



THERE'S NO FULL STOP TO LEARNING

RECEPTION NEWSLETTER – AUTUMN 1

Dear Reception Parents/Carers,

Firstly, Jo, Nancy, Shirley 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 afternoon 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.

We will be having Natural Thinkers – Lambeth's version of Forest School – on Friday mornings in the garden. If at all 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 stay on their pegs all week 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. 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. Mantle of the Expert is an immersive way of learning through dramatic inquiry. We do not pretend that the imaginary world co-created by the class is real rather, that we are, "going into our story now." This term, this might mean batch-cooking some gingerbread men and trying to work out if we have enough – and why one is missing – or, trying to work out a way of pulling a gigantic turnip out of the ground without breaking it.

PE:

PE will be on a Monday morning. Many parents find it easier to keep your child's PE kit at school for the half term and then take it home to wash in the holidays. We understand that some children struggle to change in and out of their uniforms at this age but we are always on hand to help them when needed so please don't worry. Please ensure PE kit is named and in a named bag.

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 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. This term's family maths challenges are attached to this email and can be completed in any order you wish.

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
Aleyna Amari Anna Brodie Charlie Charlotte Dougie Harry	Ilanthe Inara Isaiah Jace Jonah Juno Khalia	Lonny Lydia Marly Mason Mathias Mischa Ozzy	Niana Nicholas Rukayah Ruth Samuel Teddy Valeria	Catch-up day: If your child forgot their books on their day or we were unable to change them due to being on a trip or something, please send them in on the Friday and we will do it then.

Please do 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. I will give you more details when I give you your login and password.

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 Tuesday 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 do 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. The office is also the place to go if you think you might have missed any letters or forms or anything paperwork in their book bags as I will always give them copies of anything I send out to you in book bags as I know things often get lost.

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.

Baseline:

Every child starting Reception will have the baseline assessment within their first 6 weeks. There is more information about this here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reception-baseline-assessment-information-for-parents/reception-baseline-assessment-information-for-parents>

Volunteering:

If you would like to volunteer some of your time, please ask the office for a form to fill in. We are always very grateful to have volunteers particularly to hear children read or help in the garden.

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.

We are very lucky to have Terri as our class rep in Reception this year as not only is she lovely, she also has access to the school diary and will know things before I do often so please do join the class WhatsApp group so that you can check information there.

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

All the best,

Reception Team

PS Please find the information about Stripe and phonics below and attached to this email.

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!

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 alphabet spaghetti – be as creative as you like; the more the better!

Phase 2/A	Phase 2/B	Phase 2/Tricky	Phase 3/A	Phase 3/Tricky	Phase 4/A	Phase 4/Tricky	Phase 5/A
a	back	the	will	he	went	come	time
an	and	to	that	she	it's	were	house
as	get	I	this	we	from	there	about
at	big	no	then	me	children	little	day
if	him	go	them	be	just	one	made
in	his	of	with	was	help	when	came
is	not	put	see	you	out	what	make
it	got	into	for	they		said	saw
Of	up		now	all		have	
off	mum		down	are		like	
on	but		look	my		so	
can			too	by		do	
dad				her		some	
had							

We will learn the phase 2 sounds this term:

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

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 do ask me or look on the Reay website where you will find a link to all the sounds and actions we use.