

Heptonstall J & I School



Information Booklet For Acorn Class (Reception and Year One)

School Year 2023/2024

Welcome to Heptonstall J & I School

Mission Statement

Our aim is to create a happy and secure environment where every individual will reach their full potential.

All of our children are different.



They enjoy different activities,



*they come from different homes,
they are interested in different things and
they each learn differently*

We value each child as an individual. Try not to compare your child's progress with others too much. All children progress at different rates. There can be 11 months' difference in ages in the same year group and over 2 years' difference in our class.

School Staff



David Perrin

Head Teacher

Class 2 Teacher - Sapling

DSL



Polly Williams

Class 2 Teacher - Sapling



Laura Robertshaw

Class 3 Teacher - Oak

Deputy DSL



Megan Dodd

Class 1 Teacher - Acorn

SENCO



Anna Waring

Teaching Assistant

Pupil Premium Support



Angela Schnake

HLTA



Amanda Rhodes

School Office Manager



Alan Goldstraw

Catering / Midday Supervisor



Samantha Reed

Midday Supervisor

Governing Body

School Governors

The school governors meet regularly and hold meetings for information and questions. You will be notified through school of these meetings.

Tim Machin (Chair)

Carol Blanch

Helen Starmer

Carley Stansfield (Vice Chair)

Samantha Reed

Stephanie Haworth

Tony Spink

Polly Williams

Megan Dodd

David Perrin

Amanda Rhodes

Parent Governor

LA Governor

Co-opted Governor

Parent Governor

Parent Governor

Co-opted Governor

Community Governor

Staff Governor

Staff Governor

Headteacher

Clerk

Term Dates for 2023/2024

Holiday	School Closes	School Opens
		Wednesday 6 th September
October half term	Friday 27 th October	Monday 6 th November
Christmas	Friday 22 nd December	Monday 8 th January 2024
February half term	Friday 9 th February	Monday 19 th February
Easter	Friday 22 nd March	Monday 8 th April
INSET & Bank Holiday	Thursday 3 rd May	Wednesday 8 th May
Spring Bank	Friday 24 th May	Monday 3 rd June
Summer	Friday 19 th July	

INSET DAYS

Monday 4th September

Tuesday 5th September

Friday 3rd May

Tuesday 7th May

Monday 22nd July

Welcome to Acorn Class



Megan Dodd

Class 1 Teacher - Acorn

SENCO



Anna Waring

Teaching Assistant

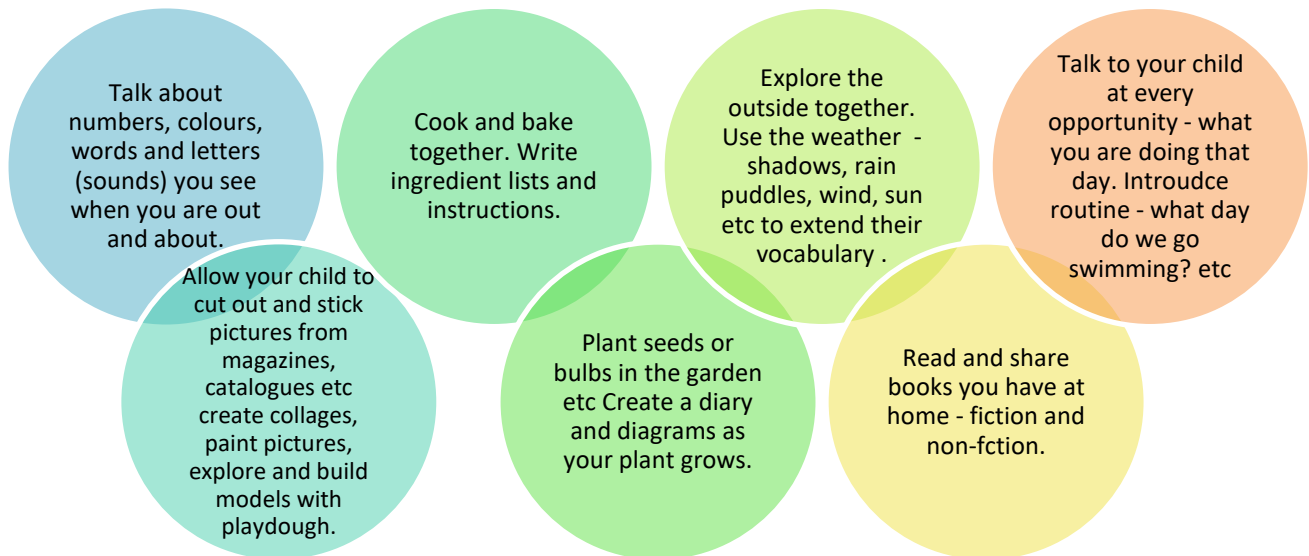
Pupil Premium Support

The Autumn term begins on Wednesday 6th September 2023.

