

# ACORNS MONTHLY

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baby  
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## NEWS UPDATE

### Acorns Foundation : achievements of this first term

The first term of the academic year 2011-12 has seen strong support from parents for our activities and projects – THANK YOU. Alongside parents' support for their children every day through bringing them to the nursery and in recognising their achievements on a daily basis, I would also like to thank parents who have:

- Offered us verbal support in everything that we have achieved this term
- Supported and promoted our projects at work or among friends, which we have launched or continued this year
- Supported us at our coffee morning with the Every Child Matters inspectors as well as those who congratulated our achievement afterwards
- Supported children by donating money on World Heart Day to the first pediatric cardiology ward in Bucharest at Marie Curie hospital. Thank you especially to **Luca Rusu's and Victor Diaconu's parents** for their generous donations. Together, we raised 4650 Ron!
- To Mrs Lucia Nicolae who suggested the Acorns World Heart Day initiative to her firm and consequently helped to make a donation of **15,200 Ron** to Marie Curie hospital! We hope that this kind of support will continue and gain more appeal. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!
- To all parents, in such a big number, who joined in with our event for UN Day by donating food and by attending the party. 28th October was a large and happy reunion for all members of the Acorns family. Thank you and congratulations!
- To those parents who helped their children to buy poppies for

Remembrance Day as well as the **Rusu family** for their generous donation and **Licuriceanu, Anglade and Culai families**. Together, we managed to give **Diana and Andrei toys and a generous donation of 2300 Ron and toys**. The money which will help to continue medical treatment and ensure a really happy Christmas. Their mother and widow of soldier **Petru Caracuda** thanks all our parents for the gifts received by her children and sends her best wishes to everyone who made this big surprise possible.

- To **Adina Casas** for undertaking the successful publication of the 3rd edition of the **Baby Acorns calendar**. A superb creation with participants from Tiny Tots and Busy Bees and activities which parents can try with their children at home. A real triumph after a year's break. Thank you!
- To parents who have bought the calendar, thereby ensuring promotion of the 0 2 3 Early Education project. Thank you!
- Parents who participated in story sessions in Early Explorers; a new initiative and a real success!
- **Laura Lungu (Maia-BA) and Roxana Aleexandru (Jasmina – EE)** for organising trips to Danone and Kanal D
- **The Zamfir family** for again for the 4th year providing Christmas trees for both nurseries. A wonderful and extremely appreciated surprise! Thank you!
- **Mrs Mocanu and Mrs Bilan** for their contributions to our Christmas parties
- To all parents who sent our staff their Christmas wishes; thank you for your kind words, chocolates, flowers or other gifts so much appreciated by our staff !

This list demonstrates some of the ways in which you have supported Acorns Foundation this term, and we recognise and appreciate all your efforts.

We wish you a warm and happy holiday and look forward to continuing our partnership

Thank you

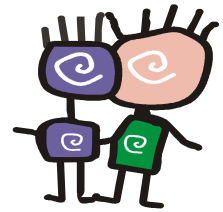
Valentina Secara General Manager

Fundatia Acorns



**ACORNS  
FOUNDATION  
WISHES YOU  
A MERRY  
CHRISTMAS AND  
A HAPPY  
NEW YEAR!**

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## Events in Acorns and Baby Acorns

**Romanian National Day** 1st December was celebrated as a very important day in Acorns, being the national day of most of our children. Some of the children came dressed in national costume or brought traditional artifacts which they looked at and passed round in circle time. In EE the children looked at a map of Romania and learned about the different regions, later in the day they listened to traditional Romanian music and learnt how to dance 'hora', while in Rainbows and Tweenies the children enjoyed painting their own version of the tricolour flag. Rainbows also made traditional dolls from wooden spoons, which they designed their own clothes for.



## St Nicholas in Acorns and Baby Acorns

This day marks the official start of the Christmas season in Acorns and Baby Acorns. All the children were excited to find a surprise from St Nicholas waiting for them in their slippers when they arrived at the nursery. The rest of the day was spent doing activities linked to the theme of St Nicholas, listening to the story associated with this day, colouring pictures, making Christmas decorations and starting to decorate our Christmas trees.



With lots of excitement, music, creative activities and laughter, this was a great start to festivities in our nurseries.



