our family photos to our galleries that are up in our room. If you haven't added a family photo yet, please do pop one on Tapestry or bring one in and Jasmyn will get it added. Also, a huge thank you to everyone that has already shared theirs they are looking great.

October has been a super busy month for us in *Great Oaks*. We've really been focusing on name recognition; encouraging the children to recognise their own name, as well as encouraging the children to use their words to talk about their emotions. We've been doing lots of different Halloween activities, from messy play to scary crafts and we can't wait to see all of your Halloween outfits on Tuesday. And of course we've had a lovely send off to Amy who has now gone on maternity leave & we can't wait for new Amy to start and for you all to meet her!



HOT LUNCHES



Please can we remind our parents the following about lunches:

- **We are unable to heat home cooked food.** Food Standards Agency guidelines and training received during food hygiene training, states that while reheating food using a microwave, food must be stirred at stages of reheating, probed when heating is completed to check that it is at a safe temperature and that food is served immediately so that the temperature will not drop, and harmful bacteria grow. This process is very time consuming, especially when there is a large quantity of meals that need heating. Staff are required to be in the rooms to prepare children for lunch and then supervise them at all times and therefore, are ideally not removed from room to reheat meals. **You are welcome to use a flask to keep your children's meals hot until lunchtime.**
- For children in our toddler or preschool rooms (Super seedlings/Great Oaks/Mighty Oaks) we are also unable to heat prepackaged meals due to the volume of children in those rooms during lunches.
- During the school term, hot meals are available to order from school grid. If you do not have an account, we are able to set one up for you.
- During school holidays all children will need packed lunches brought with them. We are unable to heat microwavable meals or meals cooked at home. **Again you are welcome to bring the food in a flask to keep it warm.**
- We are asking if parents can add a icepack to their children's packed lunch to keep them cool and fresh as due to the number of packed lunches we are unable to put them all in the fridge.
Thank you.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Just a reminder about upcoming events at Acorn



Photo Day:

On Friday 17th of November we will be having professional photographers come in to capture seasonal pictures of the children. All those children who already attend a Friday will automatically have their photo taken. If your child does not attend a Friday and you would like a slot to come in and have their photo taken please email us and we can get you booked in.



Christmas Parties:

Each room will be hosting Christmas parties during December. If your child is booked in during the time and date of their Christmas party they will automatically be involved. If your child doesn't attend at that time and would like to attend please drop us an email and we can book you in. An adult will need to attend with the children who are in just for the party and we do ask for one adult per child.



Reindeers:

On Thursday 21st of December Acorn will be visited by some of Santa's little helpers (Reindeers). If you would like your child to see them please email and let us know. The cost for all children to attend is £2.00. If a child is booked in for a session that day and hasn't paid they will

A Message From Your Panco (Physical and Nutritional Coordinator)



Treat replacement



Halloween is approaching and we're so excited at Acorn Childcare Centre. 'Tis the season for 'Trick or Treating' but it's important to keep safe and think about our teeth and tummy!

What are the precautions for Halloween candy?

Help your child check all treats to make sure they're sealed. Throw out candy with torn packages or holes in the packages, spoiled items, and any homemade treats that weren't made by someone you know. Don't let young children have hard or small candy that could cause choking. Check expiration dates and allergens. Leave your house on a Full stomach and use a small collection bag to prevent overindulging. Take a torch, wear warm clothes, comfy shoes and take water to drink, and lastly use the opportunity to get moving and exercise.

Healthy Halloween Snack Ideas

- Green Monster Smoothies. How do you make a green smoothie recipe even more fun? ...
- Banana Ghosts & Orange Jack-O-Lanterns. This is a perfect after-school snack because it takes just 5 minutes to assemble. ...
 - Mummy Granola Bars. ...
 - Apple Monster Mouths. ...
 - Spooky Spider Dip. ...
Date Caramel.

Consider nonedible party bag treats stickers, yo-yos, bouncy balls etc



Have a super spooky time!

FAREWELL AND GOODLUCK



This month we are saying a few fond farewells.

The first is to our Little Acorn practitioner Selina who is leaving us in November to take up a care position within the NHS. She will be sorely missed by all her colleagues and room children. We all wish her luck in the next chapter of her life!

In November we will be saying see you later to three members of staff who leaving us for a short while to go onto maternity leave.



Amy from our Great Oaks room left us at the start of half term and is due later in November.



Emily from our Mighty Oaks room will leave us at the end of this month to get ready for baby come late December! Will we be welcoming a Christmas baby?



Beth from our Super Seedlings room will be leaving us within the next week in preparation for her baby due in January!

Employee Of The Month

October's employee of the month is Lorna.

Lorna was voted employee of the month for being such a supportive manager and willing to step in and help with whatever task, whenever she is needed. The staff want to thank her for her dedication to both staff and the children in her care.



ACORN CHILDCARE CENTRE
From Little Acorns to Mighty Oaks



www.acornchildcarecentre.co.uk