

*Life
in
Acorn Class*



Using DropZone

Arriving at school



The school gates are opened at 8.25pm with a member of staff at both gate entrances to greet the children.

The preferred system is to use the Drop zone, where staff and volunteers help children out of the car, so that parking is not required. Please be aware that we use an unofficial one way system going past the school.



Lining up
in the
playground

Children enter the school grounds and stay in the playground until the bell rings at 8.40am when they line up and are escorted into school need to be accompanied by an adult to the school office. Children are expected to be in school ready for registration at 8.45am.

If you know that it is likely that your child will become upset, it's best to bring late and leave quickly!!

In the first week of the Autumn term, the children are split into 2 groups with one group attending the first 2 days and the second group attending the second 2 days. These days are slightly shorter, with Reception children starting at 9.15am and finishing at 2.45pm so that they can acclimatise to their new surroundings and so that the Early Years staff can greet them without the hustle and bustle of the rest of the school.

You can find the start-of-year groupings in your packs.

From week 2 onwards, the children start full time but obviously we're aware that they've had differing nursery experiences – so if overly tired in the first couple of weeks, we can make individual arrangements: just come

and speak to me!



Hanging up coats

The children come into school and put their coats onto their named pegs in our cloakroom.

Putting
bookbags
away

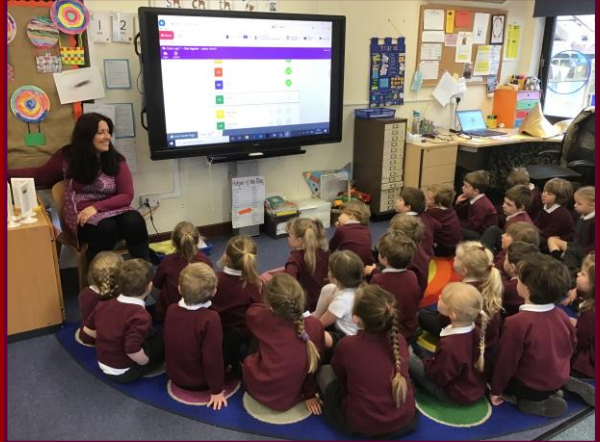


They then come into the classroom and put their bookbags away – encouraging independence from the very start!
Classroom Teaching Assistants will go through bookbags and take out any letters, change books/cards etc. (when appropriate) and will also put letters etc into book bags.
Fortnightly newsletters will be sent home electronically.



Self-registration

Formal registration



Children self-register by finding their name cards and placing them in a tin. This is then followed with the more formal register taking. If no explanation has been given for an absence, the school office will ring home.



Once we are into a routine, a Daily Helper of the Day is chosen who has very important tasks to do such as checking for names that have not been placed in the self-registration tin, putting straws into milk bottles, handing out lunch bands and any other jobs that are requested of them on their day!!

Literacy / Mark-Making



Once a firm routine has been established, the children are introduced to the concept of “Activities” that the class teacher has set up. Currently, we get involved in Literacy activities first. The initial and predominant focus in the Autumn Term will be on Phonic work with links to topic work carried out later in the academic year.



Collective Worship



Personal, Social & Emotional Development

Acts of Collective Worship are carried out every day, be it through singing, praising achievements or having visitors in. These mostly include the whole school and take place in the hall, but once a week we have assemblies within our own classroom instead.



Snack-time



After our first Activity session and Collective Worship, it is time for a break. Children wash their hands and are invited to choose from the fruit bowl. Fruit is provided free of charge for all children in the Foundation Stage and in KS1. As a healthy eating school, we only allow fruit at this time.



Break-time



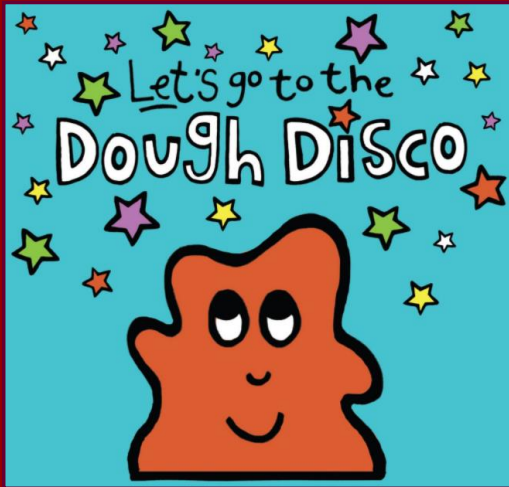
Whilst outside at break-time, there is a range of activities for the children to participate in and lots of staff members on hand to watch and care for them. If an accident occurs, First Aid treatment will be administered and a slip completed which will be put into your child's bookbag so that you are aware of what has happened. If a staff member is at all concerned, including if a child has received a serious bump to the head, parents will be contacted.



