



THERE'S NO FULL STOP TO LEARNING

YEAR RECEPTION NEWSLETTER – AUTUMN 1

Dear Reception Parents/Carers,

Firstly, Kam, Shirley 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 raring to go. Under normal circumstances, we would invite you in for a chat and an explore of the classroom and a chance to meet us all but sadly, this is not possible this year so, if you haven't had a chance already, please watch the short film <https://youtu.be/LzJkDUnttj8> to find out a bit more and have a tour. The first part is for the children and includes one of the songs we composed, wrote and choreographed together last year – Save Our Planet, a tour of the Reception classroom/playground, introductions from Shirley, Kam and myself and a game of I Spy. We have also asked some current Reception pupils to let your children know what to expect from their year with us. In the film for adults (which leads on from the children's one), I explain a little bit more about the logistics of school and there are parent explanations and thoughts as well. I hope you enjoy them! Please note that this newsletter is more up to date in terms of information regarding things like uniform.

Meet your team: We use first names in EYFS.



Lucy



Shirley



Kam



Connie



Nicola

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. 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 Ms Andraskova, our Special Educational Needs Coordinator, veronika.andraskova@reay.lambeth.sch.uk

Topic:

Our topic this term will be *DINOSAURS* as I have it on good authority that many of the children have already shown a keen interest in learning about them. We will 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.

Timetable:

Here is the timetable for Reception for this half term – it might change a bit but this is a good guide to what they will get up to each day. As you can see, each day is themed roughly to ensure the entire curriculum is covered but all areas are covered with tasks throughout each day. 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. You can also see that on a Wednesday morning, Nicola takes the class for PE and Spanish.

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

Natural Thinkers – outside learning usually in the garden often led by Connie

Mantle – Mantle of the Expert sessions during which all of the children enter into a story as the experts in order to work together to solve problems.

Reception's Timetable:

	Monday UW	Tuesday MATHS	Wednesday PSED/PE/COL	Thursday LITERACY	Friday EAD
9.05-9.10am	Pegs and Jolly Phonics	Pegs and Jolly Phonics	Pegs and Jolly Phonics	Pegs and Jolly Phonics	Pegs and Jolly Phonics
9.10-9.30am	SCIENCE/MATHS	MATHS	MATHS	PHONICS	ART/MANTLE/ MUSIC/DRAMA
9.30-10.15am	NATURAL THINKERS	EXPLORE & LEARN	PE	EXPLORE & LEARN	EXPLORE & LEARN
10.15-10.30am	NATURE TALK TIME (outside)	MATHS FAMILY BOOKS TALK TIME		DIARY 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	NATURAL THINKERS	EXPLORE & LEARN	SPANISH	EXPLORE & LEARN	EXPLORE & LEARN
11.30-11.45am	MENTAL MATHS	MENTAL MATHS	EXPLORE & LEARN	MENTAL MATHS	MENTAL 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
1.20-2pm	NATURAL THINKERS	EXPLORE & LEARN	EXPLORE & LEARN	EXPLORE & LEARN	EXPLORE & LEARN
2-2.30pm			CIRCLE TIME		
2.30-3pm	STORY TIME and pegs	STORY TIME and pegs	STORY TIME and pegs	STORY TIME and pegs	ASSEMBLY/PUPPET and pegs

Uniform and PE Kit:

As you know, the children do not have to wear school uniform at present. Please be aware though that it is still school; 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 and do not send them in wearing anything you're not happy for them to play in. Dirt does happen and is a sign that your child has enjoyed their time at school and learnt something.

In addition, if at all possible, it is really useful to have a pair of wellies and a raincoat to keep at school for the unpredictable weather.

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 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.

Family Photos:

Thank you to those of you who have already done this. For those who haven't yet, please email a photograph of your child with their family for our families display board then you can all be with us all year. My email address is:

lucy.coates@reay.lambeth.sch.uk

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 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. 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 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 will 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. The full list of key words to learn in Reception is at end of this newsletter.

I will try to let you know which sounds we are learning each week so that you can reinforce these at home. I will aim for this to be in the form of a short film to be emailed round to you all as I am not sure that we will be able to have the parents' phonics workshops we would normally have this term due to Covid restrictions. Please do stay in touch about it; if it doesn't help or is not working, please let me know as I have not done this before and am very open to suggestions of the most useful way of doing this with you.

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://mrquestories.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.

Reading books:

Reading books will be changed once a week on a Monday or Tuesday. Please ensure that your child has their book bag on these two days as we will keep the box of books in quarantine for a week before they are given to other children. 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 so please do let me know if you'd like one and I will pop and get one or two for you!

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.

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. We will pop it in quarantine for a week before we use it or wash it depending on what it is etc.

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 hope that you will take her to interesting places or do interesting things with her when you have her so that the children can talk about their experiences 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 with Stripe, the badger.

She is a new puppet because Chocolate Chocolate Button won't survive her weekly washing machine sessions in these new times. Her name is Stripe but I will continue to use CCB in class. Please can you ensure that Stripe the badger is returned each week on a Monday so that I can pop her in the wash and dry her before she goes home on the Friday with a new child.

At the moment, it isn't possible to send home her diary at the same time because it is tricky to clean between children but perhaps you could ask your child to write and draw pictures about their weekend on a piece of plain paper and then either send that in with your child or email me a photograph of it and I will stick it in, ready for when the diary can be sent home again. Please see the class mascot information at the end of this newsletter.

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! My email address is: lucy.coates@reay.lambeth.sch.uk

Attendance:

Attendance in Reception is different to Nursery. Please ensure that your child is at school by 9.05am 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 ensure you are at the school gates five minutes before your start time. These will be sent out at a later date.

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.

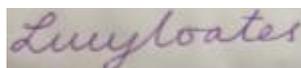
Please remember to keep us updated with your current email address and phone number as these are the quickest and most useful ways of communicating with you.

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 and follow us on Twitter so you can see what we have been up to each week. 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.

[Lucy.coates@reay.lambeth.sch.uk](mailto:lucy.coates@reay.lambeth.sch.uk) @LucyCoatesReay

All the best,



Lucy, Shirley, Kam, Connie and Nicola

Additional attachments:

Class Puppet information

Key Words to practise at home so that they can be recognised at sight

List of sounds we will be learning this term in Phonics

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, 'ssssss!'

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.

We use the jolly phonics songs to learn many of them – they can be found here: <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x3w26z8>