## Trips to Orthodox Church and Anglican Church



It has become tradition for the older children in Acorns to visit a church at this time of year and this December, Rainbows and Early Explorers went to see 2 different churches. Rainbows went to Mitropolia Romana where they were greeted by the priest who showed them around the church and told them about the story of St Nicholas. They were then able to look around the church, seeing the many icons and windows. Each of the children received a picture of St Nicholas as a reminder of their visit. EE went to visit the Church of the Resurrection - the only Anglican church in Bucharest. Here, they met Father Patrick who talked to the children all about the kind of person St Nicholas was and what we can learn from the traditional story, as well as what we should remember about Christmas and how it should be celebrated. The children were very interested to look around the church and asked Father Patrick many questions!

**Acorns Facebook Page** You can find out about many aspects of Acorns Foundation work by checking out our Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Acorns-Foundation/145974555467711>. Find out information about our projects, events from Acorns and Baby Acorns, suggestions for further reading and videos to watch about early years education, best practice with children etc. A big thank you to Sorina Vana who is "feeding" our facebook page. Please visit our page and hit "like" !



## "Who wants to be a millionaire and Acorns"

EE were very excited to be invited to go to Kanal D studios, where they met Virgil Iantu and looked around the TV studios. They had the chance to sit in the contestants' seats and even took part in their own quiz specially written for them! They then each took a turn to sit on the 'hotseat' and had their photo taken with Virgil. They enjoyed seeing all the lights and cameras and looking 'behind the scenes' of the programme Who Wants to be a Millionaire? Each of the children left with a souvenir from Kanal D to help them remember their trip. A big thank you to Roxana Alexandru for organising this for us.



## Trip To IBSB

EE received an invitation to join key stage 1 children at IBSB for their 'house games' morning in December. Part of an ongoing programme of exchange visits between Acorns and the school, this occasion gave the children a chance to see their old friends again and to take part in a new school activity. The children were divided into one of the 3 school houses: Dobrogea, Transilvania or Muntenia and then took part in various fun and games with the most points going to the winning house!



## More events ...

### Christmas Parties in Acorns



We kicked off our round of great Christmas parties with Tweenies on Dec 15th. We had the biggest attendance ever for this year's Tweenies' party, with parents, grandparents, aunties and uncles coming to join the fun. The Tweenies Christmas party is always held in Acorns, so the children are in their familiar surroundings. This year saw the children really enthusiastic and happy with their little "Santa's Helpers" show; they all paraded into the room dressed in a variety of costumes such as elves, snow-

flakes, snowmen, reindeer and stars. They then helped one of the teachers, Ana as she narrated a story specially written for the occasion, interspersed with various Christmas songs sung by the children and some jolly dances too. After with presents for everyone. then each bravely came to applause from the audience. held in the theatre of ISB.

-Daisy Angel" about a par-

things wrong, until one day special news about baby Jesus being born in Bethlehem. The cast included narrators, angels, stars, snowflakes, shepherds, kings, Mary and Joseph - plus some modern day carol singers and 'grown-ups' who are too busy to take time off from work to celebrate Christmas. Whoops-a-Daisy Angel shows them all the true meaning of Christmas. Of course, they were all rewarded by a visit from Father Christmas as is tradition at each of our Acorns parties. Well done to all the children and teachers for their hard work and enthusiasm!



### Christmas Party in Baby Acorns



This was another joyful occasion, with a lot of happiness and excitement from both children and parents, this being the first Acorns Christmas party for some of our participants! Tiny Tots (significantly reduced in number!) along with their parents, made Christmas decorations, modelled

red dough, made clothes for Father Christmas, sang and danced. Busy Bees had a much more energetic atmosphere with many parents and grandparents coming to join the party. After a tasty snack prepared by our cook, Daniela the children had a special circle time in which they sang Christmas songs followed by enthusiastic applause from their parents. They played in the manipulative tray with "snow" and cars, they modelled coloured dough and stuck various textures onto a fir tree branch. Parents joined in with many of the children's initiatives, as they celebrated Christmas in an active and noisy way in accordance with their age.



Both Tiny Tots and Busy Bees received presents left by Father Christmas in the hallway. Merry Christmas everybody!

