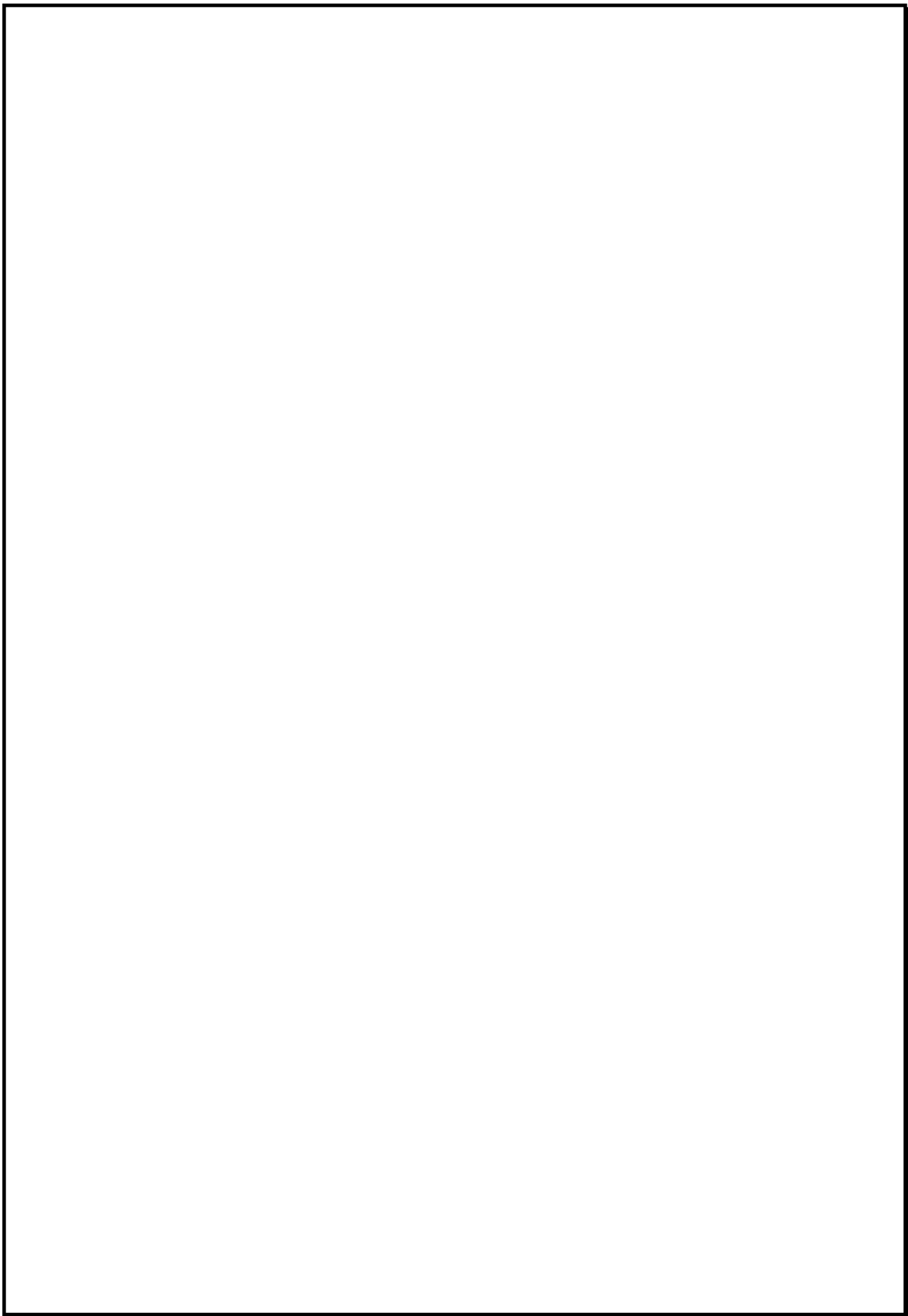




Prospectus

September

2024-2025



School Details

School Name:	Acorns Primary School
Type of School:	Generic Learning Difficulties
Address:	Moor Park Blackpool Road Preston PR1 6AU
Headteacher:	Paula Barlow
Telephone:	01772 792681
E-mail	head@acorns.lancs.sch.uk
Website	www.acorns.lancs.sch.uk
School Hours:	8.55 a.m. - 3.15 p.m. (Monday - Friday)
Teaching Time:	25 hours per week

In order to keep cost of production down we have not included photographs in this prospectus but if you look at our "web site", the document is supplemented with a number of other images of school and our facilities.

