



Jessie Younghusband School

Year 4 – Spring Term 2016 – Curriculum Letter

Happy New Year to you and your families – I hope you all had a lovely Christmas break and enjoyed some nice family and resting time. I am so pleased to have joined Jessie Younghusband School and will be arranging a short, informal drop-in to introduce myself to you. A letter will be coming home shortly to let you when this is to be. I'm looking forward to meeting you.

This curriculum letter gives a short review of last term, a taster of things to come this term and some helpful information for you to assist your child in their second term in Year 4.

Reminders:

- Please check that all school uniform, PE kit, book bags, lunch boxes and water bottles are clearly marked with your child's name.
- Please ensure that your child's P.E. kit is in school every Monday and taken home for washing, and cleaning of trainers, on Friday (this also helps to prevent the classroom smelling of damp, muddy trainers!). During this term, the children will need to be equipped with warm tracksuits etc. as we shall continue with outside games throughout the winter sessions (including tag rugby) as well as some indoor sessions. They will also need to take wet swimming things home at the end of each Thursday.
- Children will be set one formal piece of homework on a Thursday (to be in school the following **Tuesday**, which is a change from last term), but learning spellings and times tables and finding time for regular (preferably daily) reading practice should also be happening each week. Spelling books need to be in school on a Monday ready for the spellings to be set for Friday's test. The times tables test will continue to be on a Wednesday.

Last term:

The Autumn Term was a busy one for Year 4 learning about the Stone Age, the Bronze Age and the Iron Age. Some of the highlights included:

- Our two visits from Paul Ullson, the first setting prehistoric Britain in context, the second covering the Iron Age.
- Archaeology day – it was great to see the children in their wonderful costumes! They loved sharing their class assembly with you all and had great fun making Bronze Age pottery.

Today you will be receiving home your child's Autumn Term topic book. We ask that you spend some time over the weekend with your child to look at, enjoy and reflect upon their work from last term. We also hope that you will have time to record some comments on the Topic Evaluation sheet that is inside the book, so that you can feed back your own thoughts about your child's achievements.

We do ask that you return the topic book after the weekend so that we can view your feedback and keep the book in school as evidence of work completed during the Autumn Term. In due course these books will be sent home again for you and your child to keep.

Thank you for all the support you have given your child over the last term with costumes, and other homework tasks. Your efforts are greatly appreciated and enhance the children's learning experiences hugely.

This term:

We are going to begin by learning about the ancient Maya civilisation. Sadly a trip to south eastern Mexico or northern Central America for the entire class is not part of the term's plan! We will however, have a very exciting Maya morning with our visiting specialist Paul Ullson. The children will be involved in artwork, mask making and drama activities. Our learning would not be complete without some cooking and tasting of foods from Mexico and Central America. During the topic we shall be finding out about customs and lifestyles of the Mayan people, as well as looking at how we know about them as a civilisation.



Our science work will focus on electricity this term, including building our own circuits.

Ideas for supporting your child's learning:

- Useful websites for homework help include <http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/homework/index.html>
- Visiting the local library.
- Useful books to read include non-fiction texts about the Mayans and modern Central America.
- Developing your child's mental maths with questions based on times tables (and related division facts), addition and subtraction.
- Helping your child to become more confident with telling the time (on the 12- and 24-hour clock).

Finally...

- Thank you again for your support with homework tasks and costume. Your time and effort is greatly appreciated and these activities do enhance the children's experiences and learning tremendously!