



## Welcome back and welcome to new families.

We have another exciting year ahead of us with lots of exciting things planned.

Over the past few years we have been working on our vision and values document and I am pleased to say that it is now finished.

Our school motto is: **There's no full stop to learning**

Our vision is ***to enable children to become lifelong learners by creating a safe and inclusive learning environment that nurtures individuality and enhances potential***

Our values:

- ✦ ***We're imaginative*** - we're creative thinkers and doers
- ✦ ***We're curious*** - we encourage inquisitiveness and risk taking
- ✦ ***We're proud*** - we take pride in our school and want everyone to succeed
- ✦ ***We're courageous*** - we understand that we learn from our mistakes
- ✦ ***We're original*** - we celebrate difference

### ***"...enabling children to become lifelong learners..."***

Over the next 3 years we aim to embed current practice and introduce new initiatives which will enable our children to continue acquiring learning skills which will stay with them for life. In doing so we also aim to ensure that we maintain our school's record of excellent academic achievement where pupils meet at least national expectations at key assessments, and benchmark rigorously against similar local schools, whilst ensuring learning is fun and engaging. In particular we will employ the following tools:

- **Mantle of the Expert** is a teaching technique which enables children to use their imaginations to engage with curriculum subjects allowing them to explore in greater depth and become confident learners who understand real life. You can find out more about Mantle of the Expert [here](#).
- **Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL)** is a method for learning languages which allows our children to use other languages in a real-life context, for example teaching Spanish through Art. Find out more about Content and Language Integrated Learning [here](#).
- **High Academic Standards** - we will continue to have high ambitions for our pupils to have the mathematical skills to solve real life problems, including through the use of STEM (science,

technology, engineering and mathematics) learning techniques and resources; and to ensure that every child is a confident reader and writer. This will be facilitated through class teaching, intervention/booster groups and challenging pupils through National Competitions, such as Quiz Club and Maths Challenge

- **Outdoor learning** will be used to support learning across the school enabling children to make academic progress, understanding the importance of the natural world while at the same time supporting pupil mental and physical health

***“...creating a safe and inclusive learning environment...”***

We aim to continue to provide a learning environment which is safe, secure and enriched for pupils and staff, enabling all to participate, question and experiment, so that children are confident to take risks and make mistakes in their learning to allow them to progress We will have a clear focus on ensuring this environment benefits all pupils in our diverse school community, irrespective of ethnic or economic background, to ensure nobody is left behind. We will:

- Use the innovative teaching techniques described earlier (Mantle of the Expert//CLIL) to help create a stimulating and participative learning environment
- We will continue to develop and foster relationships with outside agencies to ensure we meet everybody's needs and support families
- We will develop our programme for emotional literacy in the school to support all children, not just pupils with Special Educational Needs, for example; outdoor learning, art therapy, Lego therapy
- We will hold appropriate regular events at the school reflecting issues of the day and celebrating diversity. Recent examples have included Refugee Week, International Day and a Day of Languages

***“... that nurtures individuality and enhances potential...”***

As well as achieving excellent academic performance, we also want to provide the children at Reay with a diverse set of curricular and extra-curricular activities to enrich their school experience and help them stand out from the rest. We will therefore continue to develop our arts and outdoor learning programmes. In particular:

- The arts are at the heart of Reay. We all feel that appreciation and experience of different art forms is essential to ensure pupils receive a fully rounded education. The arts will be embedded across our curriculum in the form of music, art, design, performance, drama, dance, literature, languages, outdoor learning, creativity and more
- We believe that outdoor learning is an essential part of school life and comes with huge benefits: Learning outside goes way beyond a mud kitchen. Our outdoor learning is an

extension of our classrooms and is embedded throughout our curriculum and school life. It supports resilience and adaptability, respect for nature and the environment, development of problem solving skills in 'real' situations, as well as providing positive health benefits.

- We will continue to ensure that children each class fully engage with study topics chosen for each half term, and that class trips to stimulating events and locations are arranged, making the most of our location near central London
- We will continue to give opportunities for every child to express themselves through high quality school performances, including drama, dance and music

### **Collaboration**

As a one form entry primary school we feel that it is essential to work with others, to ensure that we take advantage of their experiences and know-how and keep up with 'best practice'. This may entail working with other schools within our cluster, within London, or beyond. Also, our strong links with the British Council allows us to build relationships with schools around the world and also welcome overseas visitors to Reay in order to enhance and enrich the children's understanding of the world. Recently, our school has worked or collaborated with schools, educators and experts from countries including Spain, Italy, and Zimbabwe to share experiences and develop skills

We will continue to develop relationships, by sharing good practice, and we will strengthen relationships with other schools in the UK and abroad. We are also committed to working with our local community and services within the community to ensure that we do not work alone. 'There's no full stop to learning' and we believe it is important to share and learn from our colleagues.

### **In other news...**

Staff have been busy get ready for the start of term. We held our INSET days at the beginning of the year around standards and the pedagogy behind the Mantle of the Expert.

