Jessie Younghusband School

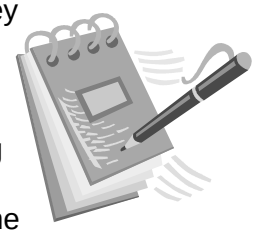
Year 2 – Curriculum Letter – Spring Term 2017

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a relaxing and peaceful Christmas and that you enjoyed spending time with family and friends. May I take this opportunity, on behalf of both Mrs Corderoy and myself, to say a huge thank you for the wonderful Christmas cards and gifts that we received at the end of last term – we were very touched by your kind words and generosity.

Welcome back to the spring term in Year 2! The purpose of this curriculum letter is to give you useful information relating to your child's learning in the coming term.

By the end of the autumn term it was lovely to see the vast majority of the children confidently coming into class by themselves each morning – we are well and truly settled into the routines of Year 2! As the new term begins, please continue to encourage your child to come into class by themselves so that they can carry on developing their independence and organisational skills. Please remember that the office staff will be happy to pass on any messages for you, regarding 'going home' arrangements or advanced notification about appointments that your child will be attending. Of course, there may be occasions when you do need to talk to me about something in person and if this is the case, please do pop in when you drop your child off in the morning. Alternatively, you can come in to see me when you collect your child from school at the end of the day. Thank you in advance for your help with this!

Reminders:



- Please can **P.E. kits** be in school all week from Monday morning. They will then be sent home at least once every half term for washing;
- **Homework** is set on a Friday and is to be returned by the following Wednesday;
- **Spellings** are sent home on a Monday and tested on the following Friday;
- Children are expected to be able to fluently recall and use the multiplication and division facts for the **2, 5 and 10 multiplication tables** by the end of Year 2 (as specified in the National Curriculum) and we will be having a particular focus on this, this term. As the term progresses, a specific multiplication table will be set on a Monday, for the children to practise at home. Weekly multiplication tables tests will also be introduced on Friday mornings;
- School **reading books** are taken home on a regular basis and reading at home is essential; daily if possible. We encourage the children to visit the library and to read other books at home, as well as those from the school reading scheme. This could include fiction and non-fiction books, children's newspapers, joke books and magazines/comics. In fact, the wider the range of genres that your child reads, the better! Reading with your child regularly, and discussing books with them, will not only help them to develop their fluency and comprehension skills but will also help them to foster a real love of reading;
- The children are allowed to bring a small **toy** to school for playtimes. Please ensure that this toy is small enough to fit in their tray or in the small toy box in the classroom. We also ask that toys are not valuable or electrical;
- Our **'Show and Tell'** slot will continue to be on a Friday afternoon, with one 'home table' group having the opportunity to bring their showing in each week. Please encourage your child to only bring in items that will be of real interest to others in the class! This might include items that are related to our current topics and learning, or souvenirs and/or photos from a recent special event, experience, day trip or holiday. Please remind your child that they should be able to talk about their items/experiences in some detail, in order to make it worthwhile sharing with the rest of the class!

Last term:
The autumn term was an extremely busy term for us in Year 2, learning about Lighthouses. There were many highlights which included:



- Enjoying 'The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch' stories;
- Designing and making our wonderful Hamish the Cat hand puppets;
- Performing our 'Lighthouses' class assembly;
- Learning lots from our 'Lighthouses' visitors: Paul Edwards from the RNLI and Mr Sherwood (Iona's dad);
- Writing some super stories and information texts linked to our topic;
- Finding out about the amazing lives of Grace Darling and Mary Anning.

Thank you for your continued support with homework tasks and reading - your time and efforts are greatly appreciated and they do enhance the children's learning!

Thank you also for the support you gave the children in the run up to Christmas, with their costumes and practising lines for our play. I think you will agree that the children worked extremely hard to produce two fantastic performances of 'Baubles!' – I was very proud of them all, as I'm sure you were too!

Autumn term topic books:
Today you will be receiving your child's autumn term topic book on Lighthouses. Please spend some time together over the weekend, looking at, enjoying and reflecting upon your child's work during the year so far. I hope that you will also be able to record some comments on the topic evaluation sheet, to feedback your thoughts on your child's achievements. We do ask that you return the topic book after the weekend so that we can keep it in school as evidence of completed work. The topic book will, of course, be returned to you later in the year. Enjoy!

This term:



Our main topic for the spring term is **'Get Moving'** which has a focus on the history of transport (particularly bicycles and cars) and which has many cross-curricular links with literacy, maths, science, design and technology and ICT. We also have a visit to The National Motor Museum, Beaulieu planned in March – more details to follow nearer the time!

This term certainly promises to be an exciting and stimulating one, and the children will have an input into the learning and activities that they would like to do during our topic work. If you know anyone who is an expert on cars or bicycles, who would be willing to come into class and talk to the children, please do let me know!

Ideas for supporting your child's learning:
- http://www.ictgames.com/resources.html is a useful website, featuring lots of literacy and numeracy games and activities for Year 2;
- Practise mental maths such as counting in steps of 2, 5 and 10; doubling and halving numbers to at least 20 and also telling the time ('o'clock', 'half past', 'quarter to' and 'quarter past' the hour times please!);
- Visit the school or local library to research information about the history of cars and bikes.

Finally . . .
As ever, if you have any questions as the term progresses, or would like to discuss anything with me, please come in and see me at the end of the school day, or telephone the office to make an appointment, if it is more convenient.

Thank you for your continued support and best wishes for a very happy 2017.