



"Learning Together, Learning For Life"

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## **Welcome to The Early Years Curriculum Letter**

### **Autumn Term first half 2020**

Early Years Teacher: **Mrs Tansley**

Early Years Learning Support Assistants: **Mrs Chisnall - Monday-Wednesday.**  
**Mrs Rozier - Thursday and Friday.**

On Tuesdays **Mrs Baker** (Teacher) and **Mr S** (Sports Coach) will cover my PPA.  
(planning, preparation and assessment time)

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the new school year and our first newsletter, which will give you an outline of what your child will be learning this half term. A warm welcome to all our new children and their families and welcome back to our existing families. The children are settling in really well and we look forward to an enjoyable Autumn term. A huge 'well done' to all the children for a super start to school.

In the Early Years we are always actively promoting and encouraging the children to become independent and would like to say a big well done to all the children who have been leaving their parents at the classroom door and hanging up their own coats and bags when they arrive. Thank you for your support with this, they are all doing really well and you should be very proud of them.

We have had a good week settling the children into the early years. They are getting to know the staff and lots of new friends. The children are being supported to share and take turns during play activities and listen to each other and follow routines. They are also being encouraged to develop their independence by teaching them to put their own coat on and take it off, hang things on their own peg and put their own water bottle on the sink area.

Our aim is to make your child's learning experience exciting and enjoyable through delivering a creative and stimulating curriculum based on the skills highlighted in the Early Years Framework. Whenever possible learning will be linked to a theme or topic.

**Our topics/themes this half term are Ourselves/Autumn/Harvest and Space.**  
Our curriculum is divided into seven different areas of learning, although they are not taught separately, but are usually linked together.

We will use the topic **Ourselves** as a way to find out all about our children and to encourage all of the children to talk about themselves, their likes and dislikes, and what makes us all the same and different, their families, extended families and pets and other things such as favourite toys, things to eat and places to go. We will celebrate difference, and how adults, children and families come in all shapes and sizes! We will enjoy sharing our 'all about me shoe box projects' and build up our confidence to talk to a large group.

The children will learn to write their names legibly, and the names of other people close to them.

The children will create portraits of themselves and their families using different media and techniques and measure features, such as their own height, hands and feet.

Through our theme **Autumn/Harvest** we will explore autumn and observe seasonal change. We will describe signs of autumn including turning leaves. The children will develop their descriptive language and use their developing writing skills to add labels to pictures. They will share their experiences of the different seasons and explain their thoughts and ideas.

Using traditional versions of The Enormous Turnip and Pumpkin Soup by Helen Cooper as well as the rhyme One Potato, Two Potato, Three Potato, Four, the children will share their experiences of harvesting fresh food and use them as inspiration to talk, read and write about autumn, harvest and related foods. The children will become more confident at retelling a familiar story and discussing how the actions of specific characters impact on others. They will recognise the importance of teamwork and discuss how they can be helpful and supportive to each other and the wider community.

They will identify and describe a range of familiar fruit and vegetables.

Finally, we will explore the exciting theme of **Space!** They will share their knowledge of space, the solar system, space travel and aliens. The children will learn about planets, moons and astronauts. We will share our thoughts and ideas about aliens. We will look at the similarities and differences between fiction and non-fiction texts. The children will discuss what they think is fact and what is fiction and provide reasons for their opinions. They will enjoy sharing texts such as *Whatever Next*, *Man on the Moon* and *The Little Kids First Big Book of Space* to explore the different features of fiction and non-fiction texts.

We will read and share fiction and nonfiction books connected to all the topics and discuss our ideas, opinions and feelings about stories and their characters.

We will learn a variety of different songs, poems and rhymes, inspired by our topics and begin to build a repertoire of songs.

**During Personal, Social and Emotional development** our main focus will be on following the daily routines of the class and school, taking turns, sharing and helping to tidy up. We will look to build self-confidence and play within small groups, creating and developing friendships. We will be developing the children's independence in putting on coats for outside. We will explore the early years environment.

**Physical development** Through opportunities in the outside area and during our Tuesday P.E. session, we want the children to become confident in moving, climbing and balancing and to develop an awareness of obstacles. In day to day activities, the children will experience opportunities to use scissors, pencils, tape dispensers, glue sticks, rolling pins and cutters.

