



# Jessie Younghusband School

## Year 5 – Curriculum Letter – Spring Term

Happy New Year to you and your families – I hope you all had a lovely Christmas break and that we are all feeling rested and healthy! On a personal note, I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for the thoughtful cards and kind gifts from the children at the end of last term – they were very much appreciated.

### Reminders:

- P.E. kit needs to be in school all week from Monday morning. It will then be sent home each Friday to completely clear the cloakroom and to allow it to be washed. To ensure that any 'found' items can be returned to their owners promptly, please can you ensure that your child's P.E. kit and other school clothing is clearly named? Football boots, shin pads and football socks will be needed for hockey after half term.
- Home learning is usually set on a Friday to be returned by the following Tuesday, but where I can I will set it earlier in the week to allow the children more time to complete it. Thank you for your continued support with signing off home learning tasks and encouraging your child to hand their home learning in on time.
- Every Monday the children will bring home spellings and be informed about the focus times tables. These will be tested on either Thursday or Friday. Regular practise of these at home is absolutely essential for improving and maintaining speed and accuracy of recall – again, thank you for your continued support with this.
- Regular reading aloud continues to be essential in Year 5 – supporting your child by listening to them read and engaging with them on the content of their reading material will help them to make progress. Daily reading material will include your child's school book, but can of course extend to texts such as other reading books, newspapers, recipe books, magazines/comics or joke books.

### Last term:

The Autumn Term was a busy one for us in Year 5 learning about Invaders. Some of the highlights for us included:

- Developing our knowledge and understanding of the Romans, their time in Britain and what remains of their time here – their legacy.
- Writing our own legends and retelling the story of "Romulus and Remus".
- Saxon Day – it was great to see all the children in their costumes – much time and energy had obviously gone into making them and their shields, so thank you for your support with this!
- And, of course, having our "Roman Themed" Year 5 Camp way, way back in September!



Today, you will be receiving home your child's Autumn Term topic book in which the children have had responsibility for displaying and sticking in their work. 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 feedback your own thoughts about your child's achievements. We do ask that you return the topic book by Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 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.

This term:

This term promises to be another action packed term, where we will be learning about Rainforests. The children will have an on-going input into their learning regarding this topic; they will also choose how to present more of their work this term.

In addition to this, we are performing on stage at Chichester Festival Theatre on January 18<sup>th</sup> and then in February we will be embarking on a drama project being run by The Novium Museum.

The rainforest topic has a clear geography focus but also links to the English, computing, D&T and art that we will be doing (see the accompanying jigsaw sheet for further details). There will be many exciting experiences for us to look forward to which include:

- Learning about where rainforests are and the issues around them.
- A visit from an animal wrangler bringing rainforest creatures for us to handle. (Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January).
- A home learning task later on in the topic which will involve a self-chosen research project about a rainforest of the children's choice.



Ideas for supporting your child's learning:

- Useful websites for homework help include <http://homeworkhelp.stjohnssevenoaks.com/rainforest.html>
- Visiting the local library.
- Useful books to read include non-fiction texts about the rainforests.
- Develop your child's mental maths with some quick fire questions based on times tables (and related division facts), addition and subtraction of 2 or 3 numbers, including questions with money and negative numbers.
- Exploring measures in the context of home including time (e.g. the 12- and 24-hour clock) and shape.

Finally, does anyone:

- Have any rainforest-related resources? These things could help us to give the classroom a rainforest feel. (If you can lend us anything for display in the classroom please name it in some way so that it can be returned to the owner!)
- Have a good DVD on rainforests which we could borrow, or a music CD featuring rainforest sounds/music?

Best wishes,

Mr Neaves



