



THERE'S NO FULL STOP TO LEARNING

YEAR RECEPTION NEWSLETTER – AUTUMN 1

Dear Reception Parents/Carers,

Firstly, Shirley, Kristina and I would like to welcome you to Reception at Reay Primary School! We are delighted to be teaching in this year group and are already thoroughly enjoying it. We hope you all had peaceful and fun summer holidays and are now ready for an action packed and exciting first half to the Autumn term!

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. I have included a bit more information below with the timetable but if you have any questions or concerns about your child's development, please do not hesitate to contact me or Miss King, our Assistant Head for Inclusion.

Topic:

Our topic this term will be *ANIMALS*. We will be using the wonderfully gripping and contextual Mantle of the Expert in order to be guided by the children as to where this might go but please do consider taking your child to places of interest in terms of animals e.g. Vauxhall City Farm, London Zoo, Battersea Park Zoo, Richmond Park, the ponds in Brockwell Park, Kew Gardens, the vets or a pet shop. Don't forget to take photos of your child and email them to me with any quotations from them about what they are doing so that they can tell us all about it afterwards. My email address is: lucy.coates@reay.lambeth.sch.uk

Interesting things for our nature investigation table: We are hoping to create an investigation table for the children to look at and study new and interesting things they have found. It will involve lots of magnifying glasses and interesting objects so if you or your child finds something interesting outside on a walk, please do encourage them to bring it in and explain why it is interesting and should be investigated further. Please note, this **does not** include general toys, rather, it is more natural things such as an acorn, fir cone, feather, wasps' nest or an oddly shaped shell.



Class Mascot and Diary:

In order to stimulate good speaking and listening within the class, we are going to give each child the class mascot, Chocolate Chocolate Button, for the weekend at some point throughout the year. We hope that you will take Chocolate to interesting places or do interesting things with her when you have her so that the children can talk about their experiences on the Monday morning when they return her. We would love it if you could take lots of photos of her and your child doing things and then email them to me so that we can show the rest of the children and use them as a stimulus for their talk about their weekend. My email address is: lucy.coates@reay.lambeth.sch.uk Please do pop them on a named memory stick if that's easier. If you would like to have her on a specific weekend because you are doing something in particular, 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!

Trips:

If we have a trip, we will send you out a letter with as much notice as possible asking for volunteers to come with us to help. **Please do come on as many as you can.** I realise that it is not always possible of course but it is brilliant when lots of parents/carers come to share in with all the fun.

Uniform:

Thank you for all making such an effort with the uniform. The children all look great. Please do just check that **everything is named** as they are often taking things off especially at this time of year. That especially applies to scarves, hats, gloves, wellies etc later on in the year as things get a bit colder but also PE kit.

P.E:

P.E. is on Wednesdays. Please ensure that your child has black shorts, Reay PE t-shirt, socks and plimsolls in their bag every Wednesday. **Please ensure these are all named.** These do not need to be taken home every week as they will not sweat too much but this is of course up to you. Nicola Curran will be taking them for PE each week and is an experienced Reception teacher as well as our Sports Lead so they are in very safe hands.

Family Photos:

Please email or send in a photograph of your child with their family for our families display board. We are going to pin them to our board so you can all be with us all of the time. Please note: this will most likely be a permanent display so I will give them back to you at the end of the year. I will happily print them and make frames for them if you just want to email me them. My email address is: lucy.coates@reay.lambeth.sch.uk

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. There is a big chest by the door which is there so that your child can just pop it in there the moment they come into the classroom.

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 Learning Journals** (light blue, A4 book which should be in their book bag with this letter) 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. Inside, you will find a username and password for their Mathletics site. This has lots of maths practice on it and you are welcome to encourage your child to use it as much as possible. I will keep an eye on their usage and set them challenges to complete.

<https://login.mathletics.com>

Similarly, we have **Reading Journals** which go home and come back each day. These are to record every 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. I don't want to overwhelm you with a huge, long list of good reading/writing apps so my advice is to have a look and see what you like and what you think you'd like to share with your child. You can search for suitable, approved apps on the National Literacy Trust website - <https://literacyapps.literacytrust.org.uk/> Here are some of my favourites though:

- Nosy Crow apps - <https://nosycrow.com/apps/>
- Hairy Phonics - <https://www.nessy.com/uk/apps/hairy-phonics-1/>
- Handwriting Without Tears - <http://wetdrytry.com/>
- Mr Glue Stories – allows you to record yourself reading the story and then it adds all the sound effects etc. <http://mrgluestories.com/>

For both journals, I will not be marking them formally either but will certainly be reading them every week and awarding lots of stickers and praise for those children who do regularly write in them.

