

## **Jackson Class Half Termly Letter**

### **Autumn 1st half term 2023**

#### **Class Teachers:**

Mrs Cottenden (Mondays, Tuesday, Fridays) and Mrs Arnott (Wednesdays and Thursdays)

Mrs Wittich teaches the class for P.E. on a Tuesday and Miss Wilson for Forest School on a Friday.

**Learning Support Assistants:** Mrs Rozier works in Jackson Class Monday – Thursday and

Mrs Bateman and Ms Bryan also work in Jackson Class sometimes.

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Jackson Class! We have really enjoyed getting to know the children who have joined us in Nursery or Reception this week so far, and also welcoming back some familiar faces from last year. We also look forward to welcoming some more new friends next week. Mrs Cottenden and Mrs Arnott job-share the teaching of Jackson Class. We meet weekly to plan for your children's learning and to discuss progress within the class. Please remember that you can speak to either of us with any questions or concerns, either in person or using the email addresses at the end of this letter.

Please find below details of our learning for the next half term and some practical information.

In the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) the children learn through a mixture of child-initiated learning (play), adult-led teaching and adult-led small groups and 1:1 activities. This half term our focus is around settling in and getting to know each other, and we will be learning about Autumn later in the term. Our learning is also focussed around the children's interests, so our topics will evolve as we go through the term.

#### **School Values**

We will be learning to demonstrate our school values of:

**Independence** by selecting our own resources and making choices in our learning activities, and being responsible for our own belongings.

**Respect** by following the daily routines of the class and school, being kind, polite and helpful to one another, and building effective relationships with each other through our learning and play.

**Aspiration** by encouraging each other to take risks and challenge ourselves.

**Resilience** by reflecting on our learning and choices, developing a growth mindset, and persevering with our learning.

### **School uniform**

- Please ensure your child comes to school prepared for any weather (we will play outside in almost all weathers!).
- Please name EVERYTHING (including footwear, hats, scarfs and gloves). When things get taken off they all look the same!
- Any earrings should be small plain studs.
- Please make sure socks and tights and hair accessories are in line with our expected uniform. Long hair must be tied back neatly.

### **Water Bottles**

Please provide your child with a clear, **named water bottle** with a sports lid top every day. This will need to be taken home at the end of the day, washed and refilled. Bottles must only contain water. The children are able to access their water bottles in the classroom during the day and take them to lunch as well.

### **Wellies**

Please provide a pair of **named wellington boots** to be kept at school. These live in our welly shed and are used for playing in our outdoor area in wet weather and are also used for Forest School.

**P.E.** lessons will be on a Tuesday with Mrs Wittich. Please ensure that your child's P.E. kit is in school for them to change into. They will bring it home again on a Wednesday.

**Forest School** is on a Friday with Miss Wilson. Your child should come to school wearing their school P.E. kit all day. They will change into their wellies for Forest School.

### **School Bags**

Please ensure **School Bags** are in school **every day with their reading books (Reception only), home/school communication book and library book inside.** Please check your child's bag and take out any letters or pictures every night.

### **Home Learning**

You should have received details about your child's Google Classroom account. Please check the Google classroom and the home/school communication book regularly for announcements and home learning activities. You are also welcome to share your child's learning at home for us to see.

### **Reading**

Please share and read books at home with your child daily. Reading to your child promotes a love of reading, teaches them how books are used and helps develop their vocabulary.

### **Library book**

All the children will borrow a book to share with you from the school library. Please record in the home/school communication book when you have read this with them. We will normally visit the school library on a Tuesday or Wednesday.

### **Reception reading books**

Reception children will be starting their Little Wandle Phonics teaching next week. In a few weeks they will start to bring home books with decodable words. In the meantime, they will be bringing home a "reading book" with no words. Please share this book with your child on a daily basis, ensuring they understand which way up the book goes, how to turn the pages carefully, and talk to them about what is in the pictures. This is an important part of getting them used to having a reading book, ready for when they start to read words themselves. Please record in the home/school communication book when you have shared this book. Reading books will normally be changed on a Friday.

