

Leaffield C.E. Primary School

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

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Head Of School: Mrs Rhiannon Abberley



Be kind, be curious, be you!

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you and your families had a restful and joyful Christmas holiday. We are looking forward to an exciting term ahead filled with learning, creativity, and new opportunities. Over the coming weeks, we will be settling back into familiar routines while also introducing new topics.

Topic: Towers, Tunnels and Turrets

This term, our topic Towers, Tunnels and Turrets will immerse the children in the fascinating world of castles and castle life. Through stories, non-fiction books, photographs, and digital resources, the children will explore castles from different periods, learning about their key features such as towers, turrets, walls, and secret passages, and how these were used to defend the people inside. They will research castle facts, compare their findings with others, and sequence castles from the earliest Saxon structures to later stone castles using timelines and interactive activities. The children will also develop their creativity by designing and labelling their own castles using drawing software, as well as bringing history to life through imaginative role play, taking on roles such as lords, archers, cooks, or maids.

Literacy

In Literacy this term, the children will continue to build on their phonics knowledge, using what they've learned to become more confident and independent readers. They will be practising how to blend sounds to read new words and applying this knowledge in their writing as well. We will also focus on reading comprehension, encouraging children to talk about what they read, make predictions, and answer questions to show their understanding of different texts. In writing, we will be developing sentence structure, helping children to write clear and complete sentences using capital letters, finger spaces and full stops.

Science:

In Science this term, the children will be developing their understanding of the natural world by exploring the seasons, plants, animals, and weather. They will learn about the four seasons, discussing how each one changes the environment and what we might see or experience at different times of the year. The children will investigate deciduous and evergreen trees, learning how to identify them using key features and technical vocabulary, and observing trees in the local area. They will also explore how deciduous trees change through the seasons and how animals adapt to seasonal changes, including hibernation and life cycles. Alongside this, the children will build their weather knowledge by making observations outdoors, using appropriate scientific language, and recording changes over time.

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RE:

In Religious Education, the children will be learning about special days and times, beginning with reflecting on which days are important to them and why these may be different for different people. They will then explore Shabbat as a special day in Judaism through videos, photographs, stories, and discussion, learning when it takes place, how families prepare, and the traditions involved, such as special foods, prayers, candles, and time spent together. The children will compare how Shabbat is observed in different Jewish homes and consider what it might be like for a Jewish child to follow Shabbat rules, encouraging empathy and thoughtful discussion.

PE

PE will take place on Tuesdays with Mr. Andrews, and then on Friday.

Art & Design

In our Art lessons this term, the children will be exploring weather as a creative starting point while developing their understanding of lines, shapes, textures, and printing techniques. They will use a range of loose parts to create weather-inspired artwork, learning to describe their designs using rich vocabulary such as straight, curved, spiral, and bumpy. Throughout the topic, children will be encouraged to talk about their creative choices, share their work with others, and develop confidence in expressing their artistic ideas in a fun, exploratory, and imaginative way.

Homework

Homework will continue to be set on Fridays and is due the following Wednesday. Regular reading is encouraged and reading books will be changed on a Thursday. If you have mislaid your reading diary, please let us know and we can replace it.

Keeping in Touch

If you ever have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email me via the school office or catch me for a quick chat at drop-off or pick-up time.

I am looking forward to another fantastic term.

Kind Regards,

Megan Ledbetter

Donaldson Class Teacher