

ACORNS MONTHLY

ACORNS
BRITISH STYLE NURSERY



baby
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NEWS UPDATE

ACORNS Foundation: What to look for in term 2

After a very successful first term for Acorns Foundation, the second term follows, full of interesting plans and events for both children and parents in our nurseries.

The most daring aim of Acorns Foundation initiatives is a plan to build the first **Training Centre for Excellence in Education!** The seminar organised by Acorns Foundation last year on Early Years Education as well as the training done by Acorns for staff in the state creche Cercelus have confirmed the great need for this - and the wish from staff to receive appropriate training, whether they work in the private or state sector. The Centre for Excellence for teachers will be a place where they can join others from the same profession, where they can receive the latest information (through books, presentations, courses etc) and feel appreciated and wanted - important for the future!

If you would like to find out more about the Centre of Excellence for staff training, to support this project financially, to promote it or to offer building materials or fittings for the interior we invite you to contact office@acorns.ro

YOU CAN HELP!

As well as this courageous but necessary initiative we also continue this term with events in the nursery and support for charities in Romania. Therefore in term 2 we will be celebrating Thank You Day, Chinese New Year, Valentine's Day, St Patrick's Day, World Theatre Day etc. We will also be organ-

ising trips outside the nursery to link with our monthly themes (eg to British Council, Chinese restaurant, theatre, visit to the nursery by a dentist etc). Our programme of trips out to places of local interest is among the most varied in Bucharest and the way in which they take place, with explanations given about what they experience on the trip, helps the children to make a link between what they learn in the nursery and what happens in the world around them.

Another different event for this term will be our **BOOK WEEK**, to be organised for the first time by Acorns in the week 5th-9th March. **BOOK WEEK** will take place in the nurseries but we also have the honour of a special guest, a children's author from Scotland, **Chae Stratie** who will be joining us for part of the week. Chae will be leading story telling sessions in Acorns, a session in Carturesti book shop with Ivelnaiv, a Romanian poet (top selling book in Carturesti in December) and a charity event organised by Acorns Foundation: "Books, Cheese and Wine" at which we will raise funds to buy books for state creches in sector 1,3 and 5. More information will follow in the February newsletter.

And how can I leave out from our plans for this term, ways in which we support other organisations which includes an event which has already taken place. We launched a special initiative for UNICEF "**Day of Change**" through the Touched Romania Association!

We also give our support to **Light into Europe** who hope to find families to help train future guide dogs (see p4), children on the cancer ward of Marie Curie hospital on World Water Day and others.

So we invite you to keep in touch with us to find out more information about our projects, to be a volunteer in Acorns or to help promote the work of Acorns Foundation for a better future for our children, wherever they may be.

Thank you!

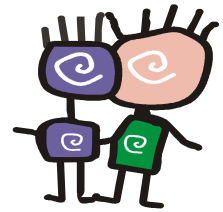
Keep in touch with us on

Acorns Facebook Page

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Acorns-Foundation>

You can read about our work and suggest projects to your friends to "Like"!

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Events in Acorns and Baby Acorns

International Thank You Day

“Thank You Day” is a day when we remind the children how important it is to say please and thank you, to appreciate and be kind with others. In Baby Acorns the children practised saying “Please and Thank you” using British Early Years sign language, they learned how to share a toy and say thank you for receiving it. In Acorns the children thought about the people who they should remember to say thank you to during the day like teachers, friends who help or play with them, our cleaners and cooks. Tweenies and Rainbows made thank you cards to take home. In EE the children even made a ‘thank you list’ and wrote down the names of everyone they said ‘thank you’ to that day.



Trips to British Council

EE enjoyed a trip to the British Council on January 19th. First of all they were greeted by one of the librarians who showed them all the resources available in the



library and how to use them. Next, they divided into 2 groups, each led by a native English teacher in different activities. One group played special language games in which they took turns to pass a ball as they asked and answered each other’s questions, they practiced naming different emotions and learned a song “how do you feel today?” followed by an activity on an interactive whiteboard. The other group listened to a Winnie the Pooh story also led by a native English speaker, which was very interactive with lots of questions and answers between the story teller and the children.

Winnie The Pooh day in Acorns and Baby Acorns

On January 18th we introduced a new ‘special day’ on which the children learned about this much loved story character. This date marks the day when the first story about Winnie the Pooh book was published in England. The author A.A. Milne wrote these stories based on his own son named Christopher Robin and his teddy bear named Pooh. In Baby Acorns the small children enjoyed playing with soft Winnie the Pooh, they painted pictures with the main character, while in Busy Bees they looked at pictures of Winnie the Pooh and his friends and enjoyed painting a precut shape of Winnie the Pooh, using their hands instead of brushes. In Tweenies the children enjoyed reading stories about Winnie the Pooh and learned to recognise and name the characters; they also ate honey—Winnie the Pooh’s favourite food! In Rainbows enjoyed a special creative activity in which they made a Pooh face and finger puppets based on each of the characters. In EE the children looked at the original character illustrations published in the first books and compared these with the



characters that they know today, they drew their favourite character and wrote its name.

Penguin Awareness Day



In the nursery we use this day to remind children about our environment, about its beauty and how important it is to take care of it. Penguins are lovely creatures and some of the favourites among children. In Baby Acorns the children played with plastic penguins in flower pretending to make them go down the slide in the snow, while the children from Busy Bees they learned a new song about the penguins and read a story. In Tweenies circle time the children created their own penguin environment by looking at photos of penguins, having a penguin frieze in the background and laying white fabric on the floor. They pretended to be penguins, holding a pretend beak in their mouth and walking like these birds. In Rainbows and EE the children enjoyed a very yummy activity in which they made penguin sandwiches using bread, chocolate spread and olives. Some of the children brought soft toy penguins to the nursery, they looked at film clips of different types of penguin and learned about some of their physical characteristics. In EE the children were interested to find out about African penguins and that penguins don’t only live at the North pole.





