



Jessie Younghusband School

Year 4 – Curriculum Letter – Spring Term

This curriculum letter provides a short review of last term, a taster of things to come in the second term and some helpful information for you to assist your child in Year 4. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Miss Glass who is our new class teaching assistant. We continue to have Mrs Broughton and Mrs Barnett working with us too.

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.
- A visit to Butser Ancient Farm where the children had fun becoming archeologists for the day and learning about what it was like to live during the Stone Age period.
- A fantastic assembly led by the children where they shared their learning and performed their own song about Cave lions!

In addition to the above, the children performed amazingly well at St Paul's church and designed, cooked and packaged some tasty biscuits as part of a Design and Technology project (hopefully you were able to sample them).

This term:

We are going to begin this term 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 also be involved in artwork, mask making and drama activities throughout the term and 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 learning would not be complete without some cooking and tasting of foods from Mexico and Central America.

This term our science work will commence with finishing off our previous topic on 'Sound' and will then progress to focus on electricity, including building our own circuits.

In the later part of the term we will have a special project focusing on the HMS Titanic, which I already know the children are excited about.

Topic books:

Today you will receive 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 or no later than Friday 20th January, so that we can view your feedback and keep the book in school as evidence of work completed during the Autumn Term. After this point, you will have the opportunity to keep your child's topic book.

General 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 every Friday. This term, the children will be doing gymnastics and will therefore require their indoor PE kit.
- Swimming will resume on Thursday 12th January. Please ensure that your children have their swimming costume and a towel. 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 Friday (to be in school the following **Wednesday**) and they will also be set weekly spellings.
- In addition, the children will receive a 'mad minute grid' booklet which is a useful resource to help your children remember their times tables at home. I will send these with a note to explain how they work in due course.

Ideas for supporting your child's learning:

- Visiting the local library;
- Useful books to read: non-fiction texts about the Mayans;
- Helping your child to become more confident with telling the time (on the 12- and 24-hour clock)
- <http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/7-11-years/problem-solving> - This is a useful website with some fun interactive games and resources which have been categorised into different sections;
- <http://www.poetrybyheart.org.uk/poetry-for-children/> - This is a useful link for a variety of different poems and includes some useful ideas to help support your children's understanding of the poems;

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all the support you have given your child over the last term with their reading, and homework tasks. Your time and efforts are greatly appreciated and enhance the children's learning experiences hugely.

Also, a personal thank you from me for welcoming me to Jessie Younghusband and helping to settle into my new role at the school.