Once our Literacy activities have become topic-based, we will introduce a 20 minute daily Phonics lesson – learning phonemes and associated actions, learning to blend sounds together and recognise graphemes. This will occur immediately after break-time.

I will put a Literacy Information powerpoint onto the school website with lots of information about how to support your child learn to read and write once we are at this stage.

Dough Disco



Jumpstart Jonny

As the school session after break is a long one, we usually split it up after our Phonics session with Dough Disco (good for fine motor skills) and later on in the year, Jonny Jumpstart (whole body workout)

Maths Activities



And then we start work on Maths related activities which have a heavily practical approach.

Lunchtime



In Acorn Class, we break for lunch earlier than the rest of the school and follow a 3 week rotating lunch menu. Children are reminded of the menu choice for the day and lunch bands are handed out for any children with dietary requirements such as vegetarian, lactose intolerant or allergies. At Gorsley, we use a cashless system called ParentPay for ordering lunches, paying for trips, payments of clubs etc. Parents must order food by the end of the Wednesday of the preceeding week including when booking for the first week back after a holiday!



Understanding the World

A variety of different afternoon activities take place throughout the week. We don't tend to follow a set weekly timetable as life in an early years classroom often involves a fair bit of spontaneity, but we do have scheduled PE lessons and we will inform you when these are so that you can ensure your child has their PE kit in school. The photographs in the following slides should give you an idea of the type of activity we get up to in the afternoons.



Experimenting



Technology





P.E.





Physical Development



Expressive Arts And Design





Role-play





Outdoor Learning





Reading

One of the most important key skills that your child will acquire this year, will be reading - so we do it a lot! I read a story at the end of every day – as it has been proven that children being read to is a vital pre-reading skill and I cannot stress enough the importance that I place on it.

The children will start learning how to read from the very start of the Autumn Term, but will not be bringing reading scheme books home to share until after the first half term break. Before this, they will be choosing story books to bring home.

All children in the school have the option to drink a third of a pint of semi-skimmed milk a day. In Acorn Class, we have this at the end of the day during story time. Milk is free of charge until a child's 5th birthday. Once a child turns 5 years of age, if parents wish them to continue drinking milk, you must contact Cool Milk directly and pay – an e-mail will be sent from Cool Milk to parents directly beforehand as a reminder. All children need to be supplied with a named water bottle to keep in school please. These will be filled as necessary from our cooled water

dispensers. Children then bring their bottles home every Friday for a wash before returning to school with them on Monday mornings.

Buddies



At Gorsley Goffs, we are extremely proud of our incredibly successful Buddy System, whereby each Reception child is paired up with a Year 6 child, ensuring that the youngest children in the school are not scared of the oldest children. As well as accompanying us on local walks, whole school trips, and looking out for each other at break-times, the buddies meet up once a week to read together. These times are always very special for both sets of children, often forging great friendships.



We often invite visitors into school, either into whole class Collective Worship sessions or directly into individual classes for topic-linked reasons.



Perrygrove Railway



Cardiff Museum



Ross Community Garden



Barry Island



Gorsley Chapel

*Trips
Out*

Even the youngest children get to go on Education trips. These photos show some of the places that Acorn children have visited.

Whenever a trip is arranged, parents will receive an electronic ParentPay letter. If the office has to chase any payments, emails will be sent which will look as though they are coming directly from ParentPay but they are actually being sent from the school!

