Everyone belongs at Reay; we think creatively and have a thirst for learning.

RECEPTION NEWSLETTER – AUTUMN 1

Dear Reception Parents/Carers,

Firstly, Jo, Nancy, Fardowsa and I would like to welcome you to Reception at Reay Primary School. We hope you had a wonderful summer. We are delighted to be teaching in this year group and are raring to go. Jo will be teaching the class on a Tuesday morning and has already started to get to know the class really well. She will focus on teaching them Spanish.

Curriculum:
Your child is in EYFS which stands for Early Years Foundation Stage. This is a play-based curriculum which has seven areas of development at which we will be looking and through which we will be supporting your child. We have some more formal learning sessions on the carpet each day for maths and phonics. We will be doing observations of your child on the app, Evidence Me. Permission requests from this app should have been sent last week so please do check your inbox and SPAM folders so that you can receive the observations emailed to you. Please do send observations you have made of your child via Evidence Me as well but please note that usually, I cannot respond to these until a Tuesday morning.

We will be having Natural Thinkers – Lambeth's version of Forest School – on Friday mornings in the garden. If possible, please give your child a pair of wellies, a raincoat and waterproof trousers for these sessions particularly in, or just after, wet weather. If you would like to keep them at school, they can keep them on their pegs so they are warm to put on at the next session.

Topic:
Our topic this term will be *STORIES ABOUT ME*. We will be learning stories from around the world and learning a little about the places from which the stories originate.

Mantle:
We will also be using the wonderfully gripping and contextual Mantle of the Expert in order to be guided by the children as to where we might go with this whilst ensuring we cover all of the areas of learning. Our mantle this half term is about an oak tree growing in the middle of a community; one snowy day, a large branch of the tree falls down and the community have to decide what we should do. The entire school are completing the same one so please do include any older siblings in your conversations about this.

Evidence Me:
Evidence Me is the app through which I will send you any observations I make of your child each week. You should have received an email inviting you to join it so if you haven't, please check your SPAM folders and then let me know if it's not there as I may have made an error typing in your email address and will correct it as soon as I can.

The app can be a bit clunky especially the lists of objectives from which I can choose so please pay most attention to the comments and the photos/videos rather than the objectives hit. You can also send photos

and videos for me to see via this app. I am unable to check this section of the app every day but will do my utmost to respond to these at least every Tuesday.

PE:
PE lessons will be on a Tuesday. These lessons will be outside whilst the weather remains warm so please ensure they have trainers or similar – ideally ones which your child can put on, take off and fasten themselves.

Uniform and PE Kit:
At Reay, in Reception, children will be using glue, art supplies, playing outside and going into the school garden as frequently as possible. Be prepared for their clothes and shoes to get a bit messy – dirt does happen and is a sign that your child has enjoyed their time at school and learnt something.
It is also useful to keep a change of clothes and underwear at school as accidents do happen and it's nice for your child to have their own clothes to change into.
Please ensure that everything is named as they often take things off. That especially applies to shoes, wellies, jumpers, cardigans, coats, scarves, hats, gloves, wellies etc later on in the year as things get a bit colder but also PE kit.

Water Bottles:
It would be very helpful for us if you could send your child in every day with their own labelled, full, reusable water bottle. We do have cups for children if they forget their own one but if each child could bring their own in, take them home to be cleaned and refilled and then sent back the next day, that would be a huge help to us.

Homework:
As you know, Reception is all about learning a lifelong love of learning, discovery and exploration. As a result, we don't set homework in the form of worksheets or spellings to learn. However, we do have **Family Maths Books** (A4 book which should be in their book bag in the next few weeks) which have one question for each week stuck into them for you to tackle with your child. This can be achieved in a number of different ways and is not meant to be a formal situation. Please feel free to record your child's work in there however you wish – photographs, drawings, numbers, collages, art are all appropriate.

Similarly, we have **Reading Journals** which go home and come back each day. These are to record your child's reactions to the books they are reading e.g. they might draw a picture of their favourite character or you might record what they laughed at or found scary. If you are not sure what to give them, please do look in the back of them for a list of ideas which you can suggest. Again, these are not supposed to be laborious and formal, just fun and informative for everyone. In there, we might also include a small list of two or three key words for them to practise at home – these are to practise learning to read them at sight so that they don't have to lose the thread of a sentence they're reading on sounding out words which come up frequently.

