



Ladygrove Park Primary School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

The children have loved storytelling fairytales last term and have produced some stunning work in literacy, maths, science and geography. We continue to develop Enquiry Time (an enquiry-based learning approach) in the afternoons and are loving the models, writing and investigations the children are choosing to undertake. We hope you were able to enjoy the sharing of their efforts at our Open Morning. Our topic for Term 5 is 'Africa'.

Reading Books

We are continuing to send home phonetically decodable books on Wednesdays. We will be looking to transfer most children onto colour banded books this term. They are welcome to swap their books whenever they like through the week, though we will encourage them to do this on a Wednesday, if they haven't swapped them recently. Once all the books in a given band are read, or your child is completely fluent in a level, they are welcome to move up to the next band. The books are to be found between the Class 5 cloakroom and Year 1 art area.

The book your child chooses may be a title they have read before. We want to emphasise that a book is appropriate if it builds on a child's fluency and comprehension skills. To allow your child to delve deeper into books by discussing the features, characters and content, your child should be able to read without overly sounding out to ensure reading does not become very strenuous. We are aware that relying on sounding out decreases children's enjoyment and engagement in books and makes it difficult to remember and comprehend what they have read. Encourage your children to read the words they are familiar with in their heads (gradually become quicker or more fluent each time). Please also continue to practise with the phonics cards we have sent home. When your child is reading an unfamiliar word, we are encouraging the children to look at the whole word and then spot the digraphs/trigraphs within the word and then attempt to read the word using their phonics skills.

Before your child can take a new book home, they must return the book they have been reading. Please continue taking books home from the classrooms' book corners and the school library. There are various e-books and e-journals on the Didcot Library website that you can access (if you have a library card) at: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/>. Click on libraries then e-books and e-audio. You can also access the Oxford Owl website: <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home> and click on the tab 'eBooks', where there are plenty of e-books too.

Reading records are collected on a Wednesday to allow the teachers to look at your amazing home learning and reading.

This year we are making termly suggestions for a reading that would be good to share with your child. This term's recommendations are:

- *Handa's Hen*
- *We're Going on a Lion Hunt*
- *Anansi the Spider*

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Curriculum

We will be continuing with our more structured mornings, ensuring that there is a clear daily focus on phonics, reading, writing and maths. The children will still have 'Enquiry Time' where they can apply their new knowledge learnt from the morning sessions. We have renamed this time to reflect the child-led, enquiry-based learning we are encouraging during the afternoons. In the afternoons, there will be a short session to explore other areas of the curriculum such as art, geography, history, science, computing, RE and PSHE. Please be assured that we will monitor this provision closely and will continue to be flexible to the needs of the children.

Subject	Coverage
Maths	Time, Capacity, Fractions
Literacy	We will be using the text Handa's Surprise to generate descriptive writing and 'wanted' posters.
Science	Animal Classification
History	Key figures in history reflecting our African topic and gender focus in PSHE, such as Nelson Mandela and Amelia Earhart
Geography	Comparing the UK to another region of the world, Africa.

Reading Record

Please ensure this book is in your child's book bag every day, and they will be collected on Wednesdays. It is important that we keep you up to date on the guided reading we do with your child.

Homework

Will be given out to the children on Fridays and returned to school on Wednesdays. If homework is handed in late it, will not be looked at until the following week.



PE



Our PE day this term will be on a Tuesday morning. All PE kit must be named. Stud earrings must be covered and hair must be tied back. Hoop earrings should not be worn at school. Please keep PE kits in school everyday in case of timetable changes or wet weather.

**Zoolab Workshop
on animal classification**
Thursday 9th May

Cake Crumbly
Thursday 25th April

Library Visits

Class 4 Tuesday 30th April Class 5 Wednesday 1st May
We are leaving school at 9am. Helpers needed please!

Open Classroom

The children would like to teach you about African animals on Thursday 23rd May, 9:00 - 9:30am.

Thank you for your continued support,
Year 1 Team

