

Half Termly Letter – Autumn 1 2024

Dear Parents and carers,

Welcome to Arbury Primary School from all of us in the Early Years team! We are absolutely delighted to have met you and your wonderful children this week and can't wait to get to know you all better. We are really looking forward to an exciting year with lots of experiences, opportunities and fun together.

Each half term, you will receive an overview of the half termly topic which gives a breakdown of what we will be covering within each aspect of learning. Every Monday, we will send out an update via parent mail to let you know what we were learning about the previous week and what we will be learning in the upcoming week so that you can support your child's learning at home. We will also regularly upload pictures of learning activities to the school website (for children with photo permission), so please keep an eye out to see what we have been up to.

Learning Theme






This half term, our learning theme is 'People'. We will be getting to know each other and talking about the people in our family, class, school and local communities. We would love to have a **family picture** for each child to display in the classroom, please either send them in with your child in their book bag or email them to smorris@arbury.cambs.sch.uk. Later on this half term, we will be learning about people who help us and thinking about different jobs. If you would be happy to share a picture of you at work or to come and talk to us about your job, please let us know. Previously, we have enjoyed a visit from a bricklayer, firefighter and a polar explorer – all contributions are welcome! To find out more about what we will be learning this half term, please see the curriculum overview letter and weekly updates.

Supporting Learning at Home

We ask that you read with your child as much as possible! **Please read and record (at least!) five reads in your reading diary each week. Book bags need to be in school every day** as your child will be able to bring home a new story book for you to read together every day. Each week, we will check your child's diary and if they have 5 or more reads, they will receive a special sticker. At this point in the year, you will be doing the reading together: looking at the pictures, spotting letters from your child's name and supporting them to listen to and talk about the book. If you would like more support with reading at home, please speak to your child's teacher. We will be sending you further information about our phonics programme, Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised, in the coming weeks.

Belongings

Please make sure your child has the following items in school each day:

<p>Book bag and water bottle. Please make sure your child has water only in their water bottle. If you wish to send a bottle of squash or juice (no fizzy drinks) in their packed lunch, they may have this in the dinner hall only. We drink water throughout the school day.</p>	
<p>A full set of named, spare clothes (including underwear and socks!) to be left in a bag on your child's peg.</p>	
<p>A pair of named shorts and a named t-shirt in a bag for your child to change into for PE lessons (please include a pair of trainers during summer term). Our PE day in reception is Thursday.</p>	
<p>Clothes for forest area/ outdoor play: a named waterproof jacket with hood, named welly boots and either a named pair of waterproof trousers or a puddle suit. It is ideal if these can also be left in school on your child's peg/class welly boot rack.</p>	
<p>All children are entitled to school meals, but if you would prefer to provide a packed lunch, please ensure that their lunch box is named. A fruit snack is provided every day at break time but you can send a piece of fruit from home if you prefer.</p>	

On Fridays, Mr Sapsford and Miss Ozakpinar will have their planning, preparation and assessment (PPA) release time. The class teachers for this time will be Miss Ellis (Class 1) and Mrs Oram (Class 2). Mr Sapsford and Miss Ozakpinar will remain on site and will be in class when they are not being released.

Dates for your diary:

Tuesday 24th September – Open classrooms – please drop-in after school (3:25pm-3:55pm) to see what your child has been learning in class.

Friday 27th September - Harvest Assembly at the Church of the Good Shepherd

October – Black History Month

Thursday 3rd October – National Poetry Day

Thursday 10th October – Individual Photographs

Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised Workshop – more information and date to follow

We will also be electing school council, eco-schools representatives and reading ambassadors for each class this half term.

We hope that you and your child have a very smooth and happy start to life at school. We are always keen to talk with you about your child and their learning so do ask to speak to us at drop-off/pick-up. You can also contact us via email smorris@arbury.cambs.sch.uk

Best wishes,

Mr Sapsford, Miss Ozakpinar, Miss Ellis, Mrs Kabir and Mrs Begum