

Leaffield C.E. Primary School

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

Tel: 01993 878273

Email: office.3124@leaffield.oxon.sch.uk

Web: www.leaffield.oxon.sch.uk

Follow us @Head3124

Headteacher: Ms Faye Dean



8th September 2023

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 helps to support the children with settling into the new rules and routines of school and encourages them to make new friends and feel confident within their class. We will focus on being helpful, kind and thoughtful both at home and at school. We will also think about how each of us is unique and special, the importance of friendship and how people in our families, school and local community are important and can help us. In addition, we will consider our local environment asking 'What is it like where we live?'

Phonics & Reading

In phonics, we will begin learning the Set 1 sounds 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](#) and [here](#). Once we have further settled into our school routines, we will begin to send home reading books. Please send back all books to be changed on a **Wednesday**; new ones will be sent home on a Friday. 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 be 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 can also 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 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

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 are aware of all the resources and activities available to them. We will then start to focus on



*Let us not love with words or speech
but with actions and in truth. 1 John 3:18*

matching and sorting objects, numerals, and shapes, as well as, comparing patterns and creating our own 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 within the school grounds (in our school garden, on the Green or Murphy class outdoor area). 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 in the garden and outside area) and bring appropriate waterproofs, wellies etc in a named rucksack or bag, with a water bottle. As the weather starts to get colder, please can you make sure your child is wearing warm clothing and that they have a hat, gloves and scarf, if you feel this is needed (please make sure that these are named.) We are really excited to get stuck into our outdoor activities!

During the rest of the week, we will be outside **every day**, so please provide wellies and 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!

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 correct top and bottoms. Sessions will usually be outside so they will need to have suitable clothing for the weather.

Homework

Homework will be sent home every **Friday** to be returned by the following **Wednesday**. There will be more info in your child's homework book, but we give you an overview of the learning we have undertaken during the week for you to discuss together at home, followed by 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! 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.

We have 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 through the class email address: class1@leafield.oxon.sch.uk

Many thanks,
Mrs Percy & Mrs Jobson - Murphy Class Teachers