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Headteacher: Mrs T Swinburne

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2015

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Welcome to Reception Class**

We would like to say a big welcome to all our new families who have joined Jerry Clay Academy this week. What a fantastic first week the Reception children have had! We have been extremely impressed with the way the children have come into class on a morning so confidently and independently and have settled to their learning activities. The children are already showing us what they can do, from super sitting and careful listening, to looking after one another and our learning environment. We have a feeling this is going to be a fabulous year!

### **Our learning this week**

In our first week at school, we have been focusing on getting to know one another and exploring our indoor and outdoor learning environments. The children have been spending time in their Key Worker Groups for most of the week, getting to know their Key Workers and friends in a smaller group. We have been learning through play in many of our learning areas, from imaginative play in the Home Corner and Fire Station, to construction indoors and out, and enjoying stories in our Reading Areas. We have been practising key routines, including Snack Time and Silent Reading after lunch, in which we return to class to look at books whilst listening to relaxing music. We have also introduced our reward system to the children and have been very impressed by how many children have already achieved merits for their fantastic attitudes and super learning. We ended the week with a lovely treat, taking our snack out for a picnic in our Storytelling Area to listen to a story in the sunshine – the children have certainly earned it!

***'Staff have high expectations and this helps to secure pupils' good progress in Key Stages 1 and 2.'***  
**Ofsted, July 2013**

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*Making new friendships*

*Enjoying a story*

*Team work to build a bus*

### **The week ahead**

Next week, we are looking forward to a full week with all our children in class. We will be continuing to introduce and explore our learning areas, as well as learning how to tidy them up. We will also be working with the children to develop some rules for key routines in our day – we are sure they will have lots of suggestions and ideas! On Wednesday, we will have the excitement of our very first PE lesson – please make sure you send your child's named PE kit into school in a separate bag if you have not done so already. From Thursday, we will begin our Phonics lessons, learning a new sound each day to begin the children's journey to becoming confident readers and writers during their Reception year.

On Tuesday and Wednesday next week, you will see Mrs Hoole in Reception Class. Mrs Hoole is our school SENCo and cover teacher. She will be teaching Reception Class every Wednesday afternoon when Miss Ashton is out of class for PPA time. She will be teaching the children PE throughout the year on Wednesday afternoons. Next week, Miss Ashton is attending Read, Write Inc. Model Teacher Training in London on Tuesday and Wednesday, with Mrs Hoole teaching Reception and getting to know the children. This is a fantastic opportunity for our school to have a teacher trained to an advanced level in Phonics and Miss Ashton will be back on Thursday, full of ideas no doubt to put into action from Day One of our Phonics learning.

### **Baking donations please**

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Every week in Reception Class, the children have the opportunity to cook and bake, developing key life skills, applying mathematical understanding and finding out about different cultures and traditions through food. We ask for a £2 donation each half term for ingredients so that we can feed the full class every week. Please send your kind donations in a named envelope. Thank you!

We hope you have a lovely weekend and are sure the children will be ready for a well-earned rest!

Yours sincerely,

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

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