Dates for your diary:

Friday 20 th September:	Whole School Sustainability Day
	Parents' Homework Session – to learn about how we do homework at Reay and to pick up lots of helpful tips etc.
Wednesday 25 th September:	Phonics Workshop for Parents 1 – what is it and how can I help my child? 9am and 5.45pm (Same workshop twice to enable working parents to come too)
	Harvest Assembly (donations of tinned food etc greatly welcomed for local hospice)
Wednesday 16 th October:	Parents' Evening - you will be able to sign up for a time slot nearer the time.
Friday 18 th October:	Reception Trip to Dulwich Woods
Wednesday 11 th December:	Infant' Winter Show dress rehearsal (a good time to see it if you have young children or babies who you fear might distract you or the performers)
Thursday 12 th December:	Infants' Winter Show (AM and PM)
Tuesday 17 th December:	Juniors perform their Winter Show to EYFS and KS1
Wednesday 18 th December:	Junior Winter Show performed to parents
Thursday 26 th March 2020:	Reception Class Assembly at 10.30am
Thursday 2 nd April 2020:	Parents' Evening - you will be able to sign up for a time slot nearer the time.
Monday 1 st June 2020:	INSET day – a great day to go on a day trip with your child at a venue which might usually be really crowded or have lots of queues.
Friday 10 th July 2020:	Sports Day
Monday 13 th July 2010:	Reports Day – your child will receive their report on this day so please do look out for it in their book bags.
Wednesday 15 th July 2020:	Open Day – a chance to come in and have a look at their books/displays etc. – not obligatory by any means.

Timetable:

Some of you have asked for a copy of the generic Reception timetable so here it is. Please do bear in mind that Explore and Learn is the main part of the Reception curriculum and is guided by adults rather than dictated by them. If you have any questions about it, please do not hesitate to ask.

	Monday LITERACY	Tuesday MATHS	Wednesday PSED/PD/COL	Thursday UW	Friday EAD	
9-9.05am	Pegs and Jolly Phonics	Pegs and Jolly Phonics	N I C O L A T E A C H E S	Pegs and Jolly Phonics	Pegs and Jolly Phonics	
9.05-9.30am	PHONICS	MATHS		SPANISH	SCIENCE/MATHS	ART/MANTLE/ MUSIC/DRAMA
9.30-10.15am	EXPLORE & LEARN	EXPLORE & LEARN		PE	EXPLORE & LEARN	EXPLORE & LEARN
10.15-10.30am	DIARY TALK TIME	Maths Scrap Books Talk Time			Nature Table Talk Time	Art Work/Music Talk Time
10.30 – 10.45am	Play time	Play time		Play time	Play time	Play time
10.45-11.30am	EXPLORE & LEARN	EXPLORE & LEARN		MUSIC	EXPLORE & LEARN	EXPLORE & LEARN
11.30-11.45am	MATHS	MATHS		MATHS	MATHS	MATHS
11.45-12.15pm	LUNCH	LUNCH		LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
12.15 – 1pm	Play time	Play time		Play time	Play time	Play time
1-1.20pm	PHONICS	PHONICS		PHONICS	PHONICS	PHONICS
1.20-2.15pm	EXPLORE & LEARN	EXPLORE & LEARN		CIRCLE TIME	NATURAL THINKERS	EXPLORE & LEARN
2.15-3pm				EXPLORE & LEARN		
3pm – 3.30pm	STORY TIME and pegs	STORY TIME and pegs		STORY TIME and pegs	STORY TIME and pegs	ASSEMBLY and pegs

PSED – Personal Social Emotional Development – we learn explicitly through Circle Times

PD – Physical Development

UW – Understanding the World – Science

EAD – Expressive Arts & Design

COL – Characteristics of Learning

Reading books:

Reading books will be changed once a week or more if possible. 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). We have lots of dual language books in the library and are gradually getting more and more!

The books are changed on a rota which will be like this most weeks but if we have a trip or a special visitor or something out of the ordinary, this will get re-jigged and we ask for your understanding in this. Please also 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.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Aiden	Darasimi	Gabriel	Laila	Shakai
Akira	Eliza	Hasini	Leandro	Sofia
Amaani	Elizabeth	Jawad	Marcel	Tashelle
Aniylah	Emily	Jovanni	Maria	Vivienne
Avery	Enzo	Kadien	Nariah	Zelda
Bodhi	Ezra	Kimora	Ruby	Zen

Key Words:

Please find attached a list of key words for you to help your child to learn to recognise at sight when they are reading. Please do come to the Phonics Workshops for Parents on Wednesday 25th September at 9am or 5.45pm to find out more about what to do with these and how you can help your child learn to read at home.

Attendance:

We just wanted to reiterate what we said at the Coffee Mornings about attendance so that everyone is clear about it because it is so different to when they are at Nursery.

Please ensure that your child is at school by 8.55am 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 dates and explain to your child that we are 'in the line by five to nine' so that this can be achieved. We will support you as much as we can by making school a really fun and exciting place to be and saying 'in the line by five to nine' as much as possible so that they get a wriggle on in the mornings.

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 trip letters or forms or anything paperwork-based 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.

Parent Volunteers:

Please do come in to volunteer to hear children read. It would be 1:1 and can be at any time that suits you. Initially, it is just reading/sharing a book together and chatting about it and then gradually, it would become helping children remember their sounds and their strategies – we would really appreciate any time you can give us on this front.

Talk to Us:

We have just whizzed through all of the information and would be happy to go through some or all of it with you after school any day. We are in the playground before and after school, greet and say goodbye to your children at the door every day and you are also encouraged to email me and follow us on Twitter so you can see what we have been up to each week. Lucy.coates@reay.lambeth.sch.uk @LucyCoatesReay

**All the best,
Lucy, Shirley and Kristina**