Neither of these homework books will be marked in a formal way but we will certainly be reading them every week and awarding lots of stickers and praise for those children who do regularly write in them.

Reading books:
Reading books will be changed once a week. Please ensure that your child has their book bag, Reading Journal and reading book every day so that we can. Please find your child's name in the table below to see which day we will aim to change their books on.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Ace	Elijah	Lee Lee	Neve	Catch-up day:
Amari	Hamda	Luca	Romeo	If your child forgot
Amelia-Jane	Hana	Luke	Rufus	their books on their
Astrid	Harper	Luna	Santi	day or we were
Autumn	Henry	Maite	Teddy	unable to change
Ayah	Isra	Mariana	Theo	them due to being
Aycen	Jameel	Marleigh		on a trip or

Callan	Khadija	Mateya		something, please send them in on the Friday as we will do it then.

Please sit and read with your child every day for 5-10mins and then read to them for as long as is humanly possible in your home language (and English if you want to).

Please note that book changing does not always mean that we have time to properly hear your child read in that session and they will be heard read in a different one later in the week so please don't worry if the book is changed but there is nothing much in their Reading Journal. Also, there are a limited number of books we can send home so we are unable to give your child new books to read until the previous weeks books have been returned.

Books which are exactly matched to your child's phonetic reading level are made available to you to read with your child online via the Bug Club website. You can use a phone, tablet, laptop or computer in order to do this. There are lots of fun phonics games on there so please find more information about Bug Club attached – your child's username and password can be found on the inside cover of their Reading Journal. The Bug Club login code is: lq7p

Stay & Read Sessions:
These are an opportunity for you to read with your child and/or their friends at school. This term, they will be on a Friday morning between 8.45 and 9am. Books will be laid out for you in the Infant Hall and you can sit together and read your child a story before they go into the classroom. They were really successful last year and are focussed on reading for pleasure.

Junk modelling and collage equipment:
We are very grateful for any junk modelling or collage materials you may accumulate over the week. Please do send in as much as you like as we will enjoy cutting and sticking and creating things with it. Please do not send in packaging which has contained nuts.

Class Mascot and Diary:
In order to stimulate good speaking and listening within the class, we are going to give each child our class mascot, for the weekend at some point throughout the year. We would love it if you could take lots of photos of her and your child doing things and then either email them to the office (FAO Lucy Lee) or print them and stick them into the diary which will accompany her so that we can show the rest of the children and use them as a stimulus for their talk about their weekend with Stripe, the badger.

If you would like to have her on a specific weekend, please do let me know and I will try to arrange it. Similarly, if you would like to take her away in the holidays, please do, just please ensure that she sends us a postcard and that she comes back.

Attendance:
Attendance in Reception is different to Nursery. Please ensure that your child is at school by 8.45am every day. The Education Welfare Officer in Lambeth expects each child to have at least a 97% attendance record so please double check the holiday and INSET day dates.

If your child has to miss school for any reason, please email and phone the School office to let them know and in order to fill in/submit the relevant paperwork. Their email address is admin@reay.lambeth.sch.uk and their phone number is 0207 735 2978. You can also use the Studybugs app to inform us if your child will be absent – there is more information about this attached to this email and also on the weekly newsletter from Ms Hartill.

Please remember to keep us updated with your current email address and phone number as these are the quickest and most useful ways of communicating with you.

Reception Baseline Assessment:
I am legally required to complete a Reception Baseline Assessment for each child in the class within the next 5 weeks. I complete it in the most kind, fair way possible and ensure that your child has a lovely time experiencing no stress or feelings of failure. I upload the results onto the government website securely. I have attached more information to this newsletter/email but please do ask if you have any further questions once you have read this.

Volunteering:
If you would like to volunteer on a regular basis with the school or to complete a placement here for a course, please email the office stating your name, whose parent you are, what you would like to do and your available days and times. Mrs David-Jekyll will then be in touch with you to make a plan.

If you would like to volunteer to help us on a trip, when you complete the permission form, please write who would like to come with us in the comments section so that we can then assign you a group. Some trips are ticketed so we have a finite number of adults allowed to come with us. If this is the case, we will pull names out of a hat to ensure it is fair.

