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“Learning Together, Learning for Life”

Aspiration

Independence

Resilience

Respect

## Jackson Class Termly Letter

### Spring Term 2024

#### **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:**

The following staff are all working in Jackson Class across the week:  
Mrs Bateman, Ms Bryan, Mrs Everist, Mrs Browne and Mrs Bradshaw

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year and welcome back to another term of exciting learning in Jackson Class!

Please find below details of our learning for this 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 term our learning will be focussed around the topics of Winter, Chinese New Year, Pancakes, Spring and Easter! As we move through the term we will be observing and learning about seasonal changes and how that impacts on the world around us. We also very much follow the children's interests and plan lots of other activities and learning 'in the moment'.

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.

#### **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. *Please support your child with this by asking them to pack their own school bag and remembering to bring everything they need to school.*

**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, trying out new activities and things we don't feel so confident about.

**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 should 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 afterwards.

**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**. Please check your child's bag and take out any letters or pictures every night.

### **Home Learning**

Please check your child's Google classroom account regularly for messages and updates about our learning. Please also check the home/school communication book daily for any messages.

**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 bring home a new reading book each Friday, which is part of our Little Wandle phonics programme. They will have read this book in school during the week, and should continue to read it at home the following week. Please record in the home/school communication book each time your child reads the book. Please also see the information shared on Google Classroom about supporting your child with phonics and reading.

## **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**

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 continuing to develop 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, and be responsible for 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. This term Reception children will also have a daily handwriting session where we will focus on correct letter formation. Every Tuesday, the children also have a P.E. lesson with Mrs Wittich.

### **Communication and language**

Communication and Language skills 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. Every Tuesday we have our Talk Time, where a child is invited to bring in something from home to talk to the class about. You will be notified when it is your child's turn.

### **Literacy**

Reception children are moving onto learning the Phase 3 sounds this term. Please see the information shared on Google Classroom for more details of what this includes.

Nursery children also have a daily Foundations for Phonics session, which is part of the Little Wandle programme and prepares them for learning to read and write through listening games, identifying and making different sounds, listening to a range of stories, learning nursery rhymes and songs.

We will also have a number of focus books that link with our topics, which will include One Snowy Night, Winter Tale, The Gruffalo's Child and Mr Wolf's Pancakes.

### **Maths**

This term Reception children will develop their skills and accuracy with 1:1 correspondence for counting, recognise the numerals 1-10, subitising (recognise without needing to count) numbers up to 5 and beyond, comparing numbers and quantities and exploring the composition of numbers.

Nursery children will focus on accurate counting of objects up to 5, recognising numerals and matching amounts to numerals, and using language such as "more than" to compare quantities.

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**

A lot of our learning this term will be linked to this area of learning, as we learn about Winter and Spring, how the weather changes, and the world around us such as the trees and

what animals we might see. We will also be learning about different celebrations including Chinese New Year and Shrove Tuesday.

### **Expressive Arts and Design**

The children 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. Throughout the term, these activities and resources will be varied to link with our topic learning.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact either of 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 work closely together to ensure continuity for your children, and have a weekly planning session together.

We look forward to another exciting term of learning with your children!

Mrs Cottenden and Mrs Arnott  
(Jackson Class teachers)