Ms Edwards is taking a lead with the delivery of the Mantle of the Expert. She will be working with other staff and external trainers to ensure that our children receive a high quality, innovative cross curricular way of learning.

We are lucky to still have funding for staff to attend Languages Courses in Spain. Children will be taught Spanish across other subjects. The quality of language lessons that are being delivered is of a very high quality and has been recognised by the British Council. Last year we were awarded the International Schools Award which recognises the high quality work that is being done at the school. Mr Marley will continue to lead on International Dimension. He is focussing on linking Arts and Languages. We are also working on e-twinning projects with schools in the UK and rest of the world. Our work with the British Council continues and we look forward to hosting more schools from around the world.

We have been successful with a new Erasmus Grant for pupils. This will allow us to take a small group of children to Europe to participate in a joint Arts Project. More information will follow soon.

We will continue with the outstanding Arts provision at Reay. Ms Hall leads on Art and is linking her work into the Mantle work and Languages. We are working towards the Platinum Arts Award, watch this space...

Ms Hall will continue to work across the school to provide support and extension for children in English and Art. She will be organising small group and whole school events such as Arts Awards and the Big Draw.

Ms Manning is continuing to lead on Maths but this year we will be looking at more opportunities to link maths with science and engineering. Ms Manning is supporting children across the school to close gaps in maths and also to extend mathematical knowledge.

Ms Coates will continue to lead English. She will continue our drive on reading for meaning but also, importantly pleasure. Ms Coates will be ensuring that children are given the opportunity to use their skills in writing to write at length across the curriculum. The children will be challenged to make their writing exciting and develop their writer's voice.

Mr Heming continues to lead on Computing. We maintain our close relationship with the CLC (City Learning Centre) who will be providing staff training and pupil workshops throughout the year. Mr Heming will be hosting sessions for parents and pupils on e-safety. We are also hoping to provide computer training for adults. Look out for further information.

I am really excited that we have two new curriculum leaders this year. We have looked at how we can make our curriculum provision even better and have appointed Mrs Hicks as STEAM leader (STEAM is an educational approach to learning that uses Science, Technology, **Engineering**, the Arts, and Mathematics as access points for guiding student inquiry, dialogue, and critical thinking) and Ms Tschiderer will lead Re, British Values and Equality.

Mrs Rachel will continue in her role of Early Years Leader, she will be working closely with all of the early years team to ensure we continue with the outstanding early years provision.

Ms King will continue to lead on Inclusion, in her role as Assistant Head, and work closely with staff, external agencies and parents to ensure the needs of our pupils are met.

Ms Hartill continues in her role as Deputy with key responsibility for the Curriculum and Assessment.

This year Miss Curran will cover PPA across the school. She will continue to lead on PE.

We welcome Mrs David-Jekyll to Reay. Mrs Jekyll will be teaching in Year 2 and leading on Humanities.

Congratulations to Ms Edwards and Mr Heming for achieving the SSAT Lead Practitioners accreditation.

We aim to keep developing curriculum *to enable children to become lifelong learners by creating a safe and inclusive learning environment that nurtures individuality and enhances potential*

### **Additional curriculum support...**

Connie will continue to work with children across the school. We continue to develop and improve on our outdoor learning provision to ensure that we can support pupils academically and pastorally.

Jo Ouazene will support pupils with English as an additional language each afternoon.

Vicky Edensor will support pupils with Speech and Language.

Angella Lindo will continue in her role as Learning Mentor.

Nancy Hedlam will continue in her role as Senior Meals supervisor, after school club lead and display support

Thank you to all other support staff who are class based and provide support and encouragement for pupils during learning and break times.

In Harmony will be leading music lessons from Year 3 – 5. Pupils will be learning a variety of instruments.

### **Keeping you informed...**

We try hard to ensure that we keep you informed. There will always be times when things may change but we have planned key dates out for the year.

Please make sure the school office has your up to date number and email address.

We would prefer to keep paper to a minimum so if you are happy to be kept informed via email please make sure the school office know.

In the coming weeks we will be launching our new school website. We will endeavour to keep this up to date with key information and dates.

Throughout the year we will be hosting a range of parent information sessions. We hope that you find these useful and are able to attend.

The Friends of Reay would like to help teachers to keep in touch with you via a class rep system. If you are interested in becoming a class rep please speak to Tim Soong or other members of the friends of Reay.

### **Changes to the site...**

We have been very lucky to receive funding to develop an Edible Playground. The work for the playground will take place over the next half term. The plans can be found on the notice board in the key stage 2 playground.

We are also working with a charity to develop the pond area in the school garden. The plans for this can also be found on the key stage 2 playground notice board.

I am still hoping to secure funding to develop the Key Stage 2 playground. I hope that this will happen over the course of the year.

### **Working with St Stephen's...**

We will continue with our support for St Stephen's Primary School. I or other staff will work with St Stephen's staff on a weekly basis.

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