We look forward to working in partnership with you and your child. As a parent, you are your child's first teacher. The support and encouragement you provide are most important throughout your child's school life, and especially throughout the Foundation Stage and Year One.

As a parent or a carer you may ask how could I help my child with their learning? All the fun activities you do at home with your child are important in supporting their learning and development, and have a really long lasting effect on your child's learning as they progress through school.

Below is an idea of some of the activities you could do with your child on a daily basis; it will make a real difference to their confidence as a young learner.



If you have any worries or concerns please do not hesitate to speak to Miss Dodd at the start or end of the school day.

Alternatively, you can contact school on **01422 842533**. Mrs Amanda Rhodes is our School Office Manager and will be happy to convey messages to staff, who will in turn contact you and arrange a meeting. Mrs Rhodes can be found in the school office just inside the main visitors' entrance at the front of school.

Office hours:

8.45am - 1.30 pm (Wednesday to Friday)

School uniforms, P.E. kit and book bags can also be ordered from this office.

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum (Reception)

The Early Years Foundation Stage is about developing key learning skills such as speaking & listening, concentration, persistence, learning to work together & building relationships. It is also about developing early communication, literacy & numeracy skills that will prepare young children for key stage 1 of the National Curriculum.



The 3 Prime Areas are:

- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development

The 4 Specific Areas are:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts & design

The curriculum for the Foundation Stage is organised into seven Areas of Learning:

Well planned, structured play is a key way in which children learn with enjoyment and challenge, this is called continuous provision. As well as having small, focussed adult teaching sessions children also get the chance to lead their own learning through our continuous provision, helping them work towards achieving the Early Learning Goals by the end of their Reception year. By the end of the academic year, some, especially younger children, may still be progressing towards these goals whilst others may have reached them in one or more area of learning.

The Year One Curriculum

In Year One we follow The National Curriculum. The National Curriculum includes the statutory Programmes of Study for English, Maths, Science, History, Geography, Art, DT, PE, Computing, Music, PSHCE and RE.

As mentioned previously well-planned play is a big part of Acorn Class. In Acorn Class our Year Ones are lucky enough to still have access and benefit from tailored continuous provision. This means that as well as having the 'formality' of lessons to help teach the different areas of the National Curriculum they are also provided with a variety of engaging and challenging opportunities around the classroom to support them in learning through play. These areas of the classroom (including our outdoor area) are adapted regularly to build on prior knowledge, target next steps and fit in with our termly topics/themes.



All Reception and Year One children are assessed half termly to help monitor their progress and set their next steps.

Please see our [Acorn Class Long Term Plan](#) on our school website for further, detailed information about our class themes and plans for this school year.

Other Key Information

At the start of the school day

Your child will enter school through the glass link corridor at the beginning of each day. Doors open at 8.45am in the morning and the register is taken promptly at 8.55am. School finishes at 3.30pm – our doors will open for you to collect your child from 3.25pm.

On **Monday mornings only** we invite you to bring your child into the classroom to drop them off and have a chat with us! (Please note Phonics starts promptly at 9am so you will need to have said your goodbyes by then).

Class Dojo

Throughout school we use 'Class Dojo' to communicate your child's learning with you at home. It is also a tool used to encourage and reward important skills and behaviours by giving children team points via their 'Class Dojo Monster'.

When your child reaches a Dojo team point 'milestone' (every 25 points) they will be presented with a certificate during the next scheduled Friday Good Work Assembly. All parents/carers are invited to join us in signing up for Class Dojo so you can see all of the wonderful learning your child is taking part in and track what they are earning all those wonderful team points for. Your child can also sign up, track their progress and even edit their monster avatar that will show up in class the next day!

You can also find Mr Perrin's weekly news on here every Friday – this will let you know of any upcoming important dates or events going on in school.

Miss Dodd will provide you with details for how to sign up when your child begins school.

Sickness

Please let us know by telephone if your child is absent due to illness – a message on Dojo to your class teacher is also welcome.

To prevent the spread of illness, please keep your child at home for at least **48 hours after vomiting or diarrhoea**. This is in line with Calderdale Guidelines.

Snacks, School Milk

We ask you not to send your child with sweets, crisps or biscuits – children will be offered a piece of fruit during the morning. Milk is also provided free of charge to all Reception children up until their 5th birthday and can be paid for after this via the school milk provider's website.

