

## Acorn Update – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020

It has been lovely to welcome all the new little Acorns this week and their families into school. The children have all settled extremely well into the class and we have been very impressed by their behaviour and ability to 'get stuck in' so quickly. The children have managed to remember all the routines and instructions given and we are already feeling so proud of them. Thank you to all families for your support and for encouraging your little ones to be so independent each morning.

This week has been very busy with the children enjoying the stories 'Harry and his bucketful of dinosaurs' and 'Harry and his bucketful of dinosaurs go to school'. All the children thought about what they would like to have in their bucket and were able to draw (with Year 1 children also labelling) their favourite things. These ranged from unicorns to crabs and from trains to a whole family! The children were very confident to talk about their pictures, which was super.

In maths, we have been working on counting to 20 (and back to zero) using our new dinosaur number line, which is hung across the front of the classroom (it is very long!). The children have been learning about numbers which are 'one more' and 'one less'. The children enjoyed watching *Numerblocks* on CBeebies to consolidate their learning on one more.

On Tuesday we had PE on the big field (which was exciting in itself!) with Mrs Gardner. The children all listened carefully to how to move and how to make sure they were in a 'good space'. The children were able to jog, sidestep, walk backwards and hop on one leg (three times on one leg and then swapping) whilst looking where they were going to avoid any collisions!

**PE - Please can children wear trainers for PE as we will be on the field and if it is a bit wet plimsolls may get a bit soggy! Please can the children come to school in their PE kits every Tuesday with their school shoes in their book bags to change into in case their trainers get muddy or wet – Thank you.**

As a morning task, after the children have washed their hands, they have been practising writing their names (copying if needed) and writing numbers (using their number lines for support). The children in year 1 have been reading and writing decodable words, which we then segment and blend for reading as a whole class.

Our topic this half term is 'Dinosaur planet', which we will be launching next week with some local aquatic Dinosaur fossils, pictures and information about Sibford Gower in the Jurassic age (as it was submerged under water). The children have already enjoyed role play in the 'Dinosaur museum', and building Dinosaur worlds in the small world area.

Outside, the children have been in the mud kitchen, mashing, making soup and exploring the herbs growing and adding them to their mixtures. The children have used crates and wooden planks to make roads, bridges and slides, altering designs when necessary! It has been great to see the children interacting with each other and problem solving.

### **Homework:**

Information for parents explaining how to access Purple Mash (our online learning platform) can be found on the homework page on the school website (under the For Parent tab). This explains how to access the 2-dos for homework that has been set each week. All the children have been given their log in details, by hand, today. Here is the link for the homework part of the website:

<http://www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk/homework-guidelines-and-information.html>

**Spellings:** The year 1 children have a spelling sheet, which has the spelling lists for the next 6 weeks on. The date at the top of the list is the week we will be learning about that phoneme. Each Friday the children in year 1 will have a go at spelling the list of words correctly on their whiteboards, so please practise these at home.

**Maths:** All Acorns have been set 'Reading and writing numbers to 20' on Purple Mash (see above for information about how to access this). Please support your child by reading the word to them and then encourage them to find the matching digit. If your child finds it a challenge, then just show them the digit, thus helping them to become familiar with numbers to 20. Next week we will be assessing the Reception children, so we can support them on a more personalised level now they have settled in.

**Topic:** The children have two dinosaur 'pairing' activities on Purple Mash, one with just pictures and one with a picture and the name of a dinosaur to match. There is also a 'Dinosaur Paint Project' to complete.

**Topic projects:** A selection of ideas have been put on the Acorn class page for you and your child to explore over the next half term. It would be great if you could complete as many as you would like to and share these with us by taking photos of what you have enjoyed and produced. Please email these to the class email: [AcornClass@sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:AcornClass@sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk)

A phonics masterclass has been posted on our class page to help children (and families) to recognise and say each phoneme (smallest unit of sound) correctly and in line with our teaching of Jolly Phonics. So please take a look and try it out.

Finally, many thanks for all your support and for taking the time to read all the information which has been shared.

Please relax and enjoy the weekend

Miss Blake, Mrs Perkins and Mrs Evans