



Jessie Younghusband School

