

Leaffield C.E. Primary School

The Green, Leaffield, Witney, Oxfordshire, OX29 9NP

Tel: 01993 878273

Email: office.3124@leaffield.oxon.sch.uk

Web: www.leaffield.oxon.sch.uk

Follow us @Head3124

Headteacher: Ms Faye Dean



3rd November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well, what can I say? The children in Blackman Class have absolutely blown me away! They returned to school, after summer, with a great work ethic; commitment, and willingness to learn. The Year 6 children have welcomed the Year 5s with such kindness, and the Year 5s have certainly shown their resilience.

We have explored the Shang Dynasty and learnt all about spiritual rituals from ancient China, including the uses of sacred Ding Vessels and Oracle bones. The children have published their first story, which sees their main character rub shoulders with history as they time-travel to ancient lands and resolve a problem! Do they make it back to the present day though?

As we continue our learning about the Chinese Dynasties, we will dive into the life of Fu Hao – the most powerful Shang general of her time – whilst exploring ancient Chinese warfare. The children have had their first taster of writing poetry and they will extend their figurative language further when writing some thought-provoking poems for Remembrance as well as writing non-chronological reports exploring each dynasty and what it offered.

After finishing Pig Heart Boy, which proved incredibly popular amongst the children, we have embarked on reading 'Boy at the Back of the Class', where a new boy joins a class, and a group of children try to befriend him. They soon learn that Ahmet is a refugee and has been separated from his family. None of the grown-ups seem to be able to help him, so the friends come up with a daring plan, embarking on an extraordinary adventure.

It was fantastic to see so many of you for parents' evening and if I did not get to have a meeting with you, we can arrange something together to ensure you are aware of your child's progress.

SCIENCE:

In this term, our young scientists will explore the wonders of our solar system. They will learn about the movement of Earth and other planets as they orbit the Sun. Through engaging activities and discussions, your child will gain a deeper understanding of the mechanics behind these cosmic motions. Additionally, they will delve into the Moon's phases and grasp the spherical nature of celestial bodies through hands-on experiments and visual aids. As budding scientists, the children will continue to refine their inquiry skills, paving the way for a deeper understanding of our universe.

RE:

This term we will explore the big question: Does God communicate with humans? Throughout the term the children will **work towards answering this question through delving into the** Christmas story from a biblical viewpoint and examining prayer as a form of communication with God. Children will learn specific prophecies that Christians link to the birth of Jesus, evaluating their contribution to understanding the Christmas story. They will contemplate the belief held by Christians that the birth of Jesus was foretold long before it happened, and that God directly communicated with key figures in the nativity story. Exploring the various methods through which God communicates with people during this narrative, children will also analyse the impact of human responses to these communications.



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

Children will explore the diverse ways in which Christians believe God communicates with them, pondering the effects these interactions have on their lives. Additionally, they will gain insight into the concept of angels as celestial messengers, understanding their role in delivering God's messages to humanity and how people responded to these divine communications. This enriching exploration will provide the children with a deeper understanding of the intricate ways in which Christians believe God communicates with humans, fostering a thoughtful and respectful engagement with matters of faith.

COMPUTING:

This term children will be following the Purple Mash scheme learning about online safety. Emphasising the significance of critically thinking, children will assess the information they share online, both about themselves and others. They will gain a deep understanding of the importance of reporting any online concerns and will learn to identify the right channels for seeking help if they encounter situations online. Our curriculum will empower them with the SMART rules, providing essential guidance for safe online practices. They will explore responsibilities and support networks available to them in the digital world. They will also grasp the fundamentals of secure passwords to understand the importance of digital security.

In addition to these safety measures, children will develop a keen awareness of appropriate and inappropriate online content, including text, photographs, and videos. They will be supported in comprehending the impact of sharing content on the internet. Furthermore, the children will refine their search skills, learning how to select relevant keywords and search techniques to find accurate information online. They will learn the advantage and disadvantages of various forms of digital communication, understanding when each method is appropriate to use. This comprehensive approach to digital literacy equips the children with the skills and knowledge necessary to navigate the online world safely and responsibly.

HISTORY:

This term, children will continue their exploration of the fascinating Shang dynasty, delving even deeper into this ancient civilisation. Building on their existing knowledge, they will uncover the Shang Dynasty's social structure where the king reigned supreme, followed by aristocrats, the military, craftspeople, peasant farmers and slaves, some of whom were offered as human sacrifices. Through our studies, children will gain insights into social divides of that time. The unequal treatment of men and women during the Shang dynasty will be discussed, highlighting the disparity in gender roles and expectations. Our young historians will learn about the remarkable Fu Hao, a queen in the Shang dynasty and a pivotal military leader, challenging the societal norms of her era. Additionally, children will engage with a variety of historical sources and artifacts, enabling them to paint a vivid and accurate portrait of historical events and figures. They will critically examine how the misuse of power and ineffective leadership led to the decline of civilisation, drawing valuable lessons from history. The term offers opportunities to compare various historical aspects, including rulers and monarch, everyday life, and innovative practices. By exploring these themes, children will gain a profound understanding of the complexities of the past, fostering critical thinking and historical empathy.

HOMEWORK:

Homework will continue to be daily, set on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Please may I ask for your continued support with ensuring your children complete these tasks – this will extend the learning that has taken place in school, consequently enhancing deeper understanding.

READING:

As always, **daily reading** is an essential part of any child's learning, not only will it develop their language, thus improving their writing, but also it supports children's knowledge and development of punctuation. 15-20 minutes a day is sufficient and perhaps encouraging your children to read as part of their night-time routine would guarantee consistent reading.

PE:

PE will continue to be on Tuesday afternoons and Wednesday afternoons (swimming) Children should come to school dressed for sports on a Tuesday and bring their swimming kit on Wednesday – please could I remind you that jewellery should be removed, where possible, for these sessions.

PUNCTUALITY:

As always, I am really impressed with the punctuality and organisational skills from the children at the top of the school (remembering swimming kits; homework books, and spelling books): it is vital that they are prepared for the day with the correct equipment.

CONTACT:

As always, I am in school every morning and after school every afternoon except Thursday afternoon and all-day Friday should you wish to see me. If I can help with anything, please do see me. I will always do my very best to support you and your children.

Many thanks,

Mrs Abberley.

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