



“Learning Together, Learning For Life”

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Welcome to The Early Years Curriculum Letter 3

Spring 1 Half Term 2022

Early Years Teacher: **Mrs Tansley**

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

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

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the new term and to Woody who is joining the Early years class. It was lovely to hear all about the things the children got up to during the Christmas break and to see their smiling faces during the Aladdin Panto.

We continue to work on our school values of **Respect, Aspiration, Resilience and Independence** through the daily routines of the class and school, by providing positive role models and sharing and celebrating good examples through house points and postcards. We will especially be promoting **Resilience** this term. During teacher feedback we will help the children to identify and talk about personal goals, next steps and things to work on and will help them to reflect on and celebrate their achievements and progress. We aim to create a classroom where failure and setbacks are expected and part of learning. The children will be praised for their perseverance and will develop their confidence to take risks. We will help the children to recognise and name their emotions and begin to manage their own emotions effectively. Our values are also a focus during our assemblies, Jigsaw and personal, social and emotional sessions. Children are also encouraged to borrow books we have looked at during our assemblies to read and share at home. Please ask Mrs Wittich if you would like to borrow one and then return the book to her once enjoyed at home.

Please find below details of our learning for the next half term. 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 or appropriate, learning will be linked to a theme or topic. We will also be finding out what the children are interested in and taking our learning forward based on their interests. Each week the children will have opportunities to experience all areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. This will be through a mixture of continuous provision of adult led and child-initiated activities. The children will have frequent opportunities to initiate their own learning during independent time. The adults will work to extend this learning through supporting play, using children's ideas to plan for future provision and enabling children to become independent learners with the ability to access resources and develop and explore their own ideas.

Our learning this half term will be planned around the themes of

- **Winter and Dark Nights**
- **Snow and Ice**
- **Dragons and The Chinese New Year**

During Personal, Social and Emotional Development We will be working on developing, extending and elaborating our play ideas with our friends, building respectful relationships, sharing and cooperating and helping each other to find solutions to problems and conflicts. We will be talking about our feelings and begin to understand how others might be feeling.

Physical development The children will use the outdoor area daily to develop gross and fine motor skills. They will become confident in moving, climbing and balancing and 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 and construction equipment. The children will experiment with different ways of moving and perform dragons' actions. They will participate in lion and dragon dances and move like animals from the Chinese zodiac.

In addition to the above the children will have an hour session every Tuesday with Mr S. Mr S will be focusing on **ball skills**. The children will develop ball skills such as rolling and receiving a ball, throwing to a target, bouncing and catching, dribbling with feet and kicking a ball. The children will develop their fine and gross motor skills through a range of games using a variety of equipment and will be given opportunities to work independently and with a partner.

We will also be participating in **Gymnastic** lessons on a Wednesday. The children will explore basic movements, creating shapes, balances, and jumps and begin to develop rocking and rolling. They will show an awareness of space and how to use it safely and perform basic skills on both the floor and apparatus. They will copy, create, remember and repeat short sequences.

Communication and language and Literacy We continue to work on developing communication and language skills, with an emphasis on improving children's language and vocabulary through increasing opportunities for conversations, reading of a wide range of books and holding discussions around activities in other areas of learning.

We share, daily, a wide variety of books - stories (fiction), information books (non-fiction) as well as rhyme and poetry with individual children as well as in small and large groups. Lots of other learning opportunities happen when looking at books, for example comparisons of culture or the past. Listening to stories develops imagination, ideas and language. Children are also encouraged to use story ideas in their play.

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. 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.

All children will take part in a daily phonics session with an adult. These sessions consist of a review of previous sounds learnt, the introduction of the new sound, activities which involve the new sound being applied and then usually a short dictation to enable the sound to be used in a short

sentence. The Nursery children undertake daily activities that encourage their listening and phonological awareness skills which are vital for when they start to learn how to read.

The children will be developing their ability to write through mark-making and Letter and Sounds and topic activities. Learning to write requires a lot of rehearsal, in many forms, including pens, paints, foam, cornflour and pencils! 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.

We will be exploring winter and dark nights, through stories for example, The Bear's Winter House and sharing non-fiction books which give information. The children will extend their vocabulary through discussion and sharing books about signs of winter and relating it to their own experiences, talking about their ideas, acting out events and understanding how books can be used to find out information and talking about facts in those books. The children will use their phonics to read words, labels, captions and simple sentences about Winter and to write sentences and captions using descriptive language and new vocabulary inspired by our reading. The children will listen to stories and read and retell stories about dragons. They will respond in various ways to what they have heard, expressing their thoughts and feelings and taking part in a wide range of activities. The children will learn about the stories and traditions of The Chinese New Year and how Chinese families celebrate the New Year. They will sing and learn poems and songs about dragons and the Chinese New Year.

Understanding the World We will use non-fiction topic books to help us discuss and identify signs of winter. The children will go on a winter walk and write a caption to match photographs taken. The children will look at icicles or pictures of icicles and discuss how they are formed. They will experiment with freezing water in differently shaped containers and then explore 'freeing' frozen toys through melting in different places and by sprinkling salt. The children will discuss New Year festivals and compare Chinese traditions and customs with their own experiences.

