

Welcome to The Early Years Curriculum Letter 2

Autumn Term 2020

Dear Parents/carers,

We hope you all had a lovely half term break and the children had some well-deserved rest, they certainly earned it, they had a fantastic start to their learning journey and have settled in extremely well. We are looking forward to seeing what they will achieve next.

The topics/themes we choose/plan are in addition to themes led by the children's interests. For this reason, the topics can change and adapt to reflect the direction the children wish to take their learning.

Our main topics for this half term are "**Space**" please refer to previous newsletter. (Also available on our website <https://reed.herts.sch.uk/download/early-years-class-letter-autumn-term-1st-half/>) and "**Celebrations and Celebrating Light and Dark**"

Our 'Celebrations' focus will see us finding out about how and what people celebrate. We will explore traditional food, decoration, music and clothing. We will specifically focus on 'Fireworks', 'Diwali' and 'Christmas'.

Our curriculum is divided into seven different areas of learning, although they are not taught separately, but are usually linked together.

Personal, social and emotional development We will continue to focus on taking turns, sharing and helping to tidy up, building self-confidence and behaving appropriately. We will be developing the children's independence in putting on coats, hats and gloves for outside and getting dressed and undressed for P.E.

Physical development We will continue to have our weekly sessions with our sports coach Mr S (Tuesday). We will continue to focus on developing fine motor skills and hand-eye co-ordination through threading, cutting and sensory based 'messy play' activities.

Communication and language We will continue to develop sustained listening skills, through learning rhymes and listening to stories. We encourage the use of questioning, to find out more, such as "why" and "how" and "who" and "when".

Literacy We will continue to introduce and explore stories, songs and rhymes linked to our topics. We will be retelling and describing sequences of events and actions using position and direction words and prepositions and talking about how we feel in response to darkness or different forms of light, e.g. fireworks or candlelight. The children will continue to develop their ability to write through mark-making activities and 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. We will write descriptive words and phrases during adult led sessions.

Mathematical development Our focus will continue to be on number – counting, matching numbers to sets and using numbers in our play. We will focus on countdowns linked to our space ship and the song '5 little men in a flying saucer'. We will be playing lots of counting games and will introduce dice games and practical problem solving.

Understanding the world As we explore different celebrations we will learn about different cultures and traditions and consider our own and those of our friends through circle times and art work.

Expressive Arts and Design Collage, drawing and painting will continue to be our focus this term, we will explore a variety of colours and materials linked to celebrations, creating firework paintings and creating Rangoli patterns for Diwali for example. We will encourage the children to join in with dancing and movement to music and will continue to play with instruments, learning how to respond to stop and start signals and playing fast/slow or loud/quiet.

Don't forget those Wow moments! I have sent some templates home in their book bags. We look forward to celebrating these with the children and adding these to their Learning Journals.

REMINDERS

Please make sure all clothing is named.

The children will be using the outside area on a daily basis, so please make sure your child has a coat and is dressed appropriately for the colder, wetter weather.
(gloves,hat,scarf)

Check your child's book bag and Home School Communication Book daily.

Read at least 5 times a week and sign and comment.

Phonics Home Learning tasks to be returned on a Friday.

It is really important that you get to school on time in the mornings as this will really help your child to have a calm and settled start to their day.

We are always happy to talk to you. Any worries, concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me either via your child's Home School Communication Book or by email h.tansley@reed.herts.sch.uk

Many thanks for your support,

Mrs Tansley and The early years team.