



**THERE'S
NO
FULL STOP
TO LEARNING**

YEAR RECEPTION NEWSLETTER – SUMMER 1

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.

Goodbye Connie and Hello Kristina:

Connie has now joined Nursery class as we have Kristina back which is very exciting. She has already come to the fore in our mantle sessions last term when she played our boss, Dr NASA who really got us all thinking and working hard.

Topic:

Our topic this term will be **UNDER THE SEA**. 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 Under The Sea – The Aquarium, The Horniman Museum, various restaurants in China Town all have sea creatures which the children can enjoy looking at up close. I know that some of you managed to get to the seaside over the break so please do have a look in any rock pools etc if you manage to get down to the beach again. Don't forget to take photos of your child and email them to me or pop them onto Evidence 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 about different creatures which live in the sea, what they eat, their lifecycles and also how to keep our seas clean.

Mantle of the Expert:

A group of Polynesian islands, one island called Honu Island is shrouded in mystery and legend as a group of travellers many years ago, were shipwrecked on one of the many reefs in these waters. They were travelling from their island to the next when a hurricane blew in. The rain battered down and the wind tossed the little boat from side to side. Ferocious waves grew higher and higher until the little boat couldn't take any more; first the mast snapped and then with a huge crack a hole appeared in the ship's side as it smashed into the coral reef below. The travellers held on to whatever part of the boat they could, entering the dangerous waters one by one. Each person thought this was the end - they didn't expect to survive the night. But then, as they clung on to driftwood, they were relieved that the storm seemed to be passing; the waves calmed down and the clouds raced away to cause havoc elsewhere. Exhausted, the travellers looked around at what was left of their boat. Here and there scraps of wood floated on the surface, but most of the boat had sunk to the bottom of the ocean. They were in the middle of the ocean with no boat and no idea of what to do next.

Just then, a large silhouette appeared beneath them. As it got closer, the people recognised a Honu - a turtle. It was huge, swimming gracefully up towards them. Rising to the surface, it scooped the travellers onto its back and began to swim in a straight line. Fearful at first, the travellers soon realised that the turtle would do them no harm. On it swam until, to their amazement, some land appeared in the distance. He took them on to the sandy beach where he left them, turned around and swam back out to sea.

Those travellers were the first ones to discover the island. In honour of their rescuer, they named the island 'Honu.'

Years later, turtles are in danger of becoming extinct. The people of Honu Island and those surrounding it are using the eggs to sell and to make things for tourists who are buying them. The coral reefs are full of rubbish which is not being properly disposed of and the sea creatures are dying from ingesting too much plastic thinking it is another form of creature. The turtles in particular are eating plastic bags thinking they are big jelly fish and then starving as they cannot ingest anything else. All the sea creatures need help but have no means of getting it themselves.

The children, in the role of Marine Scientists, will be asking several Inquiry Questions in order to help make sense of the situations and find out who they are and where they stand:

Social – What responsibility do we have for the well-being and happiness of others? What responsibility do we have for the environment and creatures around the world (especially those on the other side of the world) How can certain animals have cultural significance?

Political – What if the people in charge think humans are more important than sea creatures so don't support the Turtle Egg Ban?

Historical – What have turtles ever done for us? Traditionally, what would we have done? Is it right to maintain this culture at the cost of the turtles?

Environmental – What do animals and creatures need in order to survive or flourish?

Critical – Is anyone to blame? If so, who and why?

Ethical – Should we put human needs about needs of animals or creatures?

Spiritual – Do we believe in stories from the past or are they lessons for the future or are they both? Can heritage and tradition be preserved in the modern world? Should it?

I am trying to Tweet something on the days when we work on the Mantle so that you can continue to know updates of how our mission is going and you can talk to your child about it when they get home – I know many of them do not tell you much about what they have been up to so hopefully, this will give you a bit of information to go on. My Twitter handle is @LucyCoatesReay

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. Please also send in sunhats, sunglasses and sun cream if necessary – it really helps if you can apply their sun cream before school each day and then we can keep an eye out and apply extra if needed if they have it in their bags. Later on in the term, we may well get out the paddling pool if the sun is out and it is nice and warm so we will be in touch separately in order to ask you to send in a swimsuit and towel for them too then.

P.E:

P.E. is on Fridays. Please ensure that your child has black shorts, Reay PE t-shirt, socks and plimsolls in their bag every Friday. Please ensure these are all named. These do not need to be taken home every week.

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 wipes 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 am just checking with the Maths Lead if we are doing them again this term but if we do, I will 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 think Mrs Andrews has already told you but we are not going to continue to put work up onto Google Classroom each week. I hope that the topic wheel is a helpful hint about what we might get up to in school but if you would like further

information, please do email me. We are continuing to follow the White Rose Maths in sequence so that is always there for you to look at, should you wish.

Evidence Me:

You should all have received an email from Evidence Me 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 Kristina**