



“Learning Together, Learning For Life”

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Welcome to The Junior Curriculum Letter Spring Term first half 2022

Teacher: **Miss Riches**

On Tuesdays **Mr S** (Sports Coach) will also teach the class during PPA time. **Mrs Wittich** will cover PPA time on Wednesdays.

Dear Parents,

Welcome back and happy New Year! I do hope you managed to rest and enjoy the break.

Please find below details of our curriculum for this half term.

We will be actively trying to demonstrate our values of:

Independence by selecting our own resources in and around the classroom to help us learn in the way that suits us best.

Respect by following the daily routines of the class and school, being kind, polite and helpful to one another, and building effective working relationships with each other.

Aspiration by encouraging each other to take risks and challenge ourselves to reach our goals.

Resilience by reflecting on our learning and choices, developing a growth mindset and using our mistakes as learning opportunities.

English: We will begin with a narrative unit based on *The Finger Eater* by Dick King-Smith, where we will either be retelling a fable or writing our own fable with a moral. We will also be practising writing both formal and informal letters.

Reading: **As an important part of your child's home learning, they should be reading at home every day.** When they are reading, please focus on developing fluency. In their home school communication book, you will find a sticker explaining the skills that they should be working on as part of reading at home. By reading the book and working on the skills, the book will need to be kept for at least two days. Comments on their reading and skills should be recorded every day in the Home School Communication book.

Children are welcome to take home one of the books we have looked at in our assemblies to read. Children will need to ask Mrs Wittich which book they would like to take home and then return the book to Mrs Wittich once it has been read.

Spelling: Spellings will be given to the children every Friday and tested the following Thursday (Miss Riches' group) or Friday (Mrs Wittich's group). **Weekly spelling words will be sent home in the Home School Communication books.**

Maths: This half term, we will start off by identifying and drawing different angles, before moving on to a unit to help us with our multiplication fact recall.

Times Tables: By the end of Year 4, the children should know all of their times tables up to 12x12.

Please ensure your child learns their times tables and completes the Mathletics and times table activities each week. Times tables and Mathletics activities on stickers will be set weekly in the Home School Communication book. Parents are expected to sign the stickers to show completion of tasks.

Science: This half term, our Science unit is States of Matter. We will be comparing and grouping materials into solids, liquids and gases. We will also investigate how materials change when heated or cooled. Finally, we will be learning about the water cycle and the processes of condensation and evaporation.

Topic (Geography): This term our Topic is called *Rainforests*. In this geography-based topic, we will be learning what a rainforest is, the different layers and features of rainforests, including the animals that live in them. We will investigate the characteristics of the Congo and the devastating impact of deforestation.

Art: We will begin this term, by responding to our topic from last term when we studied Romans in history. We will be learning about frescos and creating our own by painting on plaster (including the classroom walls). Mrs Wittich will be looking for skills in painting, but also good recall of facts learnt in history to show aspect of Roma life in the art work created. You can have a look at the knowledge organiser for this project on our website. <https://reed.herts.sch.uk/curriculum/art-design/>

DT: Our main DT project will be taught next half term.

Computing: We will be using our chromebooks and Purple Mash in our computing lessons. We will begin with learning how to use spreadsheets, before moving on to a unit focussing on touch typing.

PE: The children need to have their PE kit in school every day. PE lessons will be on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. If your child wears earrings, they should either be covered with surgical tape which you should provide or not worn on PE days. With Mr S, the children will be developing their football skills and knowledge of the game. Mrs Wittich will be teaching gymnastics. Further details of both can be found on the PE section of our website in the knowledge organisers. Do have a look. <https://reed.herts.sch.uk/curriculum/physical-education/>

PSHE: Our Jigsaw theme this half term is: Dreams and Goals. This will focus on motivating ourselves and others to have a positive attitude and achieve our goals, and keeping motivated, even when we find things challenging.

R.E: We will be learning about religious beliefs and practices, focusing on Christianity and Sikhism. We will explore how people show they belong to their religion, and investigate different special places for both Sikhs and Christians.

Music: This half term, our Music unit is all about *Three Little Birds* by Bob Marley. First, we will listen to and appraise this and other songs. Then we will build our knowledge and understanding of the different dimensions of music through games, learning to sing and play instruments with the song. Year 3 will continue to have tenor horn lessons on Friday afternoons.

French: The children will be learning how to use, recognise and say different French verbs using the phrase *Je peux...* (I can).

Talk Time: Talk Time is aimed to support the children in building the skills and confidence to talk to an audience. Every term, the children will prepare a 5-minute presentation at home related to Topic to give to the rest of the class. This half term our Topic is *Rainforests*. The children can use resources such as pictures or Google slides to support their presentation. There will then be a chance for the audience (the rest of the class) to ask questions and then feedback on the presentations they see. The dates the children will be taking part in Talk Time this term are:

- Monday 24th January – Felix
- Thursday 27th January – Charlie
- Monday 31st January - Grace
- Thursday 3rd February - Harry
- Monday 7th February - Sophie
- Thursday 10th February - Morgunn
- Monday 28th February - Callum
- Thursday 3rd March - Molly
- Monday 7th March - Reggie
- Thursday 10th March – Nico
- Monday 14th March - Jack

It is important that your child has a clear, named water bottle with a sports lid top in school every day. This will need to be taken home at the end of the day, washed and refilled.

All children should have a pair of wellington boots which can be kept in the class boot box.

School uniform: Please ensure you name all items of clothing (including footwear) clearly. Any earrings should be small plain studs. Please make sure socks and tights are in line with our expected uniform.

Home learning: Please check the Google classroom and stream regularly for announcements and home learning. Instructions around home learning will continue to be explained in the Home School Communication book. This book should be used and tasks completed, signed and commented on five times a week. We will monitor the home learning completed.

If you would like to see any of your child's work, let me know and we will arrange a time after school to do so.

If you need to talk with me at all, please write a message in the Home School Communication book, arrange a meeting, or send an email to k.riches@reed.herts.sch.uk. Please note that emails may not get a response straight away, and any emails sent in the evenings and over a weekend/holiday may not be answered until the next school day.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Riches