



"Learning Together, Learning for Life"

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Aspiration

Independence

Resilience

Respect

Welcome to The Layton Class Curriculum Letter Autumn Term 2026

Teacher: Miss Walsh

On Tuesdays and Wednesdays, Mrs Wittich will teach the class P.E., with the addition of French on a Wednesday. Miss Wilson will take the class for Forest School on Fridays.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to our now Year 4s and hello to our new Year 3s! I hope everyone had a fun, healthy and relaxing summer break and are ready for lots of fun and hard work over the next term! I am really looking forward to the fantastic year ahead and am confident it will be the best year yet!!!

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

In writing, we will be looking at myths and legends. As a class we have decided we want to explore the legend of the Loch Ness monster further as well as research some Egyptian myths and legend. Our end goal will be to publish our own Layton Class mythology book! Whilst doing so, we will be learning to develop characters, settings and plot using dialogue, descriptive language and a variety of sentence structures. We will then move onto writing biographies about people we admire.

Reading: As it is such a vital part of your child's home learning, they should be reading at home at least 5 times a week. When they are reading, please focus on developing fluency and comprehension skills. In their home school communication book, you will find a sticker explaining the skills that they should be working on based on their reading ability. To read the book and work on the skills necessary, the book will need to be kept for at least two days. 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 in their Home School Communication book.

The children will also bring a library book home with them. Our library sessions will be on Thursdays and children have free choice from a wide range of books. Books can be kept until they're finished and there is no pressure to change every week, but please remember to return the book in order to be able to choose another one. Children are also welcome to take home one of the books we have looked at in our assemblies to read. They will need to discuss this with Mrs Wittich and return the book to her once it has been read.

Spelling: The children will have a weekly spelling test every Friday and will be given the words to practice for the following week. The spelling test will consist of 3 words from the year 3 / 4 and around 8 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 and 'rules' will be sent home in the Home School Communication books each Friday.

Maths:

The main focus this term in maths will be on Place Value, and Addition and Subtraction. moving on to multiplication and division after half-term.

Your child will be set a maths task each Friday which will be recorded in their home school communication book. Parents are expected to sign the stickers to show completion of tasks.

Times Tables: By the end of Year 4, the children should know all their times tables and related division facts up to 12x12 fluently. In June, the Year 4s will complete the Multiplication Tables Check which assesses this. Please ensure your child practices their times tables as much as possible, using TT rockstars. The children will have a multiplication or division test each week, working on a particular times table.

Science

In the first half-term in science, we will be looking at the topic of light. The children will explore how light and darkness occur, how shadows are formed and how to protect our eyes from sunlight. The children will also learn key scientific skills such as how to set up enquiries, how to record information and how to carefully observe. We will then move on to the topic of sound.

History

For the first half-term our learning will be centred around Ancient Egypt. We will learn about what life was like for Ancient Egyptians, theories behind how and why the pyramids were built and discuss how we know about life 5,000 years ago today.

Geography

In the second half-term we will be looking at rivers. We will learn what a river is, how they're formed and about some of the longest and most famous rivers in the world.

Art

In art during the first half-term, we will be looking at Egyptian portraits. We will look at how portraits are formed and how Egyptian portraits were different to other eras. We will explore how shade, tone and tints can be created when painting and how montage can be used to combine visual and tactile elements.

DT

In DT we will be creating our own Ancient Egyptian game using 3D nets. We will analyse existing products, plan, create prototypes and finally design our own product.

Computing:

We will be using the Chromebooks and Purple Mash in our computing lessons. This term, our units are email and hardware & software. We will learn how to send emails and

understand what hardware & software is. We will also continue to learn about internet safety throughout these topics.

The children will also have plenty of opportunities to use Chromebooks in other subject areas, for example to undertake research in science and history.

PE: PE lessons will be on Wednesdays and Thursdays. PE kits should be in school every day! If your child wears earrings, they should either be covered with surgical tape which you should provide or not worn on PE days. We will start the year with yoga lessons and work on fundamental skills for PE of movement and balance. We will move onto tag rugby and gymnastics later in the term.

PSHE:

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

R.E: This year, we will be learning about Christianity and Hinduism. We will begin by looking at these religions key beliefs and practices.

Music: Our Music unit this term is pop music, where the children will be learning about the genre of pop including songs and artists such as abba. They will also learn to, sing in unison and in simple two-parts, have an awareness of the pulse internally when singing, and play instrumental parts accurately and in time, as part of the performance.

French: We will be learning French phonics, basic greetings and develop our question and answer skills to take part in a conversation.

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 5-10 minute presentation at home related to our topic, to give to the rest of the class. Our Topic for the first half-term is Ancient Egypt and next half-term rivers. 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:

24th September – Finley and Sebastian

1st October – Ben and Elodie

8th October – Finn and Scarlett

15th October – Poppy and Mia

5th November – Leo and Esme

12th November – Edward and Lily

19th November – Niyah and Elliot

26th November – Woody and Samara

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 also have a named 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 Google classroom 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 Tuesday 8th September at 2:45pm in Layton classroom. If you cannot make the meeting in person, you can join via your child's Google account.

If you have any questions or queries, please catch at me at the door in the morning or after school. arrange a meeting or send an email to j.walsh@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 Walsh (Layton Class teacher)