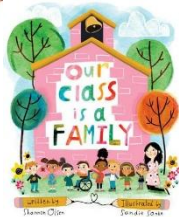




Acorn Class Newsletter



Welcome to Newington CEP School! From the Reception team Our class is called Acorn Class

Welcome!

My name is Mrs Barton, and I am the class teacher in Acorn class. I am very much looking forward to sharing your child's first year at school with you. Mrs Brookman and Miss Dewberry will be supporting in class all week and Miss Bourne will be leading the class on a Friday as this is my non-working day. It has been a pleasure getting to know your children in their first week and we are all extremely proud of how well they have already settled into school. We are looking forward to working with you and your child during their time in Reception. Please do come and see us if you have any questions or queries. Alternatively, you can message on Class Dojo where we will respond as soon as we can.



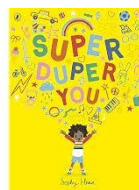
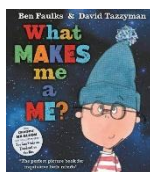
Acorn Class Teacher
Mrs Barton
Acorn Support Staff
Miss Dewberry & Mrs Brookman
Additional Adults-
Miss Bourne

Independence

In order to help your child develop their independence as they settle into school, please can we ask that all items, including clothing, lunch box, water bottles and coats are clearly named. This also helps us to return lost items.



Curriculum Information



The majority of parents are now connected to Class Dojo but if you have not yet, please look out for an invite link by email. I will update Dojo with the learning that is taking place in class through class stories, and the individual portfolios will be updated to share 'wow' moments or significant achievements. Our role in Early Years is to be 'in the moment' with the children, interacting and scaffolding their learning through play so these will be updated but not daily like you might be used to from your pre-school settings. We value your input on your child's learning journey so do please continue to upload 'Wow' or significant moments from home too.

Our topic in Term 1 is 'Marvellous Me'

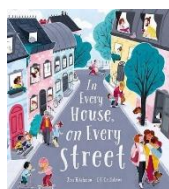
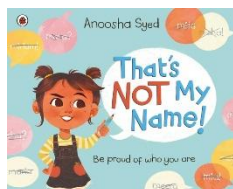
We have chosen this topic to give us and the children an opportunity to transition into school and really get to know each other. We will be busy getting to know all our new friends and establishing how we can all work together to create an amazing acorn class.

We will be talking about our families, pets and our likes and dislikes. We will be exploring the world around us using our different senses and learning about the different parts of our bodies with games and songs. We will explore the artist Paul Klee as we create our own self-portraits. The children will begin to think about what they can do to keep themselves healthy and safe, including a focus on oral health and teeth cleaning!

In Maths this term, we will be learning to match and sort a range of objects. Once the children can sort collections into sets, they then will practise comparing and ordering sets using the language of 'more' and 'fewer' We will also learn how to make repeated patterns.

In Literacy, the children will begin daily Phonics and Reading sessions from Week 3. They will also listen and join in with familiar and new stories as part of our theme. We will encourage the children to develop their mark making skills by developing their fine motor skills through dough disco and a program called write dance. We will be practising name writing lots this term too, with a strong focus on correct pencil grip and letter formation.

On **Tuesdays**, we are very lucky to have a coach from Gillingham Football Club working with Acorn Class. Coach Young will work with the children to develop their physical skills. Please can we ask that the children are in **active wear on a Tuesday** – Black leggings/jogging bottoms/shorts and a white t-shirt. Also, appropriate footwear and jewellery removed.



How can you help at home?

- Practise putting on jumpers and coats independently ready for the cold weather.
- Encourage independence at toilet times
- Practise using a knife and fork.
- Play turn taking games
- Share and discuss stories every night.
- Sing nursery rhymes and other short songs
- Emphasise initial sounds of words i.e. c for cat
- Practise recognising and writing your name.
- Count daily and look out for numbers in your home.

Phonics and Early Reading



In the next few weeks, we will begin our daily structured phonics sessions. The Phonics scheme we follow is called Little Wandle and I will send out further information about this once we are started. Alongside our phonics we will also have reading sessions. Children will be given a phonetically decodable reading book once they are able to blend sounds to read simple words. Until then, the children will be given a wordless book. I will be holding an information meeting for parents so keep an eye on Dojo for the date.

Baseline Assessment

It is a statutory requirement that schools complete a baseline assessment on all children in the first 6 weeks of them starting school. This will be completed by myself and is just a way of getting to know your child and their needs. It is now in an interactive format using an iPad which the children really enjoy completing.