Acorns Newsletter Autumn Term 2026 (Part 2)

We follow children's interests as well as our topics. Please see below for more topic details.



Starry Night – What happens when I fall asleep?

Engage

In our topic this half term, we will explore the differences between the world at night and during the day. Learn about the importance of a good night's sleep, and discover what is happening in the world while they are sleeping, including finding out about nocturnal animals.

Children will begin the topic by coming to school in their pyjamas on Friday 6th November.

We will be investigating through photographs what school looks like at night time and compare it to daytime looking at similarities and differences.

Develop

Children will then learn about…

Communication and Language (C&L): Through our Starry Night topic, the children will develop their speaking and listening skills by sharing ideas, describing what they can see in the night sky and talking about their own experiences of nighttime. They will learn and use new vocabulary linked to space, light and dark, and practise listening carefully to stories, instructions and the contributions of others during group discussions.

Physical Development (PD): **Our PE this term will be inside so only shorts and a t-shirt will be needed in their PE bags.** Children will develop their fine and gross motor skills through a range of indoor and outdoor activities. They will strengthen their coordination, balance and control while exploring movements inspired by the night sky, stars and space.

Personal, Social, Emotional Development (PSED): We will explore bedtime routines and discuss the importance of sleep, rest and self-care. They will be encouraged to talk about their own experiences, develop independence and understand how daily routines help to keep us healthy and happy.

Literacy: Children will enjoy a range of fiction and non-fiction texts linked to our Starry Night theme. They will develop their comprehension skills by discussing stories, making predictions and recalling events, while continuing to build confidence in mark-making, writing and phonics.

As Readers: They will read the story Whatever Next! by Jill Murphy, we will Stop at points in the story to recap and predict what might happen next. We will then act out the story using props or add actions.

As Writers: The children will be focusing on the correct formation of letters and practising these skills through adult led activities.

Understanding the World (UW): Children will explore the differences between day and night and investigate the natural world around them. They will ask questions, make observations and learn about the night sky, including the Moon, stars and sources of light.

	Expressive Art and Design (EAD): Children will use a variety of materials, tools and techniques to create artwork inspired by the night sky. They will also engage in imaginative play, music and movement activities, using their creativity to express their ideas and experiences.
Innovate	*The children are given an innovate challenge – They will listen to the story of 'Tessy Bear' discuss the bears bedtime routine and then asked to help Tessy Bear with her bedtime routine, getting ready for bed and to understand more about night time.*
Express	Children will be given large sheets of black and white paper and photographs that show scenes at night and during the day. These could include animals, people who help us, photographs from around the school, clothing and activities. The children will work together to make a day and night picture. The children will then take turns to share their picture boards and describe the differences between day and night.
Key Vocabulary	**Bedtime, light, dark, daytime, night time, moon, planet, sun, stars, sleep**
Other Areas To Be taught discreetly	**Maths:** Children will explore mathematical concepts through counting, sorting, comparing and recognising patterns. They will use number language to solve problems and investigate shapes, measures and patterns that can be found in the world around them. **Religious Education (RE):** We will ask questions to encourage deeper thinking skills. The children will be discussing different celebrations that take place around the world.

Acorns children have really enjoyed their first term at school and have been working really hard to settle into Acorns!
We are really looking forward to our new topic this term!

If you have anything you wish to discuss with your child's class teacher, please email the school office and it will be passed on to the appropriate staff member.

Thank you for your support with your child's education.

The Acorns Team ☺