



Dear Parents

6th February, 2023

This week at school we will be basing our activities on a story called *The Runaway Chapatti*. It is a different take on the *Gingerbread man* story and we will be leaning lots about India where the story is set. If you have any items relating to India please do send them in. We will be making Chapattis, learning about how life in India is different and similar to here and also creating some wonderful arts and crafts based on Indian patterns.

We are working really hard on handwriting at the moment, but before a child is ready to hold and control a pencil successfully they must have good core strength and control over their pivot joints. To develop this we do a range of things but it would be really helpful if you could encourage your child to climb, swing, skip, do monkey bars, jump on and off things safely, use rackets and kick balls. The well regarded early years author Ali McClure feels that a child is ready to write when they can skip with a rope!

In phonics we will be learning the sounds ow, oi, ear and air. In maths this week, the children will continue to engage with activities that draw attention to the purpose of counting - to find out 'how many' objects there are. The children will be given opportunities to count to 20 and beyond.

This week is Childrens' Mental Health Awareness week. In Acorn class, we will be focusing on making connections, self-esteem and kindness, discussing "Things I like about me and my friends". On Thursday we have a Mufti day called Dress to Express. Children can come in dressed in a way which they feel allows them to express who they are.

On Tuesday, it will be a very exciting day in Acorn Class (and the rest of the school)..... The police are visiting! The children will get a chance to explore their police car and find out about their work. They will also talk about how children can stay safe. That day is also Safer Internet Day, which fits in really well with Mental Health Awareness week and Acorn class will be learning about internet safety through stories and rhymes.

Best wishes,
The Acorn Team