Leafield C.E. Primary School

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

Tel: 01993 878273
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Web: www.leafield.oxon.sch.uk
Executive Headteacher: Mrs Diane Axford
Assistant Headteacher: Mrs Rhiannon Abberley

Be kind, be curious, be you!

Dear Parents and carers,

Welcome back to Murphy Class! We hope you had a lovely half-term break and are ready for another exciting term of learning and exploring together.

Friday 13th November: Children in Need (information to follow)
Monday 30th November: Lantern parade (information to follow)
Thursday 10th December: Christmas jumper day
Wednesday 16th December: 9.30 Christingle service at church
Thursday 17th December: Christmas lunch
Thursday 17th December: 2.40 Murphy Nativity at school (information to follow)

Our topic: Sparkle and Shine

This term, our topic is **'Sparkle and Shine'**. We will be exploring a range of festivals and celebrations, including Bonfire Night, Diwali, Hanukkah and Christmas. These experiences will help the children learn about different cultures, traditions and communities.

While our topic provides a focus for our learning, we will follow the children's interests, ideas and curiosity. Child-led play is a vital part of early years learning, allowing children to explore, ask questions, develop their own ideas and build new skills through meaningful interactions and experiences. We will use their interests to shape their learning and provide opportunities to discover and explore the world around them.

Every day (except Thursdays)

- Please bring a book bag and water bottle.
- Please ensure your child has a warm, waterproof coat and wellies in school. Wellies can stay in school and be taken home for weekends or holidays when needed.
- Please label all clothing and belongings, including coats, jumpers, PE hoodies, hats and gloves.

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Thursdays – 'Outdoor Explorers'

- Children should arrive wearing outdoor clothing, including long sleeves and trousers.
- Please provide warm layers, waterproofs, wellies a named rucksack and bag to put any wet clothes in.
- As the weather gets colder, please include a hat, gloves and scarf.
- Please pack a spare pair of underwear, trousers and socks each week in case children get wet or muddy (these can be put in the small net bag hanging on their peg).
- Book bags and reading folders are not needed on Thursdays.

This takes place in the woods or school grounds. We look forward to enjoying the outdoor environment throughout the winter while developing the children's confidence and physical skills.

Fridays – PE

- PE takes place indoors every Friday afternoon.
- Children should come to school in their full PE kit and trainers.

Phonics and reading

This term, we will recap single-letter sounds and begin learning common digraphs, where two letters make one sound, such as *sh*, *th* and *qu*. The children will continue practising blending sounds to read words and using their phonics to begin writing.

Please ensure the 'home challenges' bag and book, reading booklets/books and reading records are in school every day except Thursday. **Books should be returned on Wednesdays.**

Reading together regularly makes a real difference. Where possible, try to share each booklet/book three times, as repetition helps children build confidence and recognise words more easily. Please continue practising phonics flashcards, too.

We would love you to record brief comments in your child's reading record about what you have read together and any words they are struggling with.

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Maths

During our short 'Mastering number' sessions this half term we will focus on helping children confidently work with numbers up to 7 through playful, hands-on activities. They explore numbers 4–7, practice counting forwards and backwards, and learn "one more" and "one less." Children begin combining groups to make totals, spotting patterns (like dice arrangements), comparing quantities, and understanding equal and unequal groups. These sessions gently introduce addition and subtraction ideas, building a strong foundation for future learning in a fun and engaging way.

Home Challenges

Home Challenges books will continue to come home on Fridays and should be returned on Wednesdays.

Activities are intended to be fun and flexible. Children might like to talk about their ideas, draw, write, take photographs, build or create something. The most important thing is to enjoy learning together.

Please add a few comments about what your child did, discussed or enjoyed. This helps us understand their learning at home and identify interests or ideas we can develop further in school.

We kindly ask that children do not bring toys from home unless we have specifically requested them for an activity. This helps us avoid any worries about toys getting lost or damaged, and ensures everyone can focus whilst in school. Thank you for your understanding and support.

We look forward to another wonderful term of learning, playing and exploring together!

Many thanks,

Mrs Smith and Mrs Abberley