



# Jessie Younghusband School

## Year 6 – Curriculum Letter – Autumn Term

Welcome to Year 6. I'm really looking forward to working with your children over the coming year, in partnership with you, to ensure that their final year at JYS is a successful and happy one. The purpose of this autumn term curriculum letter is to give you some useful information about the topics, routines and expectations of our class, which I hope you will find both informative and helpful in assisting your child during their first term in Year 6.

### This term

#### **Bikeability**

We have our 'Bikeability' cycling safety course to look forward to during the week of the 10<sup>th</sup> October. Hopefully you have all seen the separate letters and booklets which have been sent home about this, but if you require any further information, please do come and see me. Please refer to these booklets and ensure that your child's bike is road worthy before this week, to ensure they can enjoy participating in full. The reply slips are tucked away on page 4 of these booklets – please ensure these are signed and returned to the school as soon as possible.

#### **Ancient Egypt**

Our first major topic this year is based around Ancient Egypt. Children will discover why the River Nile was so important to this ancient civilisation in Geography, learn about Moses and the origins of Judaism in RE, develop their deduction skills by thinking like archaeologists in History, and much more besides this as part of our cross-curricular learning.

#### **Bowles**

Our residential trip to Bowles Outdoor Learning Centre (17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> October) is fast approaching! We will be doing some preparation work prior to our visit and will then reflect on our experiences on our return.

#### **Diary Dates**

- **16<sup>th</sup> September** – Paul Ullson visit (no fee).
- **w/c 10<sup>th</sup> October** – Bikeability Cycle Training.
- **12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> October** – Parent Consultation evenings.
- **17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> October** – Bowles Residential.
- **w/c 24<sup>th</sup> October** – Half term.
- **31<sup>st</sup> October** – INSET day.
- **15<sup>th</sup> November** – Year 6 class assembly.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> December** – Christmas Fair.

#### **Ideas for supporting your child's learning:**

Useful websites include:

- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2> – Useful for Literacy, Maths and Science.
- <http://nrich.maths.org> – An excellent source of Maths challenges.
- <http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/Egypt.html> – A good starting point for learning on Ancient Egypt.

## **Routines and reminders**

### **P.E.**

Our P.E. lessons will be on Tuesday afternoons and Thursday mornings each week. I would be grateful if P.E. kits could be in school all week from Monday morning however, as the children may need them for clubs and ad-hoc sporting activities at different points during the week. I will encourage everyone to take these home on Friday to be washed. For safety reasons, no watches or jewellery should be worn during P.E. lessons. If your child wears earrings and it is not possible for them to be removed for P.E., please let me know.

### **Homework**

Homework tasks will usually be set once a week. The type of homework set will vary, but will usually include one piece of Literacy and one piece of Maths, designed to reinforce what they have learnt in class the week before. This will be set each Tuesday and due in again the following Monday. If homework isn't in on Monday for any reason, children have an additional chance to bring it in on the Tuesday before being asked to stay in at lunch-time to finish it. Each child has been given a homework book, in which they will stick in the tasks set showing the date on which they need to be handed in. Additional copies of the homework, if required, are left in folders in the classroom or can be found by logging into the school website.

I am keen for homework not to become a burden or to create problems at home. If a child has given a piece of work their full attention for at least half an hour but hasn't completed it, I'm happy for them to hand this in unfinished as long as this is accompanied by a short comment from a parent/carer confirming this. Occasionally, you may wish to add other comments to your child's work if there is anything you feel I should know about how they got on – please feel free to do so, or see me after school if you would prefer to discuss it in person.

### **Reading**

Regular reading is essential, daily if possible. This could include reading books (fiction and non-fiction), newspapers, magazines and comics. In fact, the wider the range of genres that your child reads the better. Lots of our writing this year will relate to tailoring writing for different audiences, purposes and genres, so reading a range of texts will help them really understand how writing differs depending on the context. Many children will now be reading independently, but please do continue to discuss the books or texts your child is reading from time to time – this helps to consolidate their understanding of what they've read.

### **Spellings**

Spellings will be given out and tested on Tuesday mornings. Initially, the word lists given in Year 6 consolidate and extend spelling patterns and rules which have been seen in previous years. Following this, we then focus on irregular words which are commonly used by 10-12 year olds in their everyday writing. As with times tables, regular revision of spelling patterns and lists is important.

Thanks, as always, for your support. I look forward to being involved in your child's final year with us and hope to make it their most enjoyable and successful yet. If you have any questions as the term progresses, or would like to discuss anything with me, please come and see me at the end of the school day, or contact the school office to make a more formal appointment if preferred.