



## March 2025 Newsletter



### Focus

Over the next half term, we will be developing children's 'Literacy', by choosing a different book each week as our focus. We kick off with 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'.

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March is World Book Day, and we would like to celebrate this at Acorns. If your child would like to dress as a book character, or wear their pyjamas, or simply bring in their favourite book for the day, staff will be joining in the dress code!!

Remember that we visit the library each Wednesday. Please return your child's book, so that they are able, to choose a new one to bring home. If your child has not already joined the library, we have forms available, please ask. The importance of sharing stories with your child cannot be emphasised enough!

Makaton – I recently attended a level 2 Makaton session, which I am very passionate about. For those who do not know, Makaton is a form of sign language, which is used alongside speech. From Monday I will begin to teach some basic words to the children, which we will use in everyday situations going forward. Each week we will let you know via our Facebook posts which signs we have learned. It would be great if this could be used at home, especially for those children who have difficulties communicating.

### New Logo

We would like to thank Sori Abbott for creating our updated Logo, which you can see at the top of this newsletter.

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#### Acorns Pre-School (Masham)

The Old Police House, Little Market Place, Masham,  
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Charity No 1035056 - Ofsted Registration No  
EY266330





## OFSTED

This is word that usually sets any education setting into total panic!!!! For some reason I have volunteered Acorns to undergo a mini-inspection for Ofsted training purposes. I am sure most of you will be fully aware of the bad press Ofsted have received in recent years, something they are working hard to rectify with the changes to their working practice from September.

An inspector will be visiting us on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February, for a short 2-3 hours, during which they will take feedback from the staff about the inspection process. We will not receive any judgement ourselves, unless our safeguarding procedures cause any concern. So, only well-behaved children that day please!!

## Holiday Club

Whilst we realise that some parents rely on our provision during the holidays, we cannot sustain this without the numbers. Over half term we tried to run all 3 days, at a significant loss on Tuesday. As a result, we are having to rethink how holiday club is managed. We encourage all families to book early so that we have an indication of need. Over the Easter holidays we will initially offer all sessions as usual, however, we will assess the situation on 17<sup>th</sup> March. A decision will then be made as to the validity of opening all days. Booking forms are available now, so please book in good time.

## Fundraising

It has come to our attention recently that Acorns' status as a Charity is not clearly understood within the community. Please can I express that we are a 'Charity', we **DO NOT** receive **ANY** payments from government sources and rely heavily on fundraising to enable us to remain open. This is why we ask for your help each time we hold an event.

Our next fundraising event will be a 'Pre-loved sale', at the White Bear Bottle Store, on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March, 7.00pm onwards. Please drop off your donations of 5 items of men's/ladies/children's good quality clothing, shoes and accessories at Acorns, from week commencing 10<sup>th</sup> March. This will entitle you to buy a ticket for £10,



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which can be exchanged on the night for 5 'new' items of your choice. Additional items will be available to purchase according to the individual ticket price.

Please spread the word – this is open to anyone and everyone.

We would like to hold a 'bottle raffle' to increase income on the night. As such, please could each family provide us with donations of bottles – wine, water, pop, shampoo, perfume – anything which comes in a bottle. Thank you in advance of your support.

### Little Acorns

Over the next couple of weeks, we will be launching a new Facebook page for 'Little Acorns'. You may notice a few changes to the group. We will be asking for feedback to potentially find a more convenient day/time of the session.



We will also change the age of the group to encourage more families with babies to attend. Going forward the group will only be accessible for 3 year olds and under.

### Home Learning

This month I would like to point you all to a couple of useful websites- 'Solihull Parenting' & 'Your Family Toolkit'. Both of these are free to access and open to anyone in North Yorkshire. They contain support and advice covering many parenting issues, such as emotional health & wellbeing, sleep issues, weaning, development worries, behaviour and dealing with trauma.

Don't be put off by the language – 'parenting courses' – there is a lot of useful information and strategies to try at home. Any feedback you would like to give would be very helpful to Acorns.

### Fee Increase

Our fees are due to increase after the Easter holidays as a result of increased costs and staff wages. This is a gentle reminder from the notification letter sent out at the beginning of the year.

3yr old and over - £6.25 p/hr

2yr olds - £7.50 p/hr

Lunch - £2.50

Breakfast - £1.50

Tea - £1.50

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### Final Reminders

- Please ensure your child has sufficient spare clothes in their Acorns bag.
- Unless booked in early, our opening time is **9am**.
- **Book for holiday club before 17<sup>th</sup> March**

Thank you for your continuing support  
From Val & Team

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