It is important that you register your child for school milk, even when they are entitled to free school milk – we only get deliveries for those children who are registered. Register at <https://www.coolmilk.com/>

Please ensure that we know about any dietary requirements your child has.

Baking Money

We kindly ask for a small weekly contribution of 50p from each child - this allows each child to bake a birthday cake during their birthday month to share with the rest of the class.

These donations also enable us to buy 'extras' to enhance our topics. Examples include cooking ingredients, spring bulbs, fabrics and even some real caterpillars which we observe develop into butterflies. Some children bring 50p each week, others bring baking money for each term (roughly £3 per half term, £6 per term).

Any contribution is HUGELY appreciated. Thank you.

Good Work Assemblies

There is a special assembly most Fridays at 3pm where each class shares some of their week's work with the rest of the school. This is also when children can share any achievements from outside of school such as football clubs, swimming certificates etc. This assembly is also when children receive their team point certificates and one child is selected each week from each class to receive either a Good Work or Good Behaviour certificate. Parents/carers are very welcome to join us for this assembly.

School Readiness

When joining us in Acorn Class it will greatly help if your child is well on the way with being able to;

- ✓ Go to the toilet unaccompanied
- ✓ Put on and fasten a coat
- ✓ Use a knife and fork
- ✓ Recognise his/her name
- ✓ Dress and undress him/herself
- ✓ Tidy away his/her own toys

School Uniform

Our school has a school uniform. This consists of red sweatshirts/cardigans, grey or black trousers or joggers/skirts or pinafore dresses and white or red polo shirts. We also have PE T-shirts and shorts, school book bags, PE bags and even optional coats, fleeces and hats, all of which can be ordered from the school office using the Uniform Order Form.

It is essential that all items of school uniform have **clear name labels** as obviously there are a large number of identical items in school. Please check these regularly.

PE

Acorn Class have PE sessions twice per week – once on a Monday afternoon with Miss Dodd, and a second PE session on a Thursday afternoon with Mrs Schnake.

Please make sure your child has a PE Kit in school for these afternoons. We usually keep PE kits in school for the half term and then send them home during the holidays to be cleaned.

Again, please make sure you have labelled all of your child's PE kit with their name – it can get very confusing when we're all getting changed and there's multiple of the same item!

Collecting Your Child

We can only allow someone other than a parent/carer to collect a child if they have been named on the form that will be given to you. This is a **legal requirement** under the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework. If someone comes to collect your child who is not named on this form, we will have to keep your child in school until we can contact you. You can add or remove names from your list at any time. Please let Miss Dodd know in writing if you wish to do this.

Medicines

We can only administer medicines prescribed by a doctor and must have prior written permission for each medicine before it can be given. Permission forms are available from the school office. If a medicine is prescribed for 4 times a day we will administer it at lunchtime. Those prescribed for 3 times a day should be given at home.

School Meals

Children in Reception and KS1 are all eligible to receive free school meals. Lunchtimes provide an excellent opportunity to eat with peers (we eat with the whole school in the hall), develop good table manners, practice using a knife and fork and entering into social conversation.

We provide school meals each day at a cost of £2.50. Most parents pay for these weekly (£12.50) or some prefer to pay for a full half term in advance. If you prefer to provide a packed lunch from home then we would encourage a nutritionally balanced healthy diet.

Please ensure that we know about any dietary requirements your child has.

Water Bottles

Please send your child with a name labelled water bottle for class. Try to avoid putting them in book bags when full as they may leak on reading books – an alternative is to send them in to school empty and we can fill them in class.

Don't worry, those who forget to bring a water bottle will be provided with opportunities for water throughout the day.

School Library

On Friday mornings we will visit the school library. This is a time where your child can have a look at a variety of books, listen to a story being read and choose a book to take home for the week.

Please remember to return your child's library book to school the following Friday if they would like it to be changed.

P.F.A. (Parents and Friends)

Our school has a P.F.A. who meet regularly either in school or in the local community. All parents are welcome to attend meetings. Parents are notified through Class Dojo of these meetings. If you would like to become involved you can talk to Mrs Rhodes in the school office who will put you in touch with the current members of the P.F.A.

School Website

You can get up-to-date information about our class, curriculum and all events in school from our website: www.heptonstallschool.org.uk

Our Outdoor Area

We love our outdoor area – It includes; a building area, painting easel, mud kitchen, weaving loom, tuff tray (for messy activities), work bench and much much more. Check out our photos to see how much we love it!

Thanks to our PFA who helped to raise money and fund this project.



Please don't hesitate to get in touch with Miss Dodd via Class Dojo or before or after school if you have any queries at all. We can't wait to watch your child learn and grow throughout their time with us here at Heptonstall.

