

Leaffield C.E. Primary School

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

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Executive Headteacher: Mr Tim Edwards-Grundy

Head Of School: Mrs Rhiannon Abberley



Be kind, be curious, be you!

6th September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome! It has been a such a fantastic first week – we are all so impressed with how well the children have all settled into school life. We have enjoyed exploring the school, our new classroom and outdoor area together and taken part in lots of exciting activities already!

Our Topic

Our topic this term is 'We are superheroes'. We have attached the curriculum overview for you to look at in your own time with your child. This is to give you a taste of what we will be focusing on throughout the term. (We have based the unit on one called 'Me and my community'; the content will be very similar, but we are aiming to engage the children in the topic using superheroes and helping recognise their own strengths, as well as those of their friends, families, and members of our community). This project encourages children to make new friends and feel confident within their class and helps to support them to settle into the new rules and routines of school. We celebrate how each of us is unique and special, the importance of friendships and how people in our families, school and local community are important and can help us. We also focus on being helpful, kind, and thoughtful, both at home and at school. In addition, we will consider our local environment – what is it like where we live? We will also encourage the children to look for signs of the changing seasons and to understand what is happening in nature during autumn.

Phonics & Reading

In phonics, we will begin learning the Set 1 sounds (the phonic sounds for the 26 letters of the alphabet) and developing the skills to blend these sounds in order to read words. We will be inviting you to a short meeting in the coming weeks to help you support phonics and reading at home. In the meantime, you can find out more about Read, Write, Inc, the phonics programme we teach, here. This link is also on our class page of the website.

Once we have further settled into our school routines, we will begin to send home reading books. Changeover day will be Friday– however, please ensure your child has their reading book(s) and reading record in school every day (apart from Thursday as this is outdoor learning day). Children will gradually build up to bringing home the following to read over the week:

- A Read Write Inc. activity which links to the phonics sound(s) they are learning in school. This may include flashcards to practise the sounds they've learnt in class, a book to practise sound-blending (putting sounds together to read words) or a short 'ditty' sheet.
- A reading book which will enable them to use their phonic skills in different contexts. Initially, their reading book may be wordless, as this helps them with prediction, critical thinking and storytelling. Guiding your child's interaction with a wordless book is a powerful way to develop a richer vocabulary and greater understanding of story structure.
- A class library book. This will be chosen by the children to share at home with you and could be fiction or nonfiction (this book is not intended for your child to read, it is share together, focusing on the pictures, language and re-telling the story or discussing the theme).

Please try to read with your child every day (it doesn't always have to be a schoolbook) and record it in their reading record. 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.

Maths

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In maths, we will initially be exploring our maths area (in the classroom and outdoors) as part of our settling in process, so that the children become familiar with all the resources and activities available to them. We will then start to focus on matching and sorting objects, numerals, and shapes, as well as comparing patterns and creating repeating patterns using a range of different items. We will also start to explore the concept of ordering and comparing objects by size, mass and capacity. Early number work will feature in our learning each and every day, through songs, rhymes and fun activities, ensuring the children are continually building their confidence recognising and working with numbers.

Outdoor Learning

This term we will be taking part in outdoor learning sessions every Thursday afternoon (led by Mrs Jobson). These sessions will take place either in the school garden, or at the Leaffield Millennium Woods. Please make sure your child comes to school wearing clothing suitable for the outdoors on this day (long sleeves and trousers must be worn for the sessions, to prevent bites/stings or scrapes that may occur outdoors) and bring appropriate waterproofs, wellies, etc in a named rucksack or bag. As the weather starts to get colder, please also ensure your child is wearing warm clothing and that they have a hat, gloves and scarf (please make sure that these are named.) We are really excited to get stuck into our outdoor activities! This term we will be focusing on exploring all elements of Autumn!

During the rest of the week, we will be outside every day, so please provide a warm, waterproof coat every day. If your child's coat isn't waterproof, a thin jacket to go over the top is ideal for wet days. A change of clothes (especially socks and trousers) should be left at school, as the children do love to explore puddles and water play!

If it is easier, a pair of wellies can be left in school for all activities, including Outdoor learning.

P.E.

We will have our P.E. session in school every Wednesday afternoon (led by Mrs Percy), 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 hoodie with the white t-shirt and navy/black shorts/skirt/jogging bottoms. Sessions will usually be outside so they will need to have suitable clothing for the weather.

Home learning

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.

Activities will be sent home every Friday to be returned by the following Wednesday. There will be more info in your child's home learning book, but we give you an overview of the learning we have undertaken during the week for you to discuss together at home, so that you can be more involved in what they've learnt each week and to help them show you what they've remembered. We will include prompts and questions to consolidate this learning. There may also be an activity for your child to take part in. 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!

We have attached a timetable to provide useful reminders of what is required each day of the week – we know there is a lot to remember at first! You'll find this on our class page on the website. In addition, our class notice board is updated daily, with useful dates and information (this is positioned just next to our class gate. We often forget to bring it in, so it may still be there if you collect later on from after-school club!)

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 via the School Office.

Many thanks,

Mrs Percy & Mrs Jobson - Murphy Class Teachers