



“Learning Together, Learning for Life”

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Aspiration

Independence

Resilience

Respect

## **Welcome to The Layton Class Curriculum Letter** **Autumn Term first half 2022**

Teacher: **Miss Riches**

On Wednesdays, **Mrs Wittich** will teach art and design technology. On Tuesdays **Mr Walker** (Sports Coach) will also teach the class during PPA time (planning, preparation and assessment time). **Miss Wilson** will take the class for Forest School on Fridays.

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Layton Class!

I do hope that you and the children had a wonderful summer holiday. I am looking forward to the year ahead and hope the children are relaxed, rested and ready for a busy term ahead. All the children have certainly made a fantastic start to the year!

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 our writing lessons this year with a poetry unit, where we will use our senses to help us write free verse poetry. For our next unit focussed on myths, we will be using the tale of Beowulf as inspiration for writing our own myths.

**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. The children will also be bringing a library book home with them. This will be a book of their choice to enjoy at home. 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 Thursday (Miss Riches' group) or Friday (Mrs Wittich's group). Spellings will either be focussed on a specific 'rule' or on a set of tricky words. **Weekly spelling words will be sent home in the Home School Communication books.** There will also be regular spelling lessons focussed on our weekly spelling words.

**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. In June, the Year 4s will be completing their Multiplication Tables Check. 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 topic is Light and Dark. The children will learn about different sources of light, and will investigate reflective materials. They will test which objects are opaque, translucent and transparent and find out how shadows are formed and changed. They will learn that the sun's light can be dangerous and how to protect their eyes.

**Topic (History):** For the first half term our Topic is called *Invasion!* This is all about the Anglo-Saxons. In History lessons, we will reflect upon a number of the most significant changes that occurred in Britain during the Anglo-Saxon era. The children will examine why the Romans left Britain, who the Anglo-Saxons were and where they came from, and explore what Anglo-Saxon life was like.

**Art:** We will be using the story of Beowulf as inspiration for textile art to depict some scenes from the famous story.

**DT:** While finding out about the Hindu faith, we will be finding out about some traditional foods and recipes and create our own celebratory feast!

**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.

**PE:** The children need to have their PE kit in school every day. PE lessons will be on Tuesdays and Wednesday. The children will develop the fundamental skills of balancing, running, jumping, hopping and skipping. They 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 accelerate and decelerate.

Their second lesson will support the development of their swimming and water safety skills. By the end of KS2 pupils should be able to:

- Perform safe self-rescue in different water based situations
- Swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres

- Use a range of strokes effectively, for example, front crawl, backstroke and breaststroke.

We will be supporting them to progress towards these goals. Please ensure that you have read the letter previously sent including the details of what to bring for swimming lessons.

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 half term, we will be learning about religious beliefs and practises within Christianity and Hinduism.

**Music:** Our Music lessons will be focused around one song: Mamma Mia by Abba. As well as learning to sing, play, improvise and compose with this song, the children will listen and appraise more ABBA hits.

**French:** This half term, the children will be learning how to recognise and talk about different shapes in French.

**Forest School:** From Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September, each week, please ensure your child comes dressed and prepared in clothes suitable for outdoor and messy learning and all weathers.

- Reed First School coat (not compulsory but appropriate coat needed)
- Wellington boots, walking boots or snow boots
- Black Waterproof trousers (over the top of thick, warm trousers)
- Lots of layers (we can always remove layers if your child gets warm)
- Warm hat (preferably covering ears)
- Warm gloves (preferably more than one pair if they get wet)
- Extra pair of leggings/thermals under trousers in cold weather

**Talk Time:** Talk Time is a new session in school, 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 *Invasion*. 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 17<sup>th</sup> October - Harry
- Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October - Sophie
- Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October - Dilan
- Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November - Callum
- Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November – Jesse
- Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November – Molly G
- Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November - Isabelle
- Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November - Reggie

**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 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 **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September** at **2:45** in Layton classroom. You can also join remotely on Google Meet if you are unable to attend in person.

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](mailto: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

(Layton Class teacher)