



THERE'S NO FULL STOP TO LEARNING

YEAR RECEPTION NEWSLETTER – AUTUMN 2

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back – we hope you had a peaceful rest and are now raring to go at the start of this action packed term. It was great seeing you all at Parents' Evenings last term. Just a quick note that we hope that schools are not going to be closed at all over the coming lockdown period but if, for any reason, Reay does have to close, we have got a plan in place to try to support your child's learning whilst at home. This will be sent separately, if and when it happens.

Goodbye Kam:

We are very sad to announce that lucky Year 2 are going to have Kam (aka Director of Dinosaur Island Mission Control) as their Teaching Assistant from now on. We are all very sad to see her go but so grateful to her for all of her brilliant hard work, kindness and unfailing belief in every child. This will mean that we will have to change the way in which we hear readers each week. I will be in touch as soon as possible to let you know how this will work as it will probably mean that we will hear certain children read on specific days rather than trying to hear everyone on a Monday.

Topic:

Our topic this term will be CASTLES. 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 castles – there are a lot around – The Tower of London, Lambeth Palace, Hampton Court Palace, Windsor Castle, Leeds Castle to name a few. 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. We will be learning the parts of a castle, how to defend one, how to be a chivalric knight and why damsels and princesses can often rescue themselves. We might well move our castles into the realm of the Fairy Tale Land and meet some well-known characters from literature as well as study more science via dragons.

Mantle of the Expert:

We are in the Medieval period; a time of kings, queens, knights, castles, honour and legends. This is not a fairy tale - at least not yet. We are a team of squires who have had to undergo thorough training which has taken many years and are now just awaiting our final commission - an official quest to prove our valour and earn the right to call ourselves knights of the realm. Recently, many of our mentors - the brave and noble knights of the realm - have been sent on a secret quest but none have returned. With fewer and fewer knights around, we are beginning to feel worried that there is something very serious going on and that someone clearly has a big and clearly dangerous problem that needs solving.

Uniform:

As you know, your child will now be expected to wear their full uniform. 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. 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. They are doing a dance focus this term.

Family Photos:

Please email or send in a photograph of your child with their family for our families display board. We have started our board but it is looking a bit bare still. I will happily print them and make frames for them if you just want to email me them.

Class Mascot and Diary:

The children are thrilled with our class mascot, Stripe, so if you haven't had her already for the weekend, please do expect her at some point throughout the year. She has already baked a cake, been to the park, gone shopping, seen the red deer at Richmond Park, done painting and been painted, and lots more! 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. 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!



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, it will then be quarantined for a week before being used or wiped down with antibacterial wipes.

Homework:

We have loved looking in your Family Maths Learning Journals. Thank you so much for all of the time and care you are taking over them with your families. They are really lovely. I take them in on a Tuesday to go through them with your child either one to one or with the class. Please don't worry therefore if your child doesn't come home with it on this day as it sometimes takes longer than expected. The Reading Journals are looking really good too!

I am still uploading the sounds we are learning as well as maths, songs, handwriting, ideas and Mantle of the Expert stories on the Shared Blog for Reception on Purple Mash. Your child's password should be found in the front of their Family Maths Learning Journals. This is mainly for the children who are unable to come to school because they are self-isolating but is also, I hope, of use to you in seeing what we are learning next and what you can do at home to help refresh your child's memory each week.

To find the blog:

- 1) Click on Sharing (green globe at top)
- 2) Shared Blogs tab (in the centre)
- 3) Reception Class Blog 2020-2021 (pirate ship) and then the top blog (for the most recent information). Please note that I update this blog every Wednesday morning.

2Simple:

You should all have received an email from 2Simple asking you to confirm your email address so that you can receive the observations written on the tablet each half term. Please let me know if you didn't receive one and I will check your email address and then re-send it so that you do receive them.

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 Connie

