

Autumn 2
2nd
November
2020

Holly Leaves news

Dear Parents,

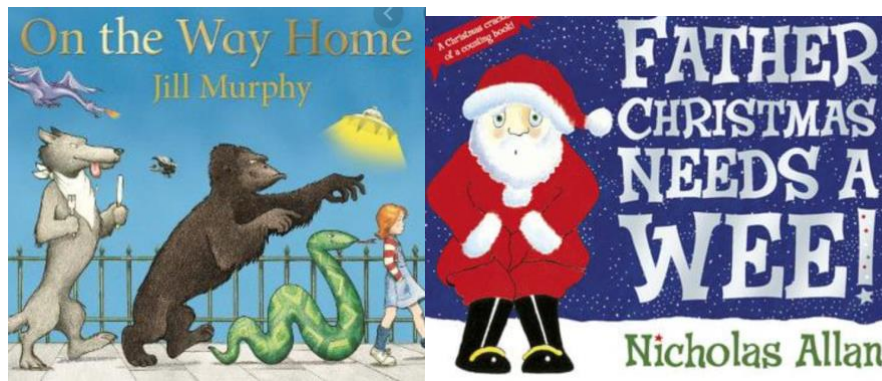
We hope you have had an enjoyable and restful half term week. It's lovely to see the children back at school and settled with their friends. We have been very proud of all the children for settling so well into school whether as a Reception child or a Year 1 child following lockdown.

Attached with this update is a form for you to please fill in about your child/children and email back into school at hollyleaves@littledean.gloucs.sch.uk. This will help us to shape the learning for each individual child and build on their interests.

It is really important everyone across the school keeps to their drop-off times to minimize the contact between different class bubbles and parents and keep everyone as safe as possible from Covid19. Our drop-off time is between 9 and 9.10am. The only children coming into school before this are siblings of children in Maple and Chestnut classes. Our pick-up time is 3.20pm. Thank you for helping us to keep to these times and keep everyone safe.

Please could you make sure your child/children has a water bottle in school with them each day? These can stay in school all week and will be refilled each day and when required. We will send these home on a Friday so they can be cleaned and sent in again the following Monday.

This term we will be getting to know two books - *On the Way Home* by Jill Murphy and, in December, *Father Christmas Needs a Wee*. The children will be storytelling using story maps and actions to help them to develop their storytelling language. They will learn about settings and character and do some of their own writing based on the stories including labelling, letter writing and sequencing.



Over the last half term children have been having daily phonics lessons Monday to Thursday. Reception children have been learning two sounds a week. They have already learnt s, a, t, p, i, n, m, d, g and o and have been beginning to read words that include these sounds. I will shortly be sending a pack of sounds home with your child/children. Please practise when you can.

Year 1 children have been revisiting the sounds they learnt before lockdown and practising their blending skills and all the tricky words they have learnt so far. We have been impressed by how much they remembered. This term we will be looking at the digraphs ay, oi, ie and ea and working so they are really secure with all the tricky words they have learnt so far. We will continue to send spellings home on a Friday for a test the following Thursday. Thanks for your support with helping your child to learn these.

In maths children will have chance to do lots of hands-on learning to help them understand concepts. Reception children shall be learning about one more than and one less than a number within five. They will be using apparatus like Numicon and five frames to help them understand along with plenty of stories and listening to songs. They will also start learning about time, looking at how days are sequenced and at different timers. Our Year 1 children will also be doing lots of practical maths as they become experts at adding and taking away numbers within ten.

Additionally children will be learning about bonfire night and road safety, dealing with various emotions and about keeping healthy. In topic work we will be finding out about Armistice Day and looking at materials which will culminate in a Christmassy science investigation. Children will be looking at the Christmas story and how people in other countries celebrate Christmas. We will also be doing plenty of art and imaginative work.

Please continue to send your child to school in their PE kit on a Monday and in Forest school clothes on a Friday. We always welcome any donations of hot chocolate powder and/or biscuits for the children to enjoy at snack time when they sit in a log circle and share stories of what they've been doing at Forest School.

We hope you find this information useful but if you have any queries or concerns please just speak to me, after school if possible.

We wish you all a very happy and healthy term.

Many thanks,

Mrs Orchard, Miss Worgan, Mrs Ray and Mrs Powell.