### An other achievement for Acorns and 2 of our teachers

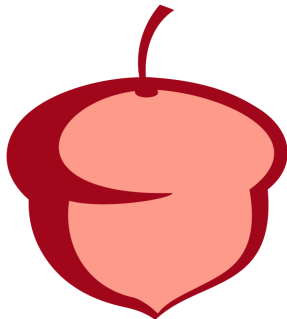
As well as our ongoing training programme based on NVQ qualifications in Childcare, Learning and Development which all Acorns and Baby Acorns teachers follow, we are proud to announce that 2 of our teachers are now officially qualified to teach Jolly Phonics! Alexandra (Rainbows) and Nic (EE) have become the first teachers in Romania (to our knowledge) to successfully complete the online course which covered the history of teaching reading and writing in England, a comparison of various approaches to teaching these skills and detailed information about why Jolly Phonics is so successful and how to use it correctly with children. Alexandra and Nic had to complete 5 units of work, each followed by an assessment task plus a final assessment at the end of the course. Following adjudication by a course assessor, they received feedback on their performance and each were awarded a certificate. With 3 qualified teachers, Acorns is set to continue to provide our children with the best foundation!

"From small acorns big oaks grow"

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## Something Extra: "0 2 3 Early Education project" - Can you help?



As many of you already know, we launched the 0 2 3 Early Education project in 2003, with the aim of supporting the need for early years education in Romania. Using the success of Baby Acorns as a model, Acorns Foundation set out to promote the need for early learning experiences for children aged 0-3 as part of a well planned strategy, using suitable stimulating and age appropriate resources and trained staff. The achievements of the 0 2 3 Early education project have so far included the provision of Cercelus state creche with children's furniture, games and toys, the launch of a training programme for creche staff, 3 editions of the Baby Acorns calendar which promotes the need for early years education in Romania and the early years education Acorns seminar held in May 2011, with guest speakers from 4 countries. What are Acorns future aims? We would like to continue the training for staff in Cercelus creche and extend this to other creches, to equip another 2 creches in Bucharest with children's furniture and stimulating, age-appropriate toys and to plan and host a second early years education seminar which will be made available to staff from state creches. In addition, Acorns Foundation plans to open the first training and excellence centre in Romania, for those who work with children. **We invite you to support one or more of the Acorns Foundation initiatives; the most efficient way of doing so is to re-direct your profit tax to Acorns Foundation for this project. With your help, Acorns can make a difference for children and teachers in Romania. If you would like to find out more about how to do this, please contact Valentina Secara. Your help is needed and appreciated!**

**APA's corner:** Please receive Alina Pascale's recommendations for you and your child in January: you can see a show at the Opera House : "Craiasa Zapezii" or "Spargatorul de nuci" on January the 8th, "Camera Copiilor" on 29th, Harap Alb on 21st, "Hansel si Gretel" on 22nd or you can go to Fundatia Calea Victoriei ([http://www.fundatiacaleavictoriei.ro/category/pentru-copii/?ec3\\_after=today](http://www.fundatiacaleavictoriei.ro/category/pentru-copii/?ec3_after=today) and enrol your child in one of their clubs for their age : "Lumi si creaturi fantastice" (age 6 to 12) starting January 9th or "Atelier de actorie" (aged 6 to 13), from January 21st. Again a big thank you, to Alina!

### Birthdays

We wish to say "Happy Birthday" to those children whose birthday will be in

#### January

Anastasia aged 4 on 2nd  
Andrei aged 2 on 3rd  
Andrei Angelescu aged 3 on 5th  
Isabel aged 6 on 5th  
Stefan aged 5 on 4th  
Mara aged 3 on 15th  
Alexandra aged 6 on 28th

### Baby Acorns Calendar

Our second edition of the Baby Acorns calendar has just been published promoting the need for early education particularly in the age group 0-3. Containing beautiful photos of children currently enrolled in Baby Acorns and shot at the British Gallery, the calendar makes an ideal Christmas gift. Please order your calendars from Georgiana in Baby Acorns or by mail or visit Inmedio shops to get your copy!



### Medical and medicine

**Please do not send your child to the nursery if they do not feel well. We kindly ask all parents to respect the recommendations made by our nurses and doctor who examine the children regularly. Please ask for a copy of our updated Sickness Policy if you have not received one. We can not admit any children while they are following a course of antibiotics. Don't forget to bring in a doctors note if your child has been off sick for 3 days or more.**