Our website is

<http://www.acorns.lancs.sch.uk>

Welcome to Acorns Primary School

We would like to extend a warm welcome to you and your child as you join Acorns Primary School.

Acorns Primary will provide a high quality special education for pupils aged 3 to 11 years of age, from Preston and the surrounding area.

By choosing Acorns Primary School you are assured of specialist teaching to a very high standard, with a concentration of resources specifically designed to meet your child's needs.

Ofsted Comments November 2023

What is it like to attend this school?

Pupils excel in this school. They thrive in the warm and welcoming environment. Pupils are nurtured by caring staff. They develop their communication skills exceptionally well because staff find exactly the right 'hook' that will allow them to do so

The school has carefully designed its curriculum to meet the individual special educational needs and/or disabilities of all pupils

The school has carefully designed its early reading programme. Children in the early years and older pupils are immersed in songs, stories, rhymes, poetry and music. Staff are well trained. They have a wealth of expertise, which enables them to deliver the reading programme consistently across the school. Staff know how to engage pupils and maintain their attention. Staff use language and communication aids well to help pupils to connect images to words. Pupils continue to use these communication aids at home and in the community. This means that they benefit from a consistent approach to learning between home and school. The school's successful communication and reading programme allows many pupils to gain the knowledge and skills that they need to become confident, fluent readers.

The school's work to develop pupils' personal development is very strong. At the heart of the school's approach is its commitment to provide pupils with choices. In this way, pupils become independent, confident and resilient. These attributes have a positive impact on pupils' behaviour. Pupils feel listened to and, consequently, understood.

Pupils' physical development is a key priority. In the early years, staff focus on developing children's gross and fine motor skills. Staff work closely with medical professionals to develop carefully tailored programmes for pupils. These focus on sitting, posture, standing and moving. For some pupils, this work is life-changing.

Acorns School Values and Mission Statement

“Individually we grow, together we thrive”

We are extremely proud of our school. Acorns is a welcoming, caring and friendly school, and we believe in respect and opportunity for all. We put communication and positive relationships high on our list of priorities and promote close working relationships with our children’s families. At Acorns we focus on promoting independence and opening up opportunities for our wonderful pupils. We believe in valuing each individual and celebrating their successes through every stage of their learning journey. Our team is dedicated to the children, we are passionate about learning and engage our pupils in a creative and personalised way to support them to reach their potential.

Values

We **welcome** everyone
We **care** for each other
We create **opportunities**
We are always **positive**
We **celebrate** each other and our achievements

Our Aims

- To fulfil the statutory obligations in relation to each pupils Education and Health Care Plan.
- To provide a curriculum which meets the needs of both the individual and the school cohort, a curriculum which prepares our pupils for the next stage of their life and extends far beyond the classroom. Our aim is to enable pupils to become functional, independent young people who can make choices and decisions.
- To ensure each pupil has their emotional, social and mental health needs met.
- To ensure pupils can regulate their own emotions and sensory needs.
- To work in close partnership with families in all aspects of school life.
- To be part of a multidisciplinary team that identifies and maintains the necessary standards for health care, safety, protection and wellbeing of all pupils complying with LA regulations and procedures.

Working Together

Children and young people learn in small class groups. We have 9 class groups. Each class will have a teacher, and a team of at least three Teaching Assistants to offer further help where needed.

Progress will be closely monitored and measured to reflect the skills and abilities of each child. We will keep detailed records of pupils' activities and achievements to which teachers, teaching assistants, therapists and parents will be invited to contribute. Once in school, an Individual Educational Plan (I.E.P.) will be drawn up for each pupil designed to meet his or her needs. Individual programmes derived from the I.E.P. will be reviewed on a termly basis. Parents will be consulted about teaching priorities for their child and suggestions are often made as to how home and school can work together to help meet the child's needs.