Now take a look at some of the wonderful things we have been up to over the past year!



We've loved our annual Autumn walk this afternoon! We've explored our village whilst looking for different signs of Autumn such as different coloured leaves, bare tree branches, conkers, pine cones and we even spotted some pumpkins (in one of our gardens!). We all picked one thing each from our walk to bring home and share with you, they should be in book bags! We've absolutely loved it (and so did Mr Perrin!) ... a fab autumnal afternoon 🍂🍁



Wow! What a busy morning we had preparing and enjoying our Diwali feast.

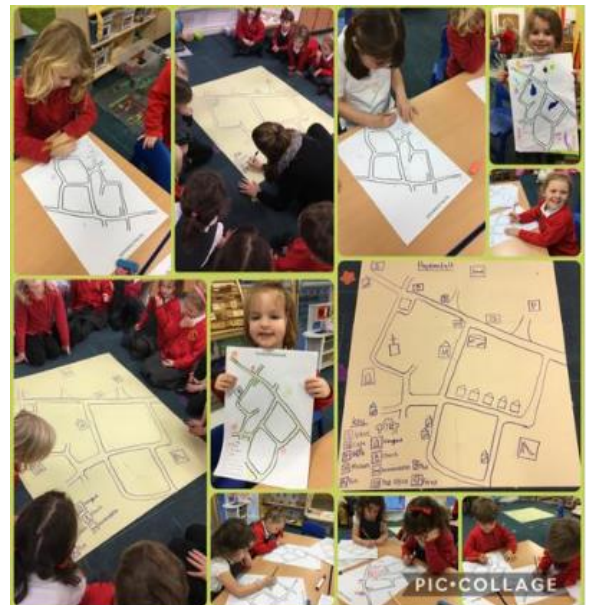
We all had great fun preparing and making our own mango lassi and chapatis - practicing our cutting, mixing, stirring and rolling etc. We then decided we wanted to decorate our tables so used rice and coloured sand to work in groups and make our own Rangoli patterns.

Finally, we got to eat our Indian feast! We all enjoyed trying the chapatis and mango lassi that we made, as well as onion bhajis, mango chutney, raita and popadoms. Yum!



FIRE, FIRE! 🔥

We've been loving our Pudding Lane Bakery role play area!



We have LOVED continuing our map work this afternoon.

We worked together as a class, using Google Maps to help us, to create a map of Heptonstall, making sure we used symbols and a key to make it clear and easy to understand. Our Year Ones (and even some of our Reception) then had a go at making their own maps of Heptonstall with keys and symbols too!



Christmas has officially arrived in Acorn Class 🎄
 Here are some of the festive activities that we've already been enjoying around our classroom!



In our Literacy we've been reading 'Eliot Jones, Midnight Superhero'. We thought carefully about different superheroes, their magic powers and their costumes before designing one of our own. We made sure that our costumes and logos matched our special powers and names! We will be using our newly created superheroes to create our own stories about them over the coming weeks.



We had great fun doing our Chinese dragon dancing this morning 🐉





We've had a great first day back practicing our rolling skills in PE 🏀



We've had great fun in our DT lessons finishing off our castles. We've worked in our groups to make sure we have included as many castle features as possible, including: battlements, loop holes, drawbridges, towers, portcullis', flags and gatehouses. Once finished, we have enjoyed playing with our castles, using blue building blocks to create moats and having battles against each other using our previously made catapults! 🏰



Our science this half term is all about plants. This week we've started by looking at the different types and parts of plants as well as what they need in order to grow well. We then all enjoyed planting our own sunflower seeds and we can't wait to watch them grow 🌻



What a fabulous day commemorating King Charles' Coronation 🏰 We had a great morning out and about on our royal scarecrow walk before coming back to enjoy our family picnic, Maypole performance and Coronation song!



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Our Reception have been exploring the position and rotation of 2D shapes. They have had GREAT fun (like, really... REALLY loved it!) creating different shapes using elastic bands on geo boards, also good for our fine motor skills! I will be putting these in provision so they can continue to explore the different shapes they can make.



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How fab are our finished Kenyan tribal masks?! We can't wait to put them on display ke



We had a lovely nature walk this afternoon hunting for a variety of trees and wild plants that we've been learning about in our Science 🌱🌸



We are VERY excited as our very little special guests have arrived in Acorn Class today! We can't wait to look after them and watch them develop and grow into beautiful butterflies 🦋🦋



**Heptonstall Junior & Infant School
Smithwell Lane, Heptonstall
Hebden Bridge, HX7 7NX**

e-mail: admin@heptonstall.calderdale.sch.uk

Tel: 01422 842533

www.heptonstallschool.org.uk