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“Learning Together, Learning for Life”

Aspiration

Independence

Resilience

Respect

Jackson Class Termly Letter

Autumn term 2024

Class Teachers:

Mrs Cottenden (Mondays, Tuesday, Fridays)

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.

Teaching Assistant:

Mrs Browne (Monday – Friday)

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Jackson Class! We have really enjoyed welcoming lots of new children into our class this week, as well as welcoming back some familiar faces. 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. You are welcome to 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 some practical information and reminders, and some information about what your child will be learning this term.

You are also invited to these meetings where we will share more information with you:

Meet the Teacher: Monday 9th September at 2:45pm (in person or via Google Meet)

Phonics Workshop: Wednesday 11th September at 7pm (in person in the school hall)

School Values

This term we will be learning to demonstrate our school values of:

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

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

Aspiration by trying new things and encouraging each other to take risks and challenge ourselves.

Resilience by persevering with our learning, trying new things and reflecting on our learning and choices.

School uniform and Equipment

- Please ensure your child brings a **coat** to school every day as we will continue to use our outdoor area in almost any weather!
- 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 shoes, socks and tights and hair accessories are in line with our expected uniform. Long hair must be tied back neatly.

- 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.

- 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 at the end of the day.

- **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), and home-school communication 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 messages, updates on our learning in school, and home learning activities. We also love to see the learning that your child has been doing at home.

Home-School Communication Books

Please check these daily for any messages, including minor accidents and first aid. If your child has a bump to the head you will be phoned.

Please record when you have shared your child's library book with them, and any other books they have enjoyed at home. Reading to your child promotes a love of reading, teaches them how books are used and helps develop their vocabulary.

Children in Reception should be reading their Little Wandle reading book every day – please record this in the home-school communication book too.

Library book

Starting next week, 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 visit the school library on a Tuesday – please make sure books are in school bags to return each Tuesday. (Children who do not attend on Tuesdays will go on Thursdays instead)

Reception reading books

You will hear more information about reading books at the Phonics Workshop. 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.

How do we learn in the Early Years Foundation Stage?

In the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) the children learn through a mixture of child-initiated learning (play), adult-led whole class teaching, adult-led small group activities and 1:1 activities.

We keep our planning flexible and responsive to the children’s interests and the direction they choose to take their own learning. We do not, therefore, follow topics as such, but do have some focus themes which will guide us through the term.

We will begin by settling in and getting to know each other. Later on in the term, we will observe the changes around us and learn about Autumn. We will plan other focus areas as the term goes on, based on the children’s interests, bringing in experiences and celebrations that are relevant to them. We use books and songs to support our learning each week.

Areas of Learning

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 our focus is on developing independence, empowering the children to do as much as possible for themselves.
- Please support them with this at home, 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: Every Tuesday the children have a P.E. lesson with Mrs Wittich, but this is only one part of their Physical Development learning. They have continual access to activities that develop their gross motor skills such as digging, climbing, building with our large loose parts (crates, planks etc) and riding trikes and scooters. Mark-making takes place inside and out, using pencils, pens, chalk and paintbrushes. Fine motor activities 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.

Communication and Language: This also underpins 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. They will be sharing their “All About Me” boxes with the class over the next few weeks.

Literacy: Reception children will begin to learn written phonemes and will start to blend simple words. Please support your child by listening to them read their reading book every day and practising the correct letter formation of each letter as they learn its sound.

Nursery children develop skills in preparation for learning to read and write. This includes listening games, identifying and making different sounds, listening to a range of stories, learning nursery rhymes and songs. They have plenty of opportunities for mark-making.

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

Reception children will be focussing on the following skills with numbers to 5:

- Accurately count with 1:1 correspondence
- Recognise the numerals
- Subitise (recognise the amount without needing to count) numbers up to 5
- Compare numbers and quantities
- Explore the composition of numbers, e.g. that 4 can be made of 1 and 3 or 2 and 2.

Nursery children will focus on:

- Reciting numbers to 5
- Counting objects, recognising numerals and subitising numbers 1-3.

Understanding the World: The children will have opportunities to talk and learn about themselves and others, including their family and friends. Later in the term we will learn 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. They will learn songs and rhymes and have continual opportunities to express their own ideas and skills through construction play, small world play, role play in our home corner and mud kitchen. They have access to varied painting, drawing and craft/modelling resources, and musical instruments.

We look forward to meeting you at the Meet the Teacher and Phonics Workshop meetings. 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

Mrs Arnott: s.arnott@reed.herts.sch.uk

(We will respond as quickly as possible, but please be aware that during the school day we are with your children, and emails will not ordinarily be responded to 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)