## **Early Years Foundation Stage**

Our learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage is divided into seven areas, and all of our learning and activities cover one of these areas, or often many areas all at once!

### **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**

This underpins all of our learning in the EYFS. The children are encouraged to form positive relationships with each other, understand and manage different social situations and gain a greater understanding of feelings through play and stories. This term we will be focussing on developing independence, empowering the children to do as much as possible for themselves. Please support them with this at home, for example by encouraging them to dress themselves, pack and carry their own school bag, be as independent as possible with using the toilet, recognising and keeping track of their own belongings.

### **Physical development**

The children have continual access to activities that develop their physical skills such as digging, building with our large loose parts (crates, planks etc) and riding trikes. Mark-making takes place inside and out, using pencils, pens, chalk and paintbrushes. Other physical activities to develop hand strength and fine motor skills such as threading, rolling playdough and learning cutting skills are a regular part of our activities. Reception children will also be taught the correct formation of each letter through our daily phonics sessions. Every Tuesday, the children also have a P.E. lesson with Mrs Wittich.

### **Communication and language**

Communication and Language skills also underpin everything we do in Early Years. Whilst the children are engaging in child-initiated learning they are encouraged to talk with each other, and as adults we play alongside them and develop their language skills. We read stories and sing songs or rhymes every day. This half term we will be focussing on the children talking to the rest of the class about themselves. The All About Me boxes are a key part of this and every child will have the opportunity to share their box with the rest of the class.

### **Literacy**

Reception children will begin their Little Wandle phonics sessions and over the coming weeks will start to blend simple words using the phonemes they have learnt. Please support your child by listening to them read their Little Wandle reading book every day. They will also be taught the correct letter formation of each letter as they learn its sound. Nursery children will develop skills in preparation for learning to read and write. This will include listening games, identifying and making different sounds, listening to a range of stories, learning nursery rhymes and songs. All children also have the opportunity to mark-make in adult-led activities and in their child-initiated learning.

### **Maths**

This term Reception children will be focussing on numbers to 5. We will learn to accurately count with 1:1 correspondence, recognise the numerals, subitise (recognise without needing to count) numbers up to 5, compare numbers and quantities and begin to explore the composition of numbers, e.g. understanding that 4 can be made of 1 and 3 or 2 and 2.

Nursery children will focus on reciting numbers to 5, and then counting, recognising numerals and subitising numbers 1-3.

We have an adult-led Maths activity each day, as well as embedding their understanding in child-initiated learning throughout the day.

**Understanding the World**

Our focus to begin with is on being able to talk about themselves and others such as their family and friends. We will then move onto learning about Autumn and how the world around us changes.

**Expressive Arts and Design**

As part of thinking about themselves the children will paint a self-portrait which will be displayed in "Our Gallery" in the classroom. The children also have continual opportunities to express their own ideas and skills through construction play, small world play, in our home corner and in our mud kitchen. They have access to varied painting, drawing and craft/modelling resources, and also musical instruments and opportunities to learn and sing songs and rhymes.

Mrs Arnott will be delighted to talk to you and answer any questions at the Meet the Teacher session on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September at 2.50pm. If you would like to talk to us at any other time or have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us using the home/school communication book, speak to us at the end of the day, or email us.

Mrs Cottenden: [j.cottenden@reed.herts.sch.uk](mailto:j.cottenden@reed.herts.sch.uk)

Mrs Arnott: [s.arnott@reed.herts.sch.uk](mailto:s.arnott@reed.herts.sch.uk)

(Please be aware that emails will be checked/answered during the working day and may not be answered in the evening or at weekends.)

We look forward to getting to know you and your children as we go on an exciting learning journey together!

Mrs Cottenden and Mrs Arnott  
(Jackson Class teachers)