

Jackson Class Termly Letter

Summer Term 2025

Class Teachers:

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

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

Our Teaching Assistants in Jackson Class are Mrs Browne and Mrs Coutts.

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you had a lovely Easter. Welcome back to another term of exciting learning in Jackson Class! We are delighted to welcome two new children to our class this term.

This term our learning will be focussed around the topics of Life Cycles, Animals and their habitats, Growing plants, and Summer and seasonal change. We also follow the children's interests and plan lots of our activities and learning 'in the moment'. However, our plans for the first few weeks include basing our learning around these stories:

The Very Hungry Caterpillar, The Teeny Weeny Tadpole, and Monkey Puzzle.

We are very excited for our trip to Shepreth Wildlife Park on 14th May, where we will have the opportunity to see and learn about lots of different animals. Using our learning from the book Monkey Puzzle, we will be able to observe and learn about similarities and differences between different animals.

We are looking forward to sharing our learning at our Class Assembly on Friday 2nd May.

In the Early Years Foundation Stage our learning is divided into seven areas. All of our learning and activities cover one of these areas, but usually many areas all at once!

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This continues to be a big focus all the way through the early years. As we move into the summer term, we would like to see all children being as independent as they can, including dressing themselves, packing and carrying their own bags, and being responsible for their own belongings. In our Jigsaw PSHE sessions we will be focusing on 'Relationships' in the first half term, and 'Changing Me' after half term. We spend a lot of time in Jackson Class focussing on our Personal, Social and Emotional development, through conversations that take place over snacktime, when looking after our personal needs such as washing our hands, and through conversations and opportunities that arise whilst we are engaged in our learning.

Physical development

The children have continual access to activities that develop their physical skills such as digging, building, and riding trikes and bikes. Mark-making takes place inside and out, using pencils, pens, chalk and paintbrushes. Other physical activities such as threading, rolling playdough and cutting skills are a regular part of our activities.

For our Reception children this term, we will be focussing on correct letter formation becoming automatic, to support more extended writing. For our Nursery children, we will be focussing on writing our own names and for those who are ready, starting to write names of other family members.

During their Tuesday P.E. lesson with Mrs Wittich, they will be focussing on ball skills, and later in the term on Athletics, ready to join in with our school Sports Day in July.

Communication and language

Communication and language skills underpin everything we do in Early Years. Stories, songs and rhymes are part of every day. Our Nursery children have a Nursery Rhyme of the week in their Phonics sessions with Mrs Browne. 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 Phase 4 of the Little Wandle Phonics programme this term. There are no new phonemes and graphemes taught this term; the remaining time in Reception is used for consolidating and applying what they have already been taught so that it becomes automatic and can be applied to longer words. We will also be focussing on developing stamina so that the children can read and write longer sentences. There are some new tricky words to learn this term and we will send home a list of these.

Nursery children continue to have a daily Foundations for Phonics session. This prepares them for learning to read and write through listening games, identifying sounds orally, listening to a range of stories, learning nursery rhymes and songs.

We will continue to visit the library each week. Our main visit will be on a Tuesday. For Nursery children who do not attend on Tuesdays, please bring your book back on a Wednesday or Thursday.

Our star stories for the first half term are Handa's Surprise, My Hair, and Oliver's Vegetables. We read these stories regularly to become really familiar with them and also use props to support our understanding and retelling of the stories.

Maths

This term, Reception children will develop their skills and accuracy with:

- Counting – including counting from and stopping at different numbers and understanding the counting system beyond 20.
- Subitising – recognising structured arrangements without needing to count, including doubles.
- Composition – understanding that numbers can be made up of smaller numbers, including pairs of numbers that make 10.
- Comparison – including ordering numbers and positioning them on a number track.

Nursery children will focus on:

- Accurate counting, saying one number for each item and knowing when to stop.
- Matching numerals to amounts (up to 5 initially, and further once confident)
- Developing fast recognition of small amounts of objects without counting (subitising)

- Solving practical problems using numbers
- Comparing quantities using the language 'more than' and 'fewer than'.

We have an adult-led Maths session each day, as well as embedding our understanding in child-initiated learning throughout the day. You can support your child by playing counting or ordering games at home, spotting numbers when you are out and about, and building maths into practical activities such as helping in the garden.

Understanding the World

We will be spending much of our time this term learning about life cycles, animals and seasonal change. Through all of this, we will be observing and learning about the world around us, talking about what we can see, what we have noticed, and asking questions to find out more. Jackson Class children are a very inquisitive bunch this year and are always keen to ask lots of questions to find out more. You can support this at home by asking them questions and encouraging them to observe and find things out.

Expressive Arts and Design

The children have ongoing opportunities for expressing their own ideas and creativity through our small world, role play and creative areas inside the classroom, and also outside in our art area, building large scale models, singing and dancing on our stage and making creations in our mud kitchen!

We are also looking forward to being part of the whole school summer performance later in the term.

Reminders:

- The weather this term is likely to be very varied! Please provide a sun hat and put sun cream on your child before they come to school on sunny days. Please also continue to provide a coat as we will continue to use our outdoor area if it is damp or a bit chilly! Please name everything!
- Provide a filled water bottle each day. This can be filled up at school if your child has drunk it all. They have a cup of water in the hall at lunchtime.
- P.E. kit on Tuesdays. We get changed at school. Please ensure all items are named as everybody's P.E. kit looks the same!
- Come to school wearing P.E. kit on Fridays 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.
- Please read with your child every day and write in the home/school communication book when your child has read their reading book (Reception children) or about stories they have enjoyed reading with you (all children)

School Values

We will continue to encourage children to demonstrate our school values of:

Independence by making choices in our learning activities, being responsible for our own belongings, and doing as much as we can for ourselves.

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, even if it is a bit tricky to start with.

We do not have Parent Consultation meetings this term, but if you would like to talk to us about your child's learning at any point, please do let us know. If you would like to come into the classroom to have a look you are also very welcome to do so – please just let us know. You can 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!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Cottenden and Mrs Arnott
(Jackson Class teachers)