

## **Welcome to The Layton Class Curriculum Letter** **Autumn Term first half 2023**

Teacher: **Mrs Dear**

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, **Mrs Wittich** will also teach the class during PPA time (planning, preparation and assessment time). She will take the class swimming 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 am looking forward to my first year at Reed First School, and have been made to feel very welcome. The children have made a fantastic start this week, and are ready for the busy year ahead!

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:** We will begin our writing lessons this year with a persuasive writing unit, where we will dive into the magic of our book and use rich vocabulary to create posters and letters. We will finish off by writing a free verse poem to capture the awe and wonder of ‘Leon and the Place Between.’

**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. 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 have also bought a library book home with them this week. Our library session is on Wednesday 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. In June, the Year 4s will be completing their Multiplication Tables Check. Please ensure your child learns their times tables and completes the Mathematics and times table activities each week. Times tables and Mathematics 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 States of matter. The children will learn about solids, liquids and gases. They will learn how particles move in different states and all about the water cycle. They will learn how to conduct a fair test, and begin to design their own experiments.

**Topic (History):** For the first half term, our Topic is called Stone Age, Bronze Age. This history-based topic will look at prehistoric Britain from the Stone Age, through the Bronze Age to the Iron Age. The children will be looking at where this comes on a timeline, and investigating how human civilisation became more advanced during the period studied. We will also learn about famous landmarks such as Stonehenge and Skara Brae. Please do have a look at our topic overview, which gives even more detail.

<https://reed.herts.sch.uk/classes/junior-class/>

**Art:** This half term, we will be exploring cave paintings. We will discover new ways to mark-make and create our own cave paintings, comparing early art to that of a current artist. We will then use printing techniques to produce a final piece.

**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 need to have their PE kit in school every day. PE lessons will be on Tuesdays (swimming) and Thursdays. Their Tuesday 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 Sikhism.

**Music:** Our Music lessons will be focused around one song: Let your spirit fly, a rhythm and blues song written specifically for this topic. Children will learn to sing in unison, and in a simple two-part harmony. They will work on finding the pulse and rhythm in a piece of music using voice and instruments.

**French:** This half term, the children will be learning about France and beginning to learn some key words and phrases.

**Forest School:** We will be starting our Forest School sessions this half term, led by Miss Wilson. This outdoor learning will take place on Friday. 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 *Stone age – Bone age*. 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 16<sup>th</sup> October – Jesse and Edith
- Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October – Dilan and Henry
- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November – George and Grace
- Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November – Isabelle K and Dante
- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November – Lily and Piotr
- Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November – Hanna and Isabel B
- Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November – Isla and Ruby
- Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November – Immy and Millie

**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 **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September** at **2:50** 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)