

Half Termly Letter – Autumn 1 2023

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, a breakdown of what we will be covering within each aspect of learning and some ideas for activities you might like to try at home. Each week, we will send out an update via parent mail to let you know what we have been learning about that week and what we will be learning the following week so that you can support your child's learning at home. We will also upload pictures of learning activities to the school website regularly, 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, 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 and a firefighter – all contributions welcome! To find out more about what we will be learning this half term, please see the curriculum overview letter.






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.

You may wish to choose a 'People' themed project from the suggestions sheet (or think of your own idea!). If your child has done something exciting at home, we ask that you share a photo or video of it with us via email (smorris@arbury.cambs.sch.uk) or send it in with your child in their book bag, so that it can be shared with the class. Children always love sharing about their experiences/ learning at home.

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 Monday.</p>	
<p>Clothes for Forest School/ outdoor play: a named waterproof with hood, named welly boots and either 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.</p>	

On Fridays both Mr Sapsford and Miss Ozakpinar will have their planning, preparation and assessment (PPA) release time. This means that both teachers will not be in the classroom all day. The class teachers on these days will be Mrs Armitage (Class 1) and Mrs Dearman (Class 2).

Dates for your diary:

Thursday 21st Flu Vaccinations (first round)

Friday 22nd September - Harvest Assembly

Tuesday 26th September – Open classrooms

October – Black History Month

Thursday 5th October – National Poetry Day

Thursday 20th October – Individual Photographs

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

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

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.

Best wishes,

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