Expressive Arts and Design The children will take part in small world activities and role play, working in or being a customer in a café or kitchen and by taking on the roles of dragons and dragon hunters. They will learn and perform songs and rhymes with actions. The children will develop their expressive and constructional skills in a range of activities, for example, creating ice pictures, starry night sky pictures, building a den, building junk models of dragons and dragon machines, making salt dough claw pendants, book making, painting pictures of dragons and making maps.

In **Mathematics** during practical activities, role play and discussions there will be opportunities for the children to use everyday language related to money and reinforce number recognition and counting.

Adult led weekly activities will focus on

- Using **counting to compare** and find a precise numerical difference in sets of objects in varied contexts, comparing quantities up to 10 in different contexts, recognising when one quantity is greater than, less than or the same as the other quantity. Initially they will use one to one correspondence to compare quantities and then move on to using counting to compare totals and counting forward and backwards to identify a difference.

- Developing **spatial thinking** and **spatial language** linked to position and direction, in movements and using symbols.
- **Magnitude** – Ordering and Estimating and knowing the position of numbers 0-10 and their relationship to other numbers, such as 0, 5 or 10.

Music

Although the children are continually exposed to music, singing songs and rhymes Mrs Wittich will continue to lead Early Years music sessions on Tuesday mornings. Our music theme this half term is: 'Everyone' We will:

1. Listen and Respond to a different style of music each week
2. Explore and Create - initially using voices only but building to using classroom instruments too
3. Sing and play - nursery rhymes and action songs - building to singing and playing
4. Share and Perform

Reminders

Spare Clothes- Please can I remind you to provide your child with spare underwear and socks in their bookbag in case of accidents and to remember to replace them when they have been used. Also if your child has borrowed school spare clothing, could I politely ask that you return them back to school after washing as I am running out of supplies and I no longer have any girls' knickers. Thank you.

School uniform – Please ensure you name all items of clothing (including footwear, hats, scarfs and gloves) clearly and keep checking that it hasn't faded after washing. Any earrings should be small plain studs. Please make sure socks and tights and hair accessories are in line with our expected uniform. Hair must be tied back neatly.

It is important that your child has a clear, **named water bottle** with a sports lid top in school every day. This will need to be taken home at the end of the day, washed and refilled.

All children should have a pair of **wellington boots** which should be kept in the class welly shed during term time.

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.

Outdoor play Now that the weather is cold and wet, please ensure your child is dressed appropriately. Please provide your child with a warm, suitable coat, hat and gloves for outdoor play, we will be going outside in most weather conditions and will be using the outside area on a daily basis.

Home Learning Please check the **Google classroom and stream regularly for announcements and home learning.** Instructions around home learning will be briefly explained in the Home School Communication book on a sticker, with further details and instructions on the Google classroom. Please read the instructions carefully to ensure you complete the tasks fully and to the best of your ability. Any questions or queries please come and see me and ask for support. The home school communication book should be used for tasks and the sticker dated when completed. Please ensure your child uses a writing pencil when recording writing, thank you.

Reading Please share and read books at home with your child daily. As an important part of your child's home learning, they should be reading at home five times a week. Please comment on your child's reading in their Home School Communication Book.

Library book 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. Please remember to return the book in order to be able to choose another one.

Home readers In addition, those children who are beginning to read will **bring home a reading scheme book**, matched to their current phonic phase and learning. When they are reading, please make use of the activities and questions in the covers of the book and remember that it is okay to re-read the same book to assist your child's fluency skills.

Read stories daily to your child and use them as an opportunity to talk about the characters and events in the story. You could also discuss some of the details children have spotted in the pictures, such as the character's facial expressions. Have lots of conversations with your child throughout the day. Try and increase their vocabulary by using a wide range of vocabulary.

Reception children 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.

Also, **support your child with their writing** by checking they are forming their letters in the correct way and holding a pencil properly. Handwriting guides are available for support on the Google classroom and phonic parent support sheets.

Nursery Rhyme of the week. As a class we will be learning a new rhyme of by heart every week. The rhyme for the following week will be posted on the google classroom on a Friday. Please practise the rhyme with your child.

***Wow moments!** * Please feel free to complete a wow moment for your child at any time.

Talk Time

Children are invited to bring in an item from home that they would like to show to the group and tell us about. This could be an interesting object, some artwork, a favourite storybook, a souvenir from a trip, a toy, an award or maybe a photograph. Please ensure that any items that are precious or irreplaceable are not brought into school. The children will take it in turns to show, talk about and describe their items to the group. The rest of the group will also have the opportunity to ask questions. This helps the children to practise their speaking and listening skills and also develops their self-confidence when speaking to a group.

We would greatly appreciate it if you could spend some time helping your child prepare their talk time. Below are some sentence starter ideas to get you going.

It is a...It is called...It is special because...I like it because...I like playing with it because...I like reading it because...It works by.... When you....this happens...It's made from...My....gave it to me...for/because/when. I got it for...I made it with....

Timetable for Talk Time.

Monday 17th January 2022 Romany, Lacey, Mia Hudson, Finley.

Monday 24th January 2022: Olivia, Frankie, Mia O, Blake.

Monday 31st January 2022: Oliver, Pearl, Ben, Elodie.

Monday 7th February 2022: Max, Woody, Mila, Sebastian.

If you or your child has any worries, concerns or questions, no matter how small, please come and speak to me at the earliest opportunity. 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** Please be aware that emails will be checked/answered during working hours and not during the weekends.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Tansley.

h.tansley@reed.herts.sch.uk

