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Headteacher: Mrs T Swinburne

Friday 30th September 2016

Dear Parent/Carer,

Loving our outdoor learning

At Jerry Clay Academy, we know that children absolutely love to learn outdoors, and this week our Reception children have had lots of opportunities to learn in our beautiful outdoor spaces. We were so excited on Monday to open our brand new Mud Kitchen area in the Reception outdoor learning space. The children were thrilled to be able to squelch in the mud to their hearts' content and we saw some great learning skills on display from the outset, from independence and considering risks, to working together and communicating effectively. We are looking forward to developing the space with the children over the coming weeks and already feel it will be a fantastic addition to the learning experiences on offer for our youngest learners.

On Wednesday, we had such a lovely day picking apples from our school orchard. The children impressed us with their resourcefulness in thinking about equipment they might need to help them reach the apples. With ladders, crates and stilts at the ready, the children responsibly and safely carried everything they needed themselves and took turns to use the equipment to reach for the very highest apples. We couldn't believe how many we picked! As well as coming back for an apple tasting and using the apples to bake a delicious crumble on Thursday, the children came up with lots of ideas about how we could use the other apples in our play next week, from apples in the Mud Kitchen which we will be counting as part of our Maths learning, to printing with apples in the Artist's Studio. It really is a credit to the children that they are so settled and thinking so creatively about their learning at this early stage in the year.



Mud, glorious mud



A rainbow of apples



From tree to crumble

The week ahead

Next week, we will be harnessing the children's interest in the apples they have picked, introducing them into lots of our learning areas in different ways. We will be reading poetry and non-fiction texts about apples, producing art work to celebrate the apples we have picked, and using apples in our play. In Maths, we will be counting apples in our delicious Mud Kitchen dishes, finding the

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matching number and exploring the concept of one more or one less than the amount we have. At home, you might support your child by counting different food items in your kitchen and finding numbers to match.

Homework

We would like to say a big 'well done' to everyone for our best ever homework completion – 100% of the class completed their homework and handed it in on time on Wednesday morning! Thank you so much for your support in this – it makes such a difference to your child's learning when they are able to practise key skills at home and school and it helps us considerably in the practicalities of checking and handing out new homework when it is handed in so punctually. Keep up the good work!

Your child will also be receiving a Home Reading Folder in the next couple of weeks (if they haven't done so already), containing a reading book and Reading Diary. This is a book that we would like you to support your child to read at home, using their new Phonics skills and Action Words to help them, as well as looking at picture cues and using context to work out tricky words. Please read with your child little and often, varying between the books we send home, the Friday Library books and other favourites you may have at home. We ask that when you read with your child at home, you make a short note in your child's Reading Diary, just so that we can see that they have been reading regularly and so that you can share your observations of how your child is doing and anything they are doing well with or finding more challenging, so that we can tailor our teaching accordingly. Please keep your child's Home Reading Folder (with reading book and diary) in their book bag every day as we may wish to listen to your child read and give them a new book on any day of the week. Your child's Read, Write Inc. Folder (containing sound worksheets and Action Words sheets) only needs to be handed in on Wednesdays and will be returned to you on Thursdays (keeping it at home the rest of the week allows you to keep practising reading the sounds with your child every day).

RWI Parent Workshop

Please may we remind you that our Read Write Inc. Workshop for parents is on Tuesday 4th October at 9.15 a.m. which we very much hope you will be able to attend. As well as explaining how we teach your child to read and write in school and demonstrating a typical lesson, we will be running through how you can support your child's learning at home.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Ashton, Mrs Sellars and Miss Belford (the Reception Team)

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