Reay is a mobile phone free site:
This is just a gentle reminder to please keep your phones out of sight at all times when on the school site.

Talk to Us:
If you have any questions or concerns, please do get in touch with me. We are in the playground before and after school, greet and say goodbye to your children every day and you are also encouraged to email me. I tend to check emails after school so if you have an urgent message, please contact the school office and they will let me know.

In general though, dates for things and information can be found on:

- the class newsletter at the start of each half term (like this one)
- weekly school newsletter which is emailed to you on a Friday afternoon
- observations of your child sent to you via the Evidence Me app
- emails sent to you from the office
- messages sent to you via the messaging app called School Gateway
- parent WhatsApp group set up by Friends of Reay – Rebecca (Astrid's mum) is our rep for this year – please click here to join ours: https://chat.whatsapp.com/LoLizntRgaj6Z1GOC57GJc?mode=gi_t

Dates for your Diary:

- Thursday 24th September, 3.15pm in Nursery Playground: Reception BBQ for parents, staff, children
- Friday 25th September, 9-10am, Junior Hall: Parent Phonics Workshop with Lucy
- Thursday 1st October: National Poetry Day
- Wednesday 7th October: Reception Trip to Minet Library (tbc)
- Wednesday 21st October: Reception Trip to Brixton Market (tbc)
- Friday 23rd October: INSET Day – please do not send your child to school on this day, it is a staff training day
- Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October: Half Term

All the best,

Reception Team

Hello,

My name is Stripe!

I am very cuddly and friendly. I love going on adventures, visiting new places and meeting new people.

I get very tired after a busy day at school and playing with my friends. At bedtime I like to have a story and a big hug before I go to sleep.

Can you draw or write about our adventures so we can show your friends? Please remember to bring me back to school on Monday so that someone else can take me home.

Love from

Stripe xxx

Dear Parents/Carers,

This is our class mascot! Her name is Stripe. It is your child's turn to take her home.

She has a diary in which we would like your child to record her adventures so please ask your child to complete an entry for her and return it to school to be stuck in and discussed with the rest of the class.

Your child might like to take some photos, draw some pictures, or write about what they did with her (this might be pretend writing or supported, emergent writing where letters are recognisable.)

Whilst your child will need some support to record their adventures, please encourage them to have a go independently (we are more than happy to just receive a drawing/photo of her and some "pretend" writing!).

Each time she returns to class, we will be encouraging the children to share their diary entries. Some children might feel confident enough to stand up in front of the class and share her diary, whereas others might prefer to sit at a table with 3 or 4 children at a time.

You may wish to record what your child has said and done yourselves too – if you do, please do email me your account/observations as I can use this to build an even stronger picture of who your child is at home as well as at school.

Please could you ensure that your child returns her to school on Monday so that another child can take her home.

Have fun!

Phonics:

We will learn the phase 2 key words this term. Please help your child to practise them at home so that they recognise them at sight. You could make some flash cards or use magnetic letters on the fridge or use alphabetty spaghetti – be as creative as you like; the more the better!

The phase 2 key words are: the, I, to, go, no, into, her

We will learn the phase 2 sounds this term:

Please help your child to recognise the sounds rather than the letter names. I explain it using animals – this is called a dog but it makes the sound, 'woof!' It's the same with letters – this is called an 's' but it makes the sound, /ss/.

We will work on segmenting the sounds in a word and then blending them together to read the word at school.

If you are unsure as to how to pronounce any of the sounds, please ask me.

Phase 2	f as in if	ng as in king
s as in sun	ff as in coffee	ai as in snail
a as in ant	l as in leg	ee as in tree
t as in it	ll as in bell	igh as in light
p as in put	ss as in dress	oa as in boat
i as in if	Please revise phase 2 with your child now	oo as in book or moon
n as in can		ar as in car
m as in him	Phase 3	or as in for
d as in had	j as in jam	ur as in fur
g as in get	v as in van	ow as in cow
o as in not	w as in wet	oi as in coin
c as in can	x as in box	ear as in hear
k as in kitten	y as in yes	air as in hair
ck as in back	z as in zip	ure as in pure or sure
e as in get	zz as in fizz	er as in her
u as in mum	qu as in queen	ay as in pay
r as in rain	ch as in chair	Please revise phases 2&3 with your child
h as in had	sh as in she	
b as in but	th as in thumb	