

26<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear Parents,

We think the children have been marvellous! They are all getting more comfortable and confident every day at school and we are so impressed. As you know we have been talking a lot about friendship and it has been wonderful to see some old friendships working well and some new friendships emerging.

In the early years, a lot of our literacy work focuses on the children responding to the texts they read. We are asking LOTS of questions about each page in the books we are reading. This is the best way to check the children really understand what is being read to them and what the illustrations are showing us. We are taking two whole weeks to read the Hello Friend book to make sure all the issues are understood and discussed. For some of our literacy work we follow a programme called The Power of Reading. The Power of Reading puts quality children's literature at the heart of literacy learning and is built on years of research and best practice.

We will be starting our phonics programme next week and more details will follow. This week we will continue with listening for rhyming words and listening for different sounds in the environment. We will also be clapping syllables in words, especially the children's' names. We will also be carrying out the statutory baseline assessments with the children.

For maths this week, the children will be encouraged to quantify sets of objects by subitising, rather than counting. When subitising, children can say how many there are in a small group of objects by 'just seeing' and knowing straightaway without needing to count. For example, seeing 3 dots on a dice, they know its 3 and don't have to count 1, 2, 3. We use clips from BBC's Numberblocks quite frequently in our maths lessons. The series was made in partnership with the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics (NCETM) and we follow their Mastering Number scheme.

We will be doing lots of craft and painting, linked to this week's theme of friendship. Below are some examples we will be trying to replicate. We are also hoping to make some carrot soup from the carrots we harvested from our garden last week!

Best wishes,  
The Acorn team 😊

