

Leaffield C.E. Primary School

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

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Head Teacher: Mrs Rhiannon Abberley



BE KIND, BE CURIOUS, BE YOU!

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year to you all!

We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break and enjoyed the festive season with family and friends. We are really looking forward to welcoming the children back for the start of the spring term, which promises to be an exciting and busy time of learning. Over the coming weeks, the children will be exploring new topics, developing their skills, and continuing to grow in confidence and independence.

Come on, let's grow!

This half term, we will be finding out all about an allotment to see what's growing and spot the greenhouses and frames that help the plants to grow. Children will find out which fruits and vegetables can be planted in the current season using a range of sources and read instructions for how to plant and care for each plant. Children will annotate world maps to show the origins of some fruits and vegetables. They will establish which foods are grown in which hemispheres and explain what this means about the conditions that they need for their growth. Children will learn about the three main types of farming in the UK, arable, pastoral and mixed. Towards the end of the topic, the class will make tasty dishes using some of the UK's most common crops.

Our novel study 'Pig Heart Boy' by Malorie Blackman. It shows the life of a teenage boy Cameron, and all he wants is a 'normal' life - friends, swimming, school, family. But his life is far from normal. Not every thirteen-year-old desperately needs a new heart because theirs doesn't work properly. Finally, one doctor offers hope. He gets the opportunity to get a new heart but it's not a human heart, it's a pig heart. Cameron could - if he and his parents agree - take part in a radical and controversial procedure involving the transplant of a pig's heart into his human body. It's risky. And it's never been done before . . . While Cameron comes to terms with the idea, he finds the world around him is much less accepting.

In **Science**, the children will learn about reproduction and aging, particularly finding out about animal life cycles, including the human life cycle. They will explore human growth and development to old age, including the changes experienced during puberty and human reproduction.

In **Art**, children will be learning about the Expressionist art movement and the 'Father of Expressionism', Edvard Munch. They will explore different ways to portray feelings and emotions in art to create an imaginative self-portrait.

In **R.E**, the children will be learning about Islam. The big question being, '**How far does the mosque contribute to the Muslim concept of Ummah?**' Children will revisit previous learning of the Muslim faith from last term and then explore the importance for Muslims to have a community building. They will explore the significance of Shahada and how it contributes to a sense of community for Muslims.

In **Computing** this term our topic is Programming - Selection in Physical Computing. Following the National Centre for Computing Education scheme the unit gives learners the opportunity to be introduced to a microcontroller and learn how to connect and program it to control components. Learners will be introduced to conditions as a means of controlling the flow of actions in a program.

In **Music** this term we will be exploring Pop Ballads and comparing it to our previous term's topic of jazz music. The children will have the opportunity to listen to several different Pop Ballads and then appraise them.

HOMEWORK:

Homework will continue to be daily, set on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. We endeavour to mark the following morning; however, sometimes (due to lessons overrunning) we may end up marking everything at the end of the week. Spellings will take place in class and will not be sent home for learning as we have previously done.

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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:

P.E will be on a Friday afternoon at Charlbury Sports Hall. Children should come to school dressed for sports on a Friday.

CONTACT:

Mrs Merry works Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Mrs Willans works in class on Thursday and Friday.

We are always happy to help should you need us.