### **Communication and language and Literacy**

We aim to develop sustained listening skills, through learning rhymes and listening to stories and want all the children to develop favourite stories and rhymes in the class and join in with rhymes and repeated refrains. We encourage the use of questioning, to find out more, such as "why" and "how" and "who" and "when". In talking, we want all the children to feel confident enough to make contributions to discussions in a group and to listen to others.

The children will learn to recognise and write their names with correct letter formation. The children will be developing their ability to write through mark-making and Letter and Sounds activities. Learning to write requires a lot of rehearsal, in many forms, including pens, paints, foam, cornflour and pencils! The children will re-tell, act out and memorise stories. They will take part in a daily phonics session. Writing begins with whatever marks your child can put on paper. We will be encouraging your child to 'have a go' and to tell us what the marks mean. We will also model to your child how to write and may sometimes scribe for them. Our writing will include words, labels, captions and phrases.

In **Mathematics** our initial focus will be on number and counting skills. Recognising numbers, linking their names to their value and recognising quantities without counting up to 5. Using the vocabulary of more, less and equal to describe quantities and to compare groups. Counting reliably, using number names in order and with one to one correspondence.

We will be playing lots of counting games and singing number rhymes.

### **Reminders**

School uniform – Please ensure you **name all items of clothing** (including footwear, hats, scarfs and gloves) clearly.

All children require a water bottle in school every day.

Please ensure **Book Bags** are in school **every day** with their reading books and home school communication book inside. Please check your child's bag and take out any letters or pictures every night.

Hair must be tied back neatly.

Please ensure full **PE kit** is in school at **all times**, including trainers **or** plimsolls and tracksuit/jogging bottoms/sweatshirt/fleece/hoody for outdoors

**Outdoor play** Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately. Please provide your child with a suitable coat for outdoor play as we will be going outside in most weather conditions and will be using the outside area on a daily basis. Wellington boots need to be available at School each day, it would be appreciated if you could leave a pair at school during the term.

Please take care when parking and leaving the school – Please ensure your child stays with you and does not run out of the school gate. Thank you.

### **Home Learning**

**Please share and read books at home with your child.**

All the children will borrow a book to share with you from the school library. We will change this book once a week with the children on a Monday. Please comment on your child's reading at home in their Home School Communication Book.

In addition, those children who are beginning to read will bring home a reading scheme book and will have letters and sounds (Phonics) activities weekly. Information will be sent out weekly about which sounds your child has been learning and 'Tricky Words' (to be learned by sight, not sounded out) as we learn them in school. They will be expected to recap sounds, actions, letter formation and play games.

Please comment on your child's reading in their Home School Communication Book and read with your child 5 times a week.

Occasionally other tasks will be sent home but they will have instructions with them. Please support your child at home.

We are always excited to learn about your child's interests and achievements outside of School and we encourage the use of the home- school communication books and Wow Moments stars to help parents to share these with us.

**\*Wow moments!\*** We would love to hear about those special Wow learning moments your child experiences out of school. Wow moments slips are intended to help parents share special moments that mark a significant achievement in their child's learning or development. It could be a new skill, such as swimming or riding a bike, independently getting dressed or using a piece of technology at home. We would like to celebrate and record these moments within their Learning Journey in the class and ask you share them with us using the wow stars. Please feel free to complete a wow moment for your child at any time. (I shall be sending you a sheet of stars home).

If you ever have any worries, concerns or questions please do not hesitate to contact us using the Home School Communication Book (please remember to

check this daily) or if you feel what you need to say or ask would be more appropriate in an email, you may email me on **[h.tansley@reed.herts.sch.uk](mailto:h.tansley@reed.herts.sch.uk)**  
Please be aware that emails will be checked/answered during working hours and not during the weekends.

**I will be holding a virtual meet the teacher meeting for all parents/carers on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 6pm via Zoom.** This will be an opportunity for you to ask any questions after reading our newsletter and learn more about the early years and how you can support your child's learning at home. Please see the link below. This meeting will be for general discussions and questions not for personal worries or concerns. For more personal discussions please contact me personally via my email address.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Tansley.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81006032703?pwd=Wm90YVhWYzNsWURHems1RHgzZmxsZz09>

Meeting ID: 810 0603 2703

Passcode: 6PeBzi