

Leaffield C.E. Primary School

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

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Web: www.leaffield.oxon.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs. Diane Axford

Assistant Headteacher: Mrs Rhiannon Abberley



Be kind, be curious, be you!

Friday 4th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

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

This term...

Our topic this term is 'We Are Superheroes'. We have attached a curriculum overview which provides a flavour of some of the learning experiences and themes we will be exploring throughout the term. Through this topic, children will think about their own strengths and talents, celebrate what makes them unique, and learn about the important role that friends, families and members of our community play in our lives.

While topics provide an exciting context for learning, our Early Years curriculum places a strong emphasis on continuous provision and child-led learning. Much of the children's learning takes place through carefully planned play opportunities both indoors and outdoors, where they can explore, investigate, create and develop their skills independently. We observe the children's interests and use these to extend learning, ensuring experiences remain engaging, meaningful and relevant to each child.

Through both adult-led activities and child-initiated learning, we will support the children in building new friendships, becoming confident members of our class and settling into the routines of school life. We will encourage kindness, thoughtfulness and helpfulness, while exploring themes such as belonging, friendship, community and the world around us. Alongside this, children will have opportunities to observe changes in the local environment and begin to notice the signs of autumn as the seasons change. By combining our topic-based learning with rich opportunities for exploration and play, we aim to foster independence, curiosity, confidence and a lifelong love of learning.

Phonics & Reading

In Phonics, children 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 Explorers). Children will gradually build up to bringing home the following to read over the week:

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- 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 school book) and record anything they read 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.

Maths

In Maths this half term, we will be developing key early mathematical skills through practical, hands-on experiences and play-based learning. The children will explore sorting, matching and comparing objects, counting accurately, recognising small quantities without counting (subitising), and beginning to understand concepts such as size, length, weight and capacity. We will also investigate shapes, create and continue repeating patterns, and use positional language such as *in*, *on*, *under* and *behind*. To make learning meaningful and enjoyable, we will take part in a weekly cooking activity linked to the learning, giving children opportunities to count, measure, compare and solve problems in a real-life context.

Outdoor Learning

This term we will be taking part in 'Outdoor Explorers' sessions every **Thursday** afternoon (led by Mrs Smith). 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 in a named rucksack or bag. As the weather starts to get colder, please also ensure your child is wearing named warm clothing and that they have a hat, gloves and scarf. In addition, can we also ask for a spare pair of trousers and socks to be provided each week so that the children can change out of wet/muddy items after the session. 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)

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should be left at school, as the children do love to explore puddles and water play, we will provide you with small bags to put these in! We do have spare clothes and wipes as accidents happen.

Please provide a pair of named wellies that can be left in school for all activities, including Outdoor learning.

P.E.

We will have our P.E. session in school every **Friday** afternoon (led by Mrs Abberley), 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 a 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.

This term our PE sessions will focus on moving in different ways (e.g. walking, running, rolling, jumping), AKA 'Superhero Training'!

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,

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 Smith and Mrs Abberley - Murphy Class Teachers