



Jackson's Lane,
Reed,
Royston,
Herts SG8 8AB
Tel: 01763 848304
admin@reed.herts.sch.uk

“Learning Together, Learning for Life”

Aspiration

Independence

Resilience

Respect

Jackson Class Half Termly Letter

Summer 1st half term 2023

Class Teachers: Mrs Cottenden and Mrs Arnott

Learning Support Assistants: Mrs Rozier, Mrs Bateman and Mrs Bryan (all work in Jackson Class across the week)

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the summer term. We would like to introduce ourselves as the Jackson Class teachers: Mrs Cottenden will be teaching on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays and Mrs Arnott will be teaching on Wednesdays and Thursdays. We are in frequent communication with each other, so you can speak to either of us with any questions or concerns. We will be meeting weekly to plan for your children's learning and are really excited to get to know all of your children and to join the team at Reed First School.

Please find below details of our learning for the next half term. The children will continue to 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 topics will include Life cycles, Growing and Summer, along with any other interests or learning initiated by the children.

Values

We will be actively trying 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.

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 main focus of all our interactions and learning in 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. They will also be encouraged to take increasing responsibility for their own belongings.

Physical development

The children have continual access to activities that develop their physical skills such as digging outside, 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. Every day we also have an adult-led physical activity such as threading, rolling playdough balls and learning cutting skills. Reception children will also be focussing on the correct formation of each letter in our daily handwriting sessions. Every Tuesday, the children also have a P.E. session with a Sports Coach.

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. This term we will be encouraging the children to carefully observe and talk about what they see as we learn about life cycles and growing.

We will also have weekly 'Talk Times' on Tuesdays where a child will be invited to bring an item from home to talk about to the rest of the class. You will be notified a week before your child's turn via the home/school communication book.

Literacy

In our daily phonics sessions, Reception children will be applying the sounds that they already know to reading longer and trickier words this term. They will continue to read three times a week in school and bring home a reading book each Friday. Please support your child by listening to them read every day and recording this in the home/school communication book.

Nursery children will continue to learn new sounds orally and focus on hearing sounds in words, along with listening games which will prepare them for their Reception phonics.

Children also have the opportunity to mark-make and write in adult-led activities and in their child-initiated learning.

Maths

Our focus area this term is accurate counting and strategies for doing this, e.g. lining objects up so it is easier to keep track, and pointing carefully to each object as we count. We will also be learning to subitise, i.e. recognise how many of something there is from their pattern without needing to count each item. 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 areas this term are Life cycles (butterflies and frogs), Growing (we will be planting seeds and learning how to look after plants) and looking at seasonal changes as we move towards Summer. We have our own caterpillars in the classroom to observe, and we hope they will turn into beautiful butterflies in a few weeks!

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.

Reminders

- Please name **everything!**
- Book bags need to be in school every day with their reading books and home school communication book inside.
- Please bring a water bottle every day and suitable clothing for the weather.
- Reception reading books will be changed on a **Friday**.
- Library books (Reception & Nursery children) will be changed on a **Monday**. Please enjoy reading these books at home with your child.
- Games will be changed on a **Wednesday**. These are a great way to develop personal, social and emotional skills as well as being fun, so please play them together at home.
- P.E. kits need to be brought to school every Monday and will go home on a Wednesday.
- Children need to come to school wearing P.E. kit on a Friday for Forest School.
- Please check the home/school communication book and Google classroom for any messages and updates on what we have been learning.

If you would like to talk to us 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

(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 meeting you all. Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Cottenden and Mrs Arnott