More formally, we will hold Annual Reviews of each child's Education and Health Care Plan mainly in the Autumn and Spring Terms. Drop-in sessions in the Autumn term, Parents Evenings in Spring and formal annual report in Summer term in addition to all year round access to Evidence for Learning.

In the day-to-day life of the school, we believe in recognising and celebrating our pupils' achievements.

Facilities

Acorns has nine class bases resourced to a very high standard with internet access computer systems available in each classroom.

There is an extremely well equipped nursery/reception class with enclosed play area, and further classrooms with facilities for multi-sensory work.

There is an interactive sensory room with a wide variety of auditory, visual & tactile resources. We have well-maintained, secure and attractive grounds, large outdoor play areas, including a trampoline area for rebound therapy, a forest school area, a trim trail and two minibuses for community visits.

We are very proud of our facilities and we are constantly seeking to enhance our resources so all our pupils have access to the best that is available.

Parents: Part of the Team

As parents, you will be encouraged to become involved in the daily life of the school. You will be involved in the initial assessment and in providing advice for and reviewing your child's Education and Health Care Plan. We will keep in touch regularly; weekly whole school newsletters can be accessed via our school spider app, our website and our Facebook page.

You are welcome to telephone and to visit the school. If visiting, it is advisable to make informal appointments so that we can ensure you get to see your chosen member of staff.

Health Care

We have a school specific nurse who is based in the well-resourced medical room on a part time basis. The campus based clinical team play an important role in liaising with parents and other clinicians e.g. local GPs, hospitals and the paediatric consultants. The nurse trains class staff to deal with individual children's medical needs.

Our approach is multi-disciplinary and all staff work closely together with our visiting physiotherapist, occupational therapists, speech and language therapists and dental officers. We believe our children benefit from this team approach and we actively encourage parents to contribute to and guide us in our efforts. Our physiotherapy treatment room allows for the discreet therapy provision for individuals if this is required.

Parents will be informed of any accidents by telephone and/or letter home. We may request that a pupil is seen by a medical professional to check any injuries if we are concerned and or that the pupil is monitored at home. Parents should inform school and the NHS school nursing team if their child has any particular medical requirements during transition to school.

Parents who receive a supply of nappies should send in sufficient to cover their child's needs at school.

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT ALL PARENTS MUST PROVIDE UP TO DATE DETAILS OF HOW THEY, OR A SUITABLE PERSON, CAN BE CONTACTED IN THE EVENT OF THEIR CHILD BEING ILL OR HAVING AN ACCIDENT.

Illness and Absence

THE SCHOOL ASKS THAT PARENTS DO NOT SEND CHILDREN INTO SCHOOL WHEN THEY ARE SUFFERING FROM ANY INFECTIOUS ILLNESS OR AN ILLNESS WHICH MEANS THEY ARE NOT FIT FOR SCHOOL

Children pick up minor infections so easily and for some of our children a minor infection can become quite serious and could result in hospitalisation. In line with LA guidelines for schools, children should be kept at home for at least **48 hours** after any episodes of sickness or suspected diarrhoea.

Please inform school immediately of all contagious diseases.

School should be informed, either by telephone or in writing, of the reason for all absences. We are now required by law to publish attendance figures for each year. **Parents who wish their child to be absent from school in term time, must make an appointment to discuss the Exceptional reasons behind the request with the Headteacher prior to making any travel arrangements.**

Medicines in School

The following guidelines are taken from Lancashire County Council's policy "Supporting Pupils with medical needs in school"

Receipt of Medicines

- Parents are responsible for supplying the School Nurse with complete information regarding their child's condition and medication.
- All medicines must be transported by parents or escorts and never by the pupils and secured in a **yellow drawstring bag** (provided by school).
- Written and signed instructions must be delivered by parents or escorts to the School Nurse with the initial dose.
- Any change in medicine or dosage must be notified in writing to the School Nurse.
- Each medicine must be delivered in a separate original container to the School Nurse. The G.P. should be requested by the parent to prescribe a suitable proportion of the medicine in an original labelled container for use in school.
- Each container must be clearly labelled with the following:-
 1. Name of medicine Patient's name Dosage
 2. Dosage frequency
 3. Date of dispensing
 4. Storage requirements / Shelf life if important
 5. Medicines from unlabeled containers **will not be given.**
 6. If pupils are given antibiotics, they must take the first dose at home and only return to school when they are deemed well enough to do so.
 7. School will administer antibiotics if they are prescribed for 4 doses per day.

