

Leaffield C.E. Primary School

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Friday 23rd February 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to Murphy Class! We hope you had a very enjoyable half-term break. It is lovely to welcome the children back together again and we look forward to an exciting and busy term ahead!

Topic

Our main topic this term is 'Once upon a time' and we will be spending the term exploring fairy tales together. As the children become familiar with the stories, we will be encouraging them to join in and to retell the tales; we'll explore how the characters behave and feel and will be linking the stories to other areas of the curriculum. We will also explore alternative versions of familiar stories, as well as traditional tales from around the world. Our second, companion topic will be 'Signs of Spring', which will enhance our outdoor learning sessions this term. Please have a look at the Knowledge Organisers with your child (a copy of each will be in their homework book today too), to give you a taste of what we will be focusing on throughout the coming weeks.

Outdoor learning

This term, our Outdoor Learning sessions will continue to take place on **Friday** afternoons, with Mrs. Bedlow (Our Outdoor learning leader) and Mrs. Jobson. Our sessions will continue to be in the school garden, but towards the end of the half term, we are hoping to start our trips to the woods.

Please make sure your child comes to school wearing clothing suitable for being outdoors and **brings appropriate waterproofs, wellies** etc in a named rucksack or bag, with a water bottle. As the weather is quite changeable at this time of year, please ensure your child has warm layers (long sleeves) as well as waterproofs, so they are warm, dry and comfortable - whatever the weather! (Please make sure that these are named.) We are really excited to get stuck into exploring outdoors again this term!

As before, we will continue to be outside daily, so please provide a warm, waterproof coat every day. A change of clothes (especially socks and tights/trousers) should be left at school, as the children do love to explore puddles and water play!

P.E.

P.E. sessions will continue in school every **Wednesday**, so your child needs to come to school in full PE kit and clean trainers every Wednesday. Please ensure your child is wearing their PE hoody with the correct top and bottoms. This term, we will be practising ball skills, developing throwing, catching, passing in different ways and using a variety of bats, balls and other equipment for ball games. Sessions will be outside, weather permitting, led by Mrs Percy.



*Let us not love with words or speech
but with actions and in truth. 1 John 3:18*

Maths

For Maths this term, we will continue our exploration of numbers up to, and including 10. We will be deepening our understanding of the counting principles - thinking about where one number sits in relation to another and the composition of numbers 6 -10. We will start to explore patterns in number, including the principle of even and odd (understanding that a pair –two- is **even**, and that when objects cannot make a pair, it is an **odd** number.). We'll also think about the concept of doubles utilising fun games and pictures to help us learn that 'double' means 'twice as many.' Further into the term, we will be investigating length and height, focusing on how to estimate and measure with more accuracy, whilst comparing our measurements using language such as 'taller', 'shorter' and 'longer than'. Following on from this we will revisit 'time'; focusing on the order of the days of the week and the months of the year. We will also explore the passing of time –including seasonal changes and the concept of past, present and future.

Phonics and reading

In phonics, we will be revising, using and applying all of the sounds and skills learnt last term. While it can be tempting to keep introducing new sounds, this is a critical stage in their reading development, and we will be ensuring your child can read more challenging words using the sounds they know before embarking on the next set of sounds in the coming months.

We will continue to be sending home reading books/sheets each week, matched to the stage your child is at. Please continue to practise speed sounds as often as possible too. When children bring home a 'ditty' book or sheet, they will have read these in class across the week and practised speedily reading the words. ***They may whizz through the story at home, but be assured that this is a good thing!*** The more children become familiar with sounds and words they see repeatedly, the more they will recognise without having to decode them, encouraging them to read more quickly and fluently. It's lovely for them to be able to share and celebrate their learning with you at home too.

Please **return reading books on Wednesdays**, so they can be changed and sent home on a Friday, however, please ensure your child has their reading book(s) and reading record in school every day (except Thursdays), as we will be reading with your child at some point each week.

Please try to read with your child every day (it doesn't always have to be a school book) and record it in their reading record book. We do understand that children are often tired at the end of a school day and every family has different routines and working patterns, but reading as often as possible is hugely beneficial. Revisiting books and stories is a great way to develop confidence and familiarity; we suggest reading each book 3 times before changing it if possible. Please can you make a note of any reading done at home, so we know whether to swap books for new ones. Thank you for your support.

Homework

Thank you for your support with homework last term. It has been lovely to see and read about their ideas linked to our topics and we hope you have enjoyed being part of the learning too. We will continue to send activities home every Friday to be returned by the following Wednesday. As before, we'll give you some prompts to talk about what we've been doing in class that week with some activities and questions to consolidate this learning. How they choose to complete this activity is up to them – it might be they wish to chat about their ideas, draw, paint or write something, take a photo, or maybe even build or create something! As their writing skills are developing, they may like to jot down some words or phrases themselves. At this stage, we encourage them to listen for the sounds they can hear in words using Fred Fingers before having a go at writing them, rather than giving them the correct spelling. For example, 'tree' might be *t r i y* and night may be *n I t*, if they've remembered how to write the word 'I'. It is important to see early years home activities as a creative exercise and best of all, as something you and your child can share together.

Show and Tell

Children are welcome to bring in an item each week on a Wednesday for Show and Tell. Ideally, it will be something linked to our topics – Once upon a time or Signs of Spring (for example, a favourite fairy tale or an item linked to a story, or maybe a natural item found on a spring walk, or a photograph of something linked to springtime). Items will be stored safely for the day until our Show and Tell session. It is helpful if you can spend some time chatting with your child beforehand, so they have some ideas about what they might tell their friends about their special item.

We are really looking forward to the coming term. If you have any questions at all about anything or wish to arrange a meeting to talk about something in more detail, please feel free to contact us through the class email address: murphy@leafield.oxon.sch.uk

Many thanks,

Mrs Percy & Mrs Jobson
Class Teachers