Special Occasions



World Book Day

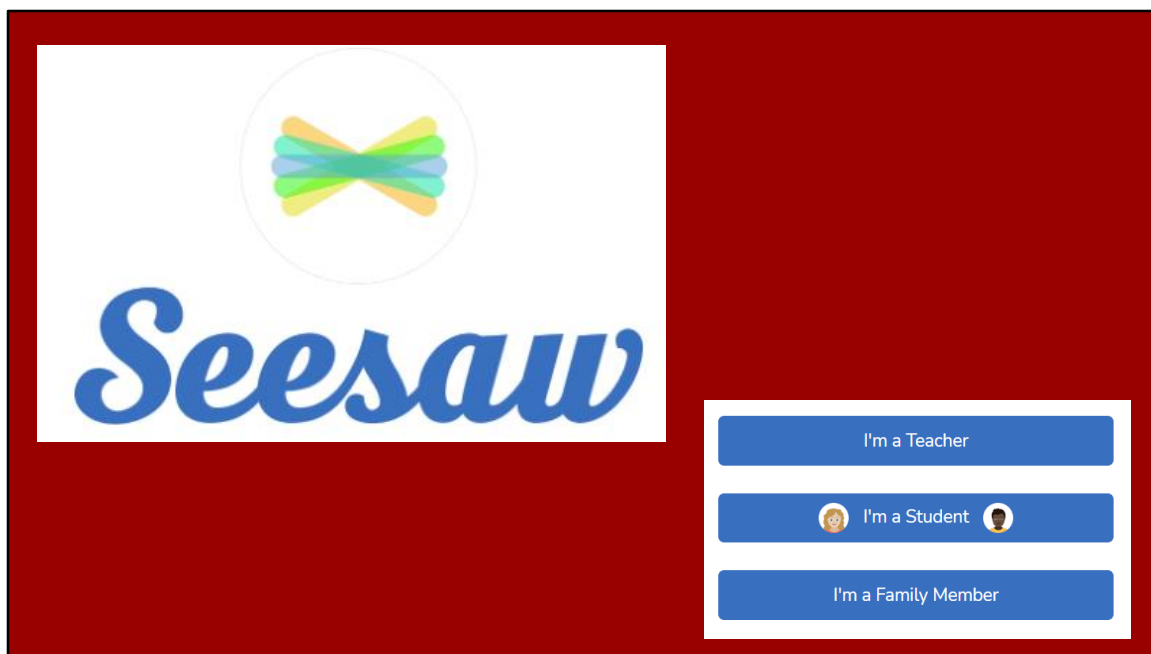


Wacky Hair Day
Comic Relief

Special Events are always great fun and occur throughout the school year. In addition to the two photographs above, we have also celebrated Science Week, Arts Week, Comic Relief, Race for Life, and Sports Day amongst others.



No matter what each day brings, throughout it all, the children are encouraged to work and play together collaboratively – learning very important life-long social skills.



The Early Years curriculum was revamped in 2021 and it is no longer considered necessary for practitioners to provide evidence of what children have been getting up to in school on a day-to-day basis. However as a parent, I would have loved to receive snapshots of what my children were doing and so I will continue to occasionally send home photos as and when applicable to let you know what your little ones have been getting up to. To facilitate this, I use an app called SeeSaw.

School Uniform



















Available from:

Labels (Ross on Wye)

Clubsport (Hereford & Ledbury)

www.schooltrendsonline.com

Gooch Sports (Newent)

This is our school uniform which is available from a variety of places. All children will require a book-bag.

Please note that your child will not need plimsolls or daps for PE lessons in Acorn Class. These, (or trainers) will only be needed in the summer term when going outside to practise for Sports Day and I will remind you of this nearer the time.

Hometime Collection



The green gate is opened at 3pm, ready for our finishing time of 3.05pm (with an end time of 3.15pm for all other children).

We leave the Acorn classroom via our outdoor classroom area and children are released one at a time through the door shown in the photo, once I can see the adult who has come to collect them. Please ensure you inform the school via a phone call or e-mail to the office if your child is to go home with someone other than the person who usually picks them up.

If wrap-around care is required, Breakfast Club runs from 7.45am and After School Club until 5.30pm. Children can attend these sessions without booking, although if there are to be regular days, it is helpful if we know which these are.

If you already use a Childcare Voucher Scheme through your current employers, we can accept these towards payment for either of these clubs (although not for trips unfortunately!). If this is the case, please get in contact with the school office with details of who your voucher scheme

provider is so that you can be given an account number to use.

First Day Of School For My Own Children



2005



2007



2009

I am so looking forward to getting to know you and your children. I have 3 of my own who now all look very different to how they did on their first day of primary school!

As a mother and as a teacher with over 25 years of experience, there are unlikely to be any worries or anxieties that you or your child may have, that I haven't come across before. I am a good listener and can offer advice if required. Please come and speak to me about any little concerns you may have before they turn into big ones