

Welcome to Acorn Class

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Autumn term one in Reception. We hope you had a lovely Summer break. We are very much looking forward to sharing the start of your child's learning journey at Benington.

We continue to follow Government advice as it changes and you have our assurance that everyone's safety and well-being are top on the list of our priorities. Acorn Class are classified as a "bubble" and do not need to socially distance but will be reminded of the need for good hygiene practise. We will not be mixing with any other "bubbles" during the school day.

Acorn Class Staff

Monday – Wednesday will be Mrs Garlick and Miss Jordan

Thursday – Friday will be Mrs Welch and Miss Jordan

If you have any concerns or queries about your child's progress or well-being, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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Our topic this half term will be '**Marvellous Me**'. The curriculum will link themes and topics, to encourage the development of the children's independence, communication and skills through play and guidance in an atmosphere of enjoyment and challenge.

Phonics

Each day your child will be taught phonics using the Letters and Sounds resource published by the Department for Education and Skills. It aims to build children's speaking and listening skills in their own right as well as to prepare children for learning to read by developing their phonic knowledge and skills. It sets out a detailed and systematic programme for teaching phonic skills for children. Each day your child will learn a new phoneme (sound) and will begin applying their phonic knowledge when reading a range of texts and also applying their knowledge when writing for different purposes.

Reading Books

We aim to hear your child read individually at least once a week in school. Every child must have a clearly labelled book bag in school everyday. We will send home books to share with your child and they will be changed on **Mondays, Wednesdays** and **Fridays**. At this stage it is expected that your child is read to each night in order to develop their language and imagination skills. You will find a Reading Record book in your child's book bag in which you should write comments to let us know how your child is enjoying the book. As the children progress we will send home reading books that encourage the children to read to you and develop their skills appropriately. Books will be quarantined for 72 hours after each use.

Physical Education (PE)

Our PE days will be Tuesdays (with Rising Stars coaches) and Wednesdays (with Mrs Garlick). Your child will need to come to school in their PE kits that day and they can be worn all day.

Please be aware that your child will be doing a combination of indoor and outdoor PE throughout the year, so please make sure they are suitably dressed for the weather. They will also need a pair of plimsolls or trainers to be kept in school at all times to change into in the event that their outside shoes get muddy.

Rewards & Celebration of work

At Benington we have a number of different reward systems in place. Each week we have a thought of the week and if a child is seen to be doing this they will be a 'Benington Bee'.

'Hexagons' are Headteacher awards which are awarded to children for outstanding achievements.

Finally we have a class toy which the children have named 'Waffle'. He will go home with someone for the weekend each week and that child will be our 'BOB' (Best of Benington) for that week. The children will show a piece of work they are proud of which, until we have assemblies, will be filmed and put on our Facebook page.

Other general reminders

Due to the nature of the Early Years setting, we spend lots of time in the garden. It would be useful to provide your child with a pair of wellies that could be worn if they decide to venture into the mud kitchen!

Clothing, bags and other belongings should be clearly named. Please ensure your child has a clearly named water bottle with them everyday.

If your child is being collected by an adult we have not yet met, please inform Acorn Class staff via email (in advance where possible) or telephone the school office.

As you are aware, we are limiting visitors into school at the moment so it will be very difficult for us to chat with you as we may have been able to do in the past, however please do not hesitate to contact us via our school email (above) if you have any questions or queries and we will endeavour to get back to you as soon as we can.

We look forward to working with you and your child this year.

Mrs Garlick, Mrs Welch and Miss Jordan