



“Learning Together, Learning for Life”

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

Aspiration

Independence

Resilience

Respect

## **Welcome to The Bysouth Curriculum Letter** **Autumn Term 2024**

Teacher: Mrs Dear

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, Mrs Wittich will also teach the class teach during PPA time (planning, preparation and assessment time). She will teach PE on Tuesdays, and teach PE and French on Thursdays. Miss Wilson will take the class for Forest School on Fridays.

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Layton Class!

I do hope that you all had a wonderful summer holiday. I was very happy to see all the children on our first day back. They have made a fantastic start this week, for some, settling in to a new class and for others, getting used to the heady heights of year 4. 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 mind-set and using our mistakes as learning opportunities.

### **English:**

Our year kicks off with a short visit with the book ‘Rosie Revere, Engineer’ by Andrea Beaty. Rosie teaches us about celebrating mistakes and the power of resilience.

We will begin our writing lessons this year with non-chronological reports, using our book ‘Wild Robot’, by Peter Brown to inspire reports on animals from North America. This is a fantastic book, and is part of a trilogy, for those who want to find out what happens next.

### **Reading:**

As such a vital 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. To read the book and work on the skills, the book will need to be kept for at least two days. It is very good practice to read shorter

books three times. First to decipher new words and meanings; then to check for comprehension and, finally, to read fluently and with expression.

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. They will need to ask Mrs Wittich which book they would like to take home and then return the book to her once it has been read. The children will also bring a library book home with them. Our library session is on Tuesdays and children have free choice from a wide range of books. Books can be kept until finished, there is no pressure to change every week, but please remember to return the book in order to be able to choose another one.

### **Spelling:**

Spellings will be given to the children every Friday and tested the following Friday. Spellings will consist of 5 words from the year 3 / 4 statutory list. These words will come home. There will also be no more than 5 words focussing on a specific 'rule' that we are working on in our spelling lessons. These are not specific words to learn, but rather a rule to work on and apply. Weekly spelling words will be sent home in the Home School Communication books.

### **Maths:**

The main focus this half-term will be on Place Value (and ways of representing numbers), and Addition and Subtraction.

### **Times Tables:**

By the end of Year 4, the children should know all of their times tables up to 12x12 and related division facts; we work on these as a class throughout the year. In June, the Year 4s will be completing their Multiplication Tables Check. Please ensure your child learns their times tables and does a little work on TT Rockstars every day. Any Mathematics or Purple Mash activities will be recorded in the Home School Communication book. Parents are expected to sign the stickers to show completion of tasks.

### **Science:**

This half term, our Science topic is Living things and their habitats. The children will learn about similarities and differences between living things, and how to group them and record their findings in Venn and Carroll diagrams. They will create simple classification trees to determine what group a living thing belongs to. We will look at a variety of habitats and how organisms have adapted to live there.

### **Geography:**

For the first half term, our learning will centre around North America. The children will find North America on a map and explore the different regions and diverse landscapes such as Death Valley, the deserts and the Sequoia National Park. We will look at California and compare the produce grown in Central Valley to farming in Reed. The children will investigate the urban areas of Los Angeles and San Francisco and geographical instabilities such as the San Andreas fault.

### **Art:**

This half term, we will be exploring photography through the lens of North American photographer Ansel Adams. We will discover ways to lead the eye into a picture and compare landscapes to close up work before creating our own work.

**Computing:**

We will be using our chromebooks and Purple Mash in our computing lessons. We will begin the half term with a unit on coding, using Purple Mash to create, and debug, algorithms. We will then move on to a unit about online safety. The children will also have a chance to use Chromebooks in other subject areas, for example to undertake research.

**PE:**

The children will be will developing the fundamental skills of balancing, running, jumping, hopping and skipping. Pupils will develop their ability to change direction with balance and control. They will be given the opportunity to explore how the body moves at different speeds as well as how to speed up and slow down. In their second lesson, the children will create dances in relation to an idea. They will work individually, with a partner and in small groups, sharing their ideas. They will develop their use of counting and rhythm. They will also learn to use canon, unison, formation and levels in their dances. They will be given the opportunity to perform to others and provide feedback using key terminology.

The children need to have their PE kit in school every day. PE lessons will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays. If your child wears earrings, they should either be covered with surgical tape which you should provide or not worn on PE days.

**PSHE:**

Our Jigsaw theme this half term is: Being Me in My World. This will focus on being part of a class team; rights, responsibilities and democracy; rewards and consequences; and group decision-making.

**R.E:**

This year, we will be learning about religious beliefs and practises within Christianity and Hinduism.

**Music:**

Our Music lessons this half term are titled 'writing music down'. Children will have the opportunity to see rhythm and pitch represented by musical symbols as they learn to sing and play. Our first song is called 'Home is where the Heart is, a country tune written especially for young learners.

**French:**

This half term, the children will be learning about France and beginning to learn some key words and phrases including shapes, instruments and food.

**Forest School:**

This outdoor learning will take place on Friday with Miss Wilson. Please ensure that children come to school dressed in their PE kit. We will be outside whatever the weather, so waterproofs come the time are essential!

**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 North America. There is huge opportunity for children to choose an aspect that really inspires them, from earthquakes to animals, giant trees to human geography. 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 23rd September – George, Henry and Grace
- Monday 30th September – Lily, Dante and Immy
- Monday 7th October – Ruby, Piotr and Isla
- Monday 14th October – Edith, Millie and Isabel
- Monday 21st October – Nathaniel, Livvy and Mia
- Monday 4th November – Ada, Logan and Blake
- Monday 11th November – Max, Pearl and Frankie
- Monday 18th November – Lacey and Su

**Additional information:**

It is important that your child has a named water bottle 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 school in the class boot box outside.

**School uniform:** Please ensure you name all items of clothing (including footwear) clearly. Any earrings should be small plain studs. Please make sure hair accessories, 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 and use your comments to help assess progress.

There will be a chance to discuss any questions you might have on Wednesday 11th September at 2:50pm in Layton classroom. If you cannot make the meeting in person, you can join via your child's Google account. 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 [d.dear@reed.herts.sch.uk](mailto:d.dear@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,

Mrs Dear  
(Layton Class teacher)