

Leaffield C.E. Primary School

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Friday 3rd November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Murphy Class after the half term break! We hope you had a restful week and that you and your child are ready for an exciting and busy term.

We will continue to spend time outdoors every day, so please make sure your child has a warm, waterproof coat and wellies in school every day (wellies can be left in school and taken home if/when needed for weekends or school holidays). As children's pegs are taken up with warmer layers, it would be very helpful if children only bring in a **book bag** and **water bottle** each day (plus lunch box if needed), except on Thursdays when Outdoor Learning kit is needed, and book bags aren't. Please can we also ask that all coats, jumpers, PE hoodies, hats, etc are clearly named, so we can help children keep track of their belongings. Thank you for your help.

Our topic

Our main topic this term is 'Sparkle and Shine'. There are lots of festivals to celebrate in our community and beyond in the coming months and we will be finding out how people celebrate Diwali, Bonfire Night, Hanukkah, Thanksgiving and Christmas. It is so important for the children to become aware of the wider world and different cultures and communities. This topic really helps them to appreciate and explore life beyond our local vicinity.

Phonics & reading

In phonics, we will continue to learn the Set 1 sounds, build on blending skills to read words and use the sounds learnt to start writing words too. There will be a meeting in the coming weeks to help you support your child learning to read; further details will follow soon.

Changeover days for reading books will be either a Wednesday or a Friday, depending on when we hear your child read each week. Please ensure your child has their reading folder with books and reading record in school every day (except Thursday). Reading books will be a mixture of wordless books to encourage storytelling and prediction skills and books linked to the phonic sounds they have been working on in school. 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. Ideally, try to share each text with your child 3 times; children learn best through repetition, and the more words they recognise and can read without having to decode (or 'sound out'), the better. Please also continue to practise with the phonics flashcards as often as possible, too.

It is very helpful if you can jot down in their reading record book what you do at home – what you've read together, how they have got on with the books, anything they particularly enjoyed or found difficult, etc.

Maths

In maths, we will be securing and deepening our knowledge of numbers to 5, ensuring children understand the composition of each amount -recognising, representing, combining, and comparing them. We will also learn to use positional language to describe how items are situated in relation to other items; enabling us to then represent real and imaginary journeys with models, drawings and maps. In addition, we will explore 2D shapes, focusing this term, on circles,



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

triangles, and 4 sided shapes. We will explore the properties of circles, triangles, squares and rectangles and be able to spot them in our everyday environment.

Outdoor Learning

Our Outdoor Learning sessions will continue to be on Thursday afternoons, using the school grounds and garden. Please make sure your child comes to school wearing their outdoor learning clothes (long sleeves and trousers) and brings appropriate layers, **waterproofs** and wellies (if not already in school) in a named rucksack or bag. As it is getting 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 know these sessions are loved by the children; it will be fantastic to continue exploring the outdoor world around us during Winter time, and developing our physical skills.

P.E.

P.E. sessions will continue in school every Tuesday afternoon, so your child needs to be in full PE kit and trainers every Tuesday. Sessions will be indoors; our topic this term is dance, linked to the festivals and celebrations that we are learning about.

Homework

Thank you for your support with homework last term. We hope that you are enjoying finding out about the things we've been up to each week and supporting and extending the learning over the weekend. Homework books will come home on a Friday, to be returned on a Wednesday. How the children choose to complete the activities is up to them – it may be they wish to chat about their ideas, or to draw 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 and enjoy together.

We really appreciate it if you can jot down a few comments about how they have found the activities and the sorts of things you talked about or created, so that we can follow-up in school if there are any misconceptions, gaps in learning, or special interests that we can build on.

Show and Tell

Children are welcome to bring in small items for Show and Tell on a Wednesday. These will be kept safely on a shelf during the day. We especially welcome anything linked to our topic about celebrations this term.

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: murphy@leafield.oxon.sch.uk. We look forward to another exciting and action-packed term ahead!

Many thanks,

Mrs Jobson & Mrs Percy
Murphy Class Teachers