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“Learning Together, Learning for Life”

Aspiration

Independence

Resilience

Respect

Jackson Class Termly Letter

Spring Term 2025

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)
Mrs Coutts (Monday - Friday until 1pm)

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy new year and welcome back to another term of exciting learning in Jackson Class! With our growing numbers, we are excited to welcome Mrs Coutts to our team who brings a wealth of Early Years experience.

This term our learning will be focussed broadly around the topics of Winter, Chinese New Year, Pancakes, Spring and Easter. In the first week we are fortunate to be able to watch the pantomime performance of Cinderella which will inspire our learning across the curriculum areas. 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'.

Thank you for all your support with sponsoring plants for our nature garden, if you put your name down Mrs Arnott will be in touch in due course.

In the 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 is a crucial focus in early years when 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 so 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. As part of our Jigsaw PSHE sessions we will be focusing on 'Dreams & Goals' developing a growth mindset so that children can feel confident if there is something they can do *yet* that if they persevere they can succeed.

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 of lower case letters and introduce capital letters. During their Tuesday P.E. lesson with Mrs Wittich, they will be developing gymnastic skills.

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.

Each week we have a visit to the library where children can choose a book to take home. We also have a focus book that links with our topic and a selection of star stories which the children become so familiar with that they feel as though they can read them themselves, to promote confidence, interest and a love of reading!

Maths

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

Nursery children will focus on subitising (seeing without counting) 1-3, accurate counting of objects up to 5, recognising numerals and matching amounts to numerals. Children will be using positional language such as 'in front of' and 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. We look forward to developing our nature garden and observing seasonal changes.

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.

Reminders:

Please ensure your child comes to school prepared for any weather, we play outside in almost all weathers and exploring in the winter (especially ice and snow) often leads to wet gloves! **Extra pairs of gloves are really useful!**

Please name **EVERYTHING** (initials on a label with permanent marker is quick and easy).

We are introducing jugs of water and cups at lunchtime in the hall to develop independence, however, ask that clear, named water bottles are still provided fresh each day.

Please remember to replace your child's wellies as their feet grow as they are regularly used for playing in our outdoor area and are also used for weekly Forest School sessions.

PE - Tuesday with Mrs Wittich. Please ensure that your child's named P.E. kit is in school for them to change into. They will bring it home again afterwards.

Forest School - 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.

We visit the school library on a Tuesday, but if your child is not in then we will ensure they get a chance to have a weekly library session too. 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. We would love to hear when you read with your child be that their reading book, a library book or any other books read for pleasure in their home/school communication book.

School Values

We will continue to encourage children 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.

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 Mrs Arnott: 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)