

Laurel Group Parent Information - Spring Term

Our topic for this term is "Stories and Songs."

What we will do in school:	What you could do together at home:
<p><u>Communication & Language</u> 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"> • Hide your child's favourite toys to encourage them to ask for them in a way that suits them • Play with your children's toys with them and explain what you are doing, e.g. 'Look my car - it's driving along the table'.
<p><u>Physical Development</u> We will be working on our gross motor skills in P.E. by climbing and exploring a variety of apparatus. We will be developing fine motor skills through fine motor activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help your child to help themselves to dress and undress. • Take your child to the park/ an indoor soft play centre and encourage them to explore a range of play equipment. • Create opportunities to develop fine motor skills such as cutting paper or tracing lines.
<p><u>Personal, Social & Emotional Development</u> This term we are focusing on developing the children's play skills by encouraging them to take part in simple turn taking games with peers. We are also encouraging children to share toys and to play role play games together with symbols to aid with communication.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
<p><u>Literacy</u> Our topic this term is "Stories and Songs". For this topic we will be reading a range of traditional tales and singing nursery rhymes. All children are encouraged to read daily with books appropriate for their level, as well as taking books home.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Try to read a range of simple traditional tales with your children such as the Three Little Pigs, and encourage them to join in with saying the rhymes or actions e.g. pretending to be the wolf and blowing down the houses • Sing lots of nursery rhymes with your child and encourage them to join in with singing or actions for the rhyme. • When reading with your child look at the pictures and say what you can see whilst encouraging your child to look at where you are pointing
<p><u>Maths</u> This term we are focusing on measure. We will start by looking at weight and then move onto length. We will also continue to look at positional language. In number we have begun to introduce Numicon to aid the children with their understanding of numbers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sing counting songs with your child to help them develop an understanding of number & quantity. 5 little ducks and 10 little speckled frogs are great. • Try to use language such as heavy and light when comparing two objects and encourage your child to feel objects that you have described as being heavy and light. • Use positional language when describing things to your child e.g. the dog is in his bed, the teddy is under the blanket.

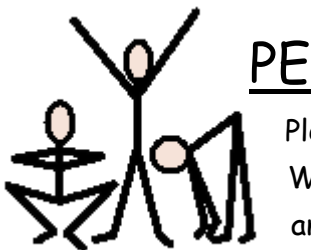
<p><u>Understanding the World</u> The children will continue to enjoy forest school and exploring nature in a creative way. We will also continue to learn all about computers and how they operate.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go out for Winter walks and allow your child to splash in puddles. As the weather changes to Spring show your children the new flowers that are blooming and point out changes in the seasons • If you have a computer at home encourage your child to switch it on by themselves.
<p><u>Expressive Arts & Design</u> The children will continue to explore a range of textures and different arts and crafts materials. The children will also recreate a range of fairy tale scenes using a variety of techniques.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage your child to paint/ colour in fairy tale pictures • Make models using recyclable materials such as the three pigs houses or a bed for Goldilocks to sleep in.



Swimming:

Laurel Group will continue to swim at **Woughton Pool** on Fridays. Please continue to 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 (jogging bottoms 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.

Forest School

We have forest school every Wednesday afternoon. Forest School takes place in a muddy area and involves children exploring a range of outside skills such as digging in mud and climbing trees. As such your child will require a set of waterproof trousers and a waterproof coat if they do not already have them in school. Your child will also need to wear wellie boots whilst they are out.

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

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, Jenny, Claire, Channon, Maya, Lauren & Emma