School Uniform

School uniform will consist of royal blue sweatshirts and sky blue polo shirts, which can be purchased from Top-One Uniform (Tel: 01772 828616 , email: toponeuniforms@gmail.com) and grey trousers or skirts and white or grey socks.

Sensible clothing for your child's needs and school activities should be worn.

For children who find dressing and undressing difficult the following would be helpful:

- Clothes should be the right size or slightly too large.
- Choose elasticated waistbands rather than belts or fitted waistbands.
- Choose Velcro fastenings rather than belts, buckles or laces.
- Choose clothes with a similar style with similar fastenings so that they can become familiar and manageable.

Physical Education Uniform

White "T" shirts, black shorts and black plimsolls are preferred for P.E. activities and a swimming costume/trunks and towel are required for swimming lessons. It is helpful if all items of clothing are clearly marked with your child's name. We recognise and support the requirement that modesty and privacy be observed in the code of dress for PE lessons.

Jewelry and items of value should not be brought into school, since neither School nor the Local Authority can accept responsibility for loss or damage.

School Meals

School meals are cooked on the premises with a well established regime of healthy eating. Dinner money for 2024/2025 currently is **£13.50** per week and is payable via **SCOPAY** online payment app. Pupils may bring packed lunches to school if preferred. Free school meals are dependent on parental income and you should consult the District Education Office for advice. Parents should inform the school in writing if their child has particular dietary requirements.

Transport

If families qualify for transport (Please see Lancashire Transport Guidelines for more details) pupils travel free of charge to and from school in taxis or minibuses; a passenger assistant supervises them during the journey. The home-to-school transport service is organised by the Local Authority. **If you experience any difficulties, please contact the Special Needs Transport Team at County Hall by telephoning 01772 705055.**

Pastoral Care / Regulation

At Acorns, we promote a positive approach to supporting pupils to manage their behavioural needs. We recognise that all behaviour stems from a need to communicate. We focus on pupils emotional, social, mental health and wellbeing and support pupils to regulate their own emotions and behaviour.

Pupils who do exhibit behaviours which challenge staff, their peers or property are supported with a Social and Emotional plan which may also include a Positive Handling Plan. Parents will be informed and consulted frequently about such programmes and often continue these programmes at home. By building on good behaviour, good work and positive attitudes and by working closely with parents in this important area, we will seek to develop our pupils as caring, moral, and responsible individuals, who are capable of contributing positively to school and community life.

We also strive to ensure pupils learn to regulate their own emotions. Some pupils may also experience difficulties in regulating their sensory needs, again we work closely with families to provide a "sensory plan" for pupils. This is a plan which identifies pupils sensory needs and supports them to regulate, ensuring they are ready to learn.

In school we have an ELSA (An Emotional Literacy Support Assistant), who is part of our pastoral team. She also works closely with class staff to provide emotional support to pupils working on a 1:1 basis or in small groups. We are also a thrive school and have implemented both whole class targets and individual targets to help support pupils emotional wellbeing.

Homework Policy

At Acorns Primary School we will value and encourage a close inter-dependent working relationship with parents.

In order to be able to meet our pupils' needs, a high degree of consistency in all areas is vital between home and school.

Parents and staff will work very closely to encourage and develop pupils' skills at home and school. Part of this progress involves the use of homework. This can involve the use of materials and resources at home and the provision of work for pupils to do at home.

If you would like to discuss the provision of home/school work please contact your son/daughter's class teacher.

Safeguarding Children

It may be helpful to know that the Local Authority requires a Headteacher to report any obvious or suspected case of child abuse to Social Care including non-accidental injury, severe physical neglect, emotional abuse and/or sexual abuse. This forms part of the local Child Safeguarding Procedures and is intended to protect children at risk. Schools are encouraged by the Local Authority's Safeguarding Board to take the attitude that where there are grounds for suspicion it is better to be safe than sorry. This is a sensitive area, but we are sure that parents will appreciate that the Headteacher and all other staff from the school always seek to act in what is believed to be the child's best interests.

