

# Laurel Group Parent Information - Autumn Term

Our topic for this term is "All About Me."

What we will do in school:	What you could do together at home:
<p><b><u>Communication &amp; Language</u></b> Communication is a high priority and we will create lots of fun activities where communication is motivating to the individual. Your child will also work regularly on their individual speech and language therapy targets.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Try to encourage your child to communicate by putting their favourite toys out of reach so they have to request help to get them (by taking you to get them or by saying 'Give teddy')</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Physical Development</u></b> We will be working on our gross motor skills in P.E. by kicking and throwing balls. We will be developing their fine motor skills through fine motor activities. We will also be working on our spreading skills using knives in cooking.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help your child to help themselves to dress and undress.</li> <li>• Encourage your child to kick, throw and catch a variety of different sized balls.</li> <li>• Create opportunities to develop fine motor skills such as cutting paper or tracing lines.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Personal, Social &amp; Emotional Development</u></b> The staff will be focusing on getting to know your children this term and building up relationships with them. We will be encouraging the children to explore their new class environment and to work and play alongside their new peers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage your child to take turns with you when playing a favourite activity. It could be throwing a ball against a wall, cuddling a teddy or playing a simple iPad game. Try saying 'My turn, your turn', keeping each turn very short at the start.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Literacy</u></b> The children will be read to daily and they will listen to both fiction and non-fiction texts based around the "All About Me" topic. They will be given regular mark making opportunities and will work on name recognition/tracing/writing. In Phonics we will be listening to the Jolly Phonics jingles and building simple words.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Look at books with your child and point to things that you can see in the pictures e.g. I can see a dog.</li> <li>• Sing lots of nursery rhymes with your child and encourage them to join in with singing or actions for the rhyme.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Maths</u></b> We will be focusing on number in the first half term. We will recite numbers and count objects to 10. In the second half term we will start to develop the children's knowledge of shape.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sing counting songs with your child to help them develop an understanding of number &amp; quantity.</li> <li>• Point out numbers whilst you are out and about e.g. clock faces, bus numbers, door numbers. Count items or objects together such as toys.</li> <li>• Explore early shape &amp; space maths skills. You could make shapes out of playdough together and label shapes around the home.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Understanding the World</u></b> The children will learn about their new class, their body, families, homes, foods and celebrations. They will also start to be more confident around the computers learning how to switch them on and open programmes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Go out for an Autumn walk and collect leaves, sticks, pine cones, etc. Use your Autumn treasures to print with or stick on paper to make an Autumn collage. Gather the fallen leaves and throw them in the air and watch them fall to the ground.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Expressive Arts &amp; Design</u></b> The children will experience using their body to create art using various mediums. They will also experiment with mixing colours.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paint pictures using body parts such as hands, fingers and feet.</li> <li>• Use different materials to create collages.</li> </ul>



## Swimming:

Laurel Group will be going swimming at **Woughton Pool** on Friday. Please send your child into school every Friday with:

- swimming trunks/ a swimming costume
- a large towel
- swim pads if they are not yet toilet trained
- in a bag that is large enough for them to put all their clothes into (a rucksack/back pack is ideal for the children to carry themselves)



Please send a PE kit (any comfortable shorts and T-shirt) in a bag to keep in school. We will send it home every half-term for you to wash. Our P.E days are Monday and Thursday.

## Spare Clothes

Your child will have opportunities to engage in sensory activities including messy play with water, sand, paint, etc. Although the children are encouraged to wear aprons, accidents do happen! Please send a spare set of clothes for your child in case they should need to change or clothes that they can wear to get messy if you would prefer.



## Home/School Book

We will check the Home /School Book every day and respond to any queries you have. Your child's keyworker will write in the Home/School Book as often as they can to let you know what your child has been doing, what they have eaten, how they have been, and anything else we think you would like to hear about. We will also put important letters in the book. **Please check the book every day.**

Please feel free to write what your child has been up to at home, any new achievements and any concerns or questions you may have. If your child has missed breakfast, or had a bad night's sleep - please let us know so that we can care for them accordingly. You can also contact me via email: [lucy.austin@walnuts.milton-keynes.sch.uk](mailto:lucy.austin@walnuts.milton-keynes.sch.uk)

Thank you for taking the time to read this term's parent information. If you have any other queries, please don't hesitate to contact us.

*Lucy, Dan, Donna, Lauren & Emma*