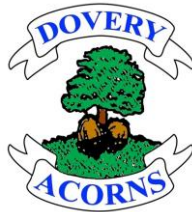




## 2020 Dates for your diary

<b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February - Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February</b>	<b>Half - Term - No Pre-School</b>
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	Return to Pre-School
March (exact dates will be in separate letter)	<b>Family discussions</b>
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Class Photos including Pre-school
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Whole School World Book Day
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Easter Assembly (Pre-school to come in for 9am)
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	Last day of Spring Term
<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April - Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Easter Holidays - including Good Friday and Easter Monday Bank Holidays</b>
<b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Inset Day - No Pre-School</b>
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> April	First day of Summer Term
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED FOR LOCAL ELECTIONS - No Pre-school</b>
<b>Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Early May Bank Holiday (changed for VE Day Anniversary) - No Pre-school</b>
<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May - Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Half term week including Bank Holiday Monday - No Pre-school</b>
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June	<b>Inset day</b>
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Return to Pre-school
<b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Last day of Summer term</b>
<b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July - Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September</b>	<b>Summer Holidays</b>
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> & Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	Inset Days - No Pre-school
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September	First Day of Autumn term
<b>Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October - Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Half term- No Pre-school</b>
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	Return to Pre-School (this is not an inset day)
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day of Autumn Term Pre-school will finish at 1pm.
<b>2021 Dates for Diary</b>	
<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021</b>	
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2021	First day of Spring Term 2021

Inset t



JANUARY 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

It's lovely to see all our children settled into the new term. Our new starters have been welcomed in by the other children and have also settled well and seem very happy.

We would like to thank all of you for your generous Christmas gifts, we were truly all overwhelmed.

Thank you also for your generous donations and for purchasing raffle tickets at our Christmas Family Fun afternoon which raised £52.50. We received some great feedback about the afternoon in the school hall so plan to carry on with this set up going forward.

Could I please say a huge thank you again for your continued support. I hope that all families have received a PTA parent representative information slip. If any new families haven't received this, please let us know and I will ensure we get copies out to you.

With best wishes,

Mrs Moyes

## **Cold weather**

Now that the weather is finally turning colder, please can you ensure that your child has a named coat, gloves (ideally mittens as these are easier for the children to put on independently), hat and scarf. Pre-school will be going outside in all weathers as the fresh air does us all good. Please make sure that your child has a named pair of wellies in Pre-school so that they can enjoy our outdoor class activities without getting muddy shoes (we do have some spares in pre-school which your child may borrow if it is not possible to provide a pair).

Can we also request that the children come into pre-school with suitable footwear for the winter months? Canvas type shoes will not keep the children's feet dry and warm when going outside. Ideally some sort of leather shoe or more substantial trainers.

## **Emergency school closures:**

Please take a moment now to register with the Central Bedfordshire School Open Status (SOS) system so that if we have to close the school for any reason, you will receive an email alert as well as a text message.

- Click on the link:
- <http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/webApps/SOS>
- Click on 'register for updates' and fill in the text boxes
- Click on 'submit'

You will then receive an email which contains instructions on how to 'activate' your account which will include 'one off' activation code:

- Click on the link:
- <http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/webApps/SOS>
- Go to 'Log in to edit your details' and type in your email address and the activation code.
- The next time you want to edit your details (e.g. change the names of schools for which you wish to receive alerts), type in your email address and password.

Please do not try and ring the radio stations to find out if the school is closed as telephones will be busy. **Please remember to check for closures under the Doverly Down section and not the Acorn Pre-School section as that is not us!**

## **Topic overview**

We have planned to cover the following topics this term:

**Spring Term** - We are going to be talking about people who help us including vets, police and fire people. We are hoping to arrange for visitors to come into the setting to help the children with their learning. We currently have the role play area set up as a vet surgery and in the next week or so we will change this into something related to the police. Alongside this we will look at winter, Chinese New Year and Valentine's Day.

**Summer Term** - We are hoping to cover dinosaurs and under the sea alongside looking at the seasons spring and summer.

The above is an overview and we will have lots of fun activities planned for all of these topics. All of the planning for pre-school can be found on the wall just inside the classroom. However, we will also continue to observe your children and add into the planning activities based around your child's needs and interests. We welcome any suggestions from you to help with our planning.

## **Use of whiteboard**

I wanted to make you aware that we will be starting to use our laptop and whiteboard on a regular basis with the children. This will only be used to support our topic learning and on the odd occasion we may allow the children to watch something fun (for example if it is pouring with rain and we are unable to get outside).

### **Tempest Class Photographs**

We will be having a class photograph for Acorns children again this year. This will take place on **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March** in the main school hall. We would ask that children who normally attend Acorns on Thursday morning arrive by 9.00am latest, if possible. We will then take our children over to main school.

For children that do not normally attend on Thursday morning, you are welcome to join us at school so that your child can be included on the class photo. You will need to stay with your child for this time and we would ask that you arrive in main school reception area for 9.10 am on this day.

### **World Book Day**

We will be taking part in World Book Day on **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March**. Pre-school are invited to come into setting that day dressed as a book character. (Any fancy dress is welcome, please don't go and buy anything especially for this day.)

### **Family Discussion**

Our family discussions will be held in **March**, we will be offering some afternoon time slots and an early evening appointment. More information regarding this will follow in a separate letter.

### **Lunch Boxes & Water bottles**

Please can we ask that all children come into pre-school with a named lunch box and water bottle.

## Is your child ready to learn?

When your child goes to school they need to have a number of skills in place which will mean that they are able to learn. Over the spring and summer term we will be focusing on the '16 ticks' to help the children be school ready for September. Please can we ask that you support us with preparing the children for school by working on the following areas:

- To sit still and listen
- To be aware of other children and make friends
- To understand the word 'no' and the boundaries it sets
- To understand the word 'stop' and that this might be used to prevent danger
- To be toilet trained and able to visit the toilet alone
- To speak to an adult and ask for help
- To be able to take off coat and put on shoes
- To talk in sentences and use an extending vocabulary
- To open and enjoy a book
- To eat a meal of snack unaided and identify and enjoy healthy foods
- Make sure your child has received all of their immunisations and relevant health checks
- Have a good level of physical activity

If you would like to read the full information about the 16 ticks then please visit:

[https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/migrated\\_images/consider-16-ticks-leaflet\\_tcm3-17286.pdf](https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/migrated_images/consider-16-ticks-leaflet_tcm3-17286.pdf)