



'Preparing Children for Tomorrows Adventures'

Prospectus

Previous Ofsted Registration Number: 510074
Latest Ofsted rating: Good
Current Ofsted Registration Number: 115510

About Acorns

Acorns is a small nursery which became part of Churcham Primary School in September 2023. Prior to this, it ran as a committee-led nursery. We offer early education and care for children from the age of two up until they reach school starting age. With two staff members, we limit places to a maximum of 12 children a day. A smaller group size means that staff quickly get to know each child and their families, and cater for their individual needs. We strive for a nursery with a family feel where children have room to grow into confident, happy and resilient individuals who have a love for learning.

Nursery Environment



The nursery is situated within the school terrapin. We have a separate outdoor play area with easy access from the nursery, and also benefit from using the school hall, larger play equipment, playground and sports field. Staff listen to the children and work to adapt the environment to reflect their views and needs where possible.

We aim to provide a warm, welcoming environment in which children can play and learn in order to reach their full potential. The layout of the room and outdoor area allows for children to freely manoeuvre between areas and to have easy access to resources. The activities and resources on offer reflect all ages and stages of children's learning and development, whilst challenging them and providing them with the tools needed to make steady progress within their education



Our Curriculum

At Acorns, we have produced a curriculum using the Birth to Five Matters 2021 guidance material in order to ensure every child makes the progress they are capable of. Each child is assigned a key person who is responsible for observing and monitoring children's development and ensuring that both the environment and the activities offered are supporting their learning thus enabling them to achieve their full potential.



Children who attend Acorns have the opportunity to experience a broad range of activities and experiences, which staff carefully plan, in order to meet their individual needs, interests, next steps, and the way in which they learn, including their emotional wellbeing, sense of belonging, self-confidence and independence. This includes activities such as;

- Phonic and maths sessions
- Music
- PE
- Baking
- Circle time
- Show and tell
- Forest School
- Helicopter Stories



Each week staff plan activities based upon the current interests of children and their next steps. In addition to planned activities children are also encouraged to engage in their own play and learning, which staff then join in with to support and extend where beneficial.

We aim to provide children with experiences that encourage independence and enables them to develop a strong sense of self-worth as well as respect for members of their wider community.

Outdoor Learning

Outdoor learning forms a big part of our curriculum. Children have access to the outside area each day and can free-flow between inside and out. We enjoy going out in all weathers, if safe to do so, and children particularly enjoy being able to run and dance in heavier rain and watching the raindrops bounce off the floor. We also offer Forest School sessions at the bottom of the field, in order to enhance children's learning experiences and provide them with a different environment in which to play and learn.




Inclusive Practice

At Acorns we strongly believe that all children have a right to an education regardless of their background, race, religion, gender, or abilities etc. We aim to support all children and their families throughout their time with us and will make reasonable adjustments to do so. Part of this includes working closely with outside professionals such as Speech and Language Therapists, Health Visitors, Family Support Workers etc.

Our inclusive approach also means that we celebrate the diversity of both our nursery family and the local community, and celebrate occasions such as Diwali, Hanukkah, Chinese New Year, Easter, Christmas and Remembrance Day etc.





Transitioning to Nursery

We understand that starting nursery is a big step for both the children and their parents/carers, and we want to help make this transition as easy and as positive as we can. Prior to starting nursery we gather as much information as possible regarding individual needs, interests and requirements. This enables us to plan in advance to meet these needs and to support the settling in process. Where we can, we offer settling in sessions where children can join us for two or three sessions prior to them starting where parents are welcome to stay with them. The settling in process is different for each child and so discussion on how best to approach this is had with all parents/carers prior to children starting.

We strive to give children the best possible start to their education, which we believe is possible through close partnership working with parents/carers, not just upon starting but throughout their time with us. Children leave our nursery as resilient, capable, independent individuals who have a love for learning.



Transitioning to School

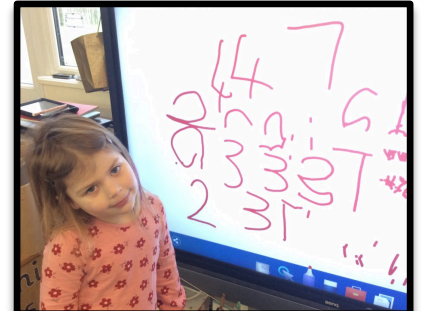
The majority of children who attend Acorns go on to attend Churcham Primary School. The nursery children regularly see the school staff and students, creating a sense of familiarity when they move into Reception. The nursery children go outside to play with the school children during lunch times, and later on in the year, the Reception children come into nursery one afternoon each week, again creating some familiarity and friendships for when children transition into Reception themselves.

During the Summer term, children are invited to Rising 5's sessions. These sessions allow them to spend time with their new teachers, meet the children who will be in their class, and to begin learning and familiarising themselves with their classroom. This helps to remove any fears so it is not as daunting for them on their first day in Reception.

Prior to starting in Class One, we have meetings with the Reception teachers to ensure they have a thorough understanding of your child and how best to support them. For children who go on to attend other schools, we are just as committed to supporting transitions for them too. We encourage open communication with their new teachers

and invite them in to visit children at nursery, so that children become familiar with them. We are also happy to have meetings with children's new teachers to discuss where they are in their learning, their interests and needs, and any additional support they may require. Regardless of whether children stay at Churcham School or if they move on to another setting, we complete detailed transition records which are passed on to their new teacher.

We find that our approach to supporting children with transitioning to school enables them to have a smooth transition and provides them with the best possible start of school life.



Session Times

The nursery is open on a Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, term time only. We offer a range of sessions:

- Morning session – 8:45am - 12:00pm
- Morning session with lunch – 8:45am-1:00pm
- Afternoon session - 1:00pm - 3:15pm
- Afternoon session with lunch – 12:00pm-3:15pm
- Full day - 8:45am - 3:15pm

Funded Places

Children receive 15 hours Government funding the term following their third birthday. We also accept the 15 hours Government funding for two years olds and the 30 hour funding for 3 and 4 year olds, for those children who are eligible. Any additional hours are charged at £4.50p/h.

Contact Information

To arrange a visit to nursery or to find out further information please contact us on:

- 01452 750467 (school office number)
- acorns@eygloucestershire.co.uk

Address:

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