More events ...

Chinese New Year in Acorns and Baby Acorns

Every Year Chinese New Year is a very happy and colourful celebration in Acorns and Baby Acorns. In Baby Acorns the children enjoyed playing with Chinese noodles, they broke them and saw what happen when they placed them in warm water and played in the imaginative play area where they had a beautiful Chinese Restaurant. They learned how to use the Chinese dishes and spoons, how to mix ingredients and prepare Chinese Rice. In Tweenies the children have fun investigating traditional Chinese objects such as bowls, spoons, lanterns, dolls dressed in Chinese clothes and they also tried to hold chopsticks. In the photo you can see some dragon puppets that Tweenies also enjoyed making. In Rainbows the children enjoyed playing in their imaginative play area: Chinese kitchen; they also listened to the story about how each year came to be named after an different animal, they also did a dragon craft in which they stuck pieces together to make the body and then painted their picture. In Early Explorers the children learned about Chinese customs and they related how Chinese people celebrate the new year to ing of 2012 on 31st December. They learned about about this year being the year of the dragon. With worked together on decorating a giant dragon head fabric. The teachers then helped to create a body for finally all the children were able to perform a dragon



how we celebrated the com- red being a lucky colour and this in mind, the children with coloured paper and the dragon with fabric and dance.

Australia Day

This popular day was celebrated in Acorns in every group. The children liked learning about different Australian animals. Tweenies read stories about kangaroos, they practiced jumping and did a kangaroo craft. Rainbows made boomerangs and read stories about kangeroos while in EE the children located Australia on the world map, they discovered new facts about some of the more unusual native animals and learned more verses to the familiar song Kookaburra. The children also looked at pictures of Aboriginal art and then took part in a group project in which they created their own version of a cave painting and also individual animal paintings made of very small dots.



Trip to Chinese Restaurant

After a Chinese week in Acorns when they celebrated the New Year, EE went on a very special trip at the end of the week to a Chinese restaurant. All the children were very excited about this opportunity to taste a different lunch to the one they usually experience. Before the food arrived the children admired the Chinese decorations (Chinese lanterns, Chinese screens, paintings) and listen to Chinese music. They had the chance to try spring rolls, vegetable and egg rice, 'ants in the tree', sweet and sour chicken, among others and a dessert which proved very popular. The trip gave the children the opportunity to discover the food of other nationalities.



Coming up...

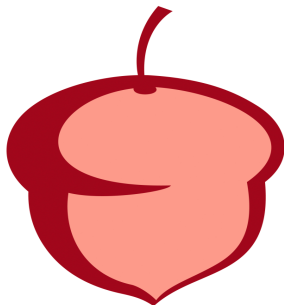
- 14th Feb— Valentine's Day
- 1 Trip to Vertical Spirit
- 20th Feb—National Nest Box Week in UK
- 20th—24th Feb— Parent's week
- Trip to the Park
- 25th Feb—Parents meeting
- 27th Feb— International Polar Bear day
- 5th—9th March— Book Week
- Book Week : Chae Stathie special guest in Acorns**

"From small acorns big oaks grow"

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Something Extra: Support *Light into Europe* by taking care of a puppy!

As many of you will know we support the work of Light into Europe by holding an annual shades Day in which the children learn about how it is to be blind and they meet one of the guide dogs in training who will work with a blind person. This is a message from Stan Platt: "We do not charge any fee to a client for a guide dog, we are a very transparent British and Romanian charity and have been working in this country since 1990. We started on this present programme about 5 years ago. , we have a great need for puppy walkers. This is really a great opportunity to make a difference here in Romania, there is still only 1 working guide dog in the whole country, with another 8 puppies under training. We need volunteers that have a year or so to help train a puppy: 'puppy walkers'. Perhaps an hour or so walking each day, a safe home environment, preferably no other dogs, but we can make exceptions. The puppies when trained are very well behaved indeed. Our trainers will visit the foster homes each week, to walk the puppy and check for health and progress. We supply a special home cage for the puppy, which they soon understand is their 'safe place' and they sleep there. We take care of all the veterinary needs, supply the puppies' food, bowls, collars and leads. We insure the puppy."

If you are interested in looking after a puppy please let Fiona know.



APA's corner: Please receive Alina Pascale's recommendations for you and your child in February: shadow theatre for kids 11th Feb www.librariumgrup.ro/bastilia/n/teatru-de-umbre ; 11th Feb 5pm—meet author Marjane Satrapi: bookaholic.ro/marjane-satrapi-din-iran-la-bucuresti.html ; National Opera: Sleeping Beauty 9th and 26th Feb, Snow White 12th Feb, Harap alb 25th Feb; Tandarica Theatre: Tom Thumb—10th and 11th Feb, Fundatia Calea Victoriei : workshop for acting and painting from 18th Feb www.fundatiacaleavictoriei.ro/category/pentru-copii . Enjoy your choice of events from Alina's list! Thank you, Alina!

Birthdays

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

February

Rania aged 2 on 4th
Catinca aged 6 on 8th
Sidonie aged 3 on 9th
Filip aged 3 on 21st
David Cioponea aged 4 on 23rd



Scholastic

Our next order from Scholastic magazine will be sent on **27th February**. Please make sure that you put your request in by this date! You can find a Scholastic brochure on the notice boards in the nursery or with Geta and Georgiana. The more orders we have from parents, the more free books we will receive for the nurseries. Please ask Valentina or Fiona if you would like help in choosing suitable books for your child

 SCHOLASTIC

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.