Our deputy head teacher has overall responsibility for safeguarding in school and is our Designated Safeguarding Lead. Additional safeguarding information can be found by accessing

our school website.

Attendance

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Staff

Headteacher: Paula Barlow

Deputy Headteacher: Laura Hall

School Business Manager: Dan Williams

Teachers:

April Baxendell	Emma Taylor	Sophie Martindale
Christian Worsley	Hannah Serventi	
Claire Bradford	Jenny Adam	
Corinne Spear	Katie Mcilwraith	
Dan Murphy	Kelly Vacchiano	

HLTAs:

Niki Todd Nicola Knowles

Specialist TAs:

Family Support: Claire Howarth

ELSA/Thrive: Donna Carey

Communication: Emily Oulton

MOVE/Sensory Regulation: Lauren Jepson

Teaching Assistants Level 3

Janet Healy	Ray Cookson
Karen Woan	Sarah Short
Kelly Joseph	Susan Moss
Laura Alldridge	Val Southern
Mary Thompson	

Teaching Assistants Level 2

Aisha Secretary	Laura Singleton	Rachel Foy
Alina Green	Lauren Atkinson	Ritzuko Jones
Amanda Collinge	Lauren Richardson	Sharon Brierley
Chloe Darnley	Leigh Parkinson	Shenaz Moosa
Courtney Cousins	Melissa Parry	Victoria Whalley
Emma Moorby	Michelle Huskisson	Zerriko Wilson
Eve Coppersthwaite	Nasira Patel	
Joan-Anne Pugh	Nathifa Blake	
Julie Grealis	Nicola Jablonski	
Kim Crewe	Nusrat Khan	



Administrative Staff:

Louise Ryan Sarah Roberts

IT Technician:

Martin White

Welfare Staff:

Alison Woodrup	Ellie Broomfield	Mumtaz Natha	Phillippa Duggan
Christine Fare	Louise Whittle	Nadeema Akhtar	Shameela Goga

Catering Staff:

Kirsty Seed	(School Cook)
Natalija Vugule	(Catering Assistant)

Premises Staff:

Dylan Llewelin (Site Supervisor)
David Lord (Cleaner)
Ella Glover (Cleaner)
Helen Frodsham (Cleaner)
Josh Waheed (Cleaner)
Pam Kealey (Cleaner)

Medical/Allied Health Professional Staff:

Acorns School Nurse

Sarah Johnson Murphy

Acorns Health Care Assistant

Tracey Winrow

School Doctor

Dr Hall

Speech and Language Therapists

Ellie Keenan

Governing Body

Chair

Mrs A Howarth – mhowarth@acorns.lancs.sch.uk

Co-opted Governor / L.A. Representatives:

Mrs A Manley - Vice Chair

Mr S Jukes

Mr B Probin

Mrs S Crowder

Mrs B Hennefer

Staff Representative

Mrs S Martindale - Teaching

Parent Representatives:

Ms E Dewhurst

Mrs K Johnson

Mrs E Gunn

Clerk to the Governing Body

Directorate for Children and Young People,
Lancaster Area Office,
PO Box 606, White Cross Education Centre,
Quarry Road,
LANCASTER, LA1 3SQ

Holiday Pattern 2024-25

Monday 2 nd September 2024	INSET DAY 1
Tuesday 3 rd September 2024	School re-opens
Friday 18 th October 2024	School closes

HALF TERM

Monday 28 th October 2024	School opens
Friday 22 nd November 2024	INSET DAY 2
Monday 25 th November 2024	INSET DAY 3
Friday 20 th December 2024	School closes

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Monday 6 th January 2025	School opens
Friday 14 th February 2025	School closes

HALF TERM

Monday 24 th February 2025	School opens
Friday 4 th April 2025	School closes

EASTER HOLIDAYS

Tuesday 22 nd April 2025	INSET Day 4
Wednesday 23 rd April 2025	School opens
Monday 5 th May 2025	Bank Holiday
Friday 23 rd May 2025	School closes

HALF TERM

Monday 2 nd June 2025	INSET Day 5
Tuesday 3 rd June 2025	School opens
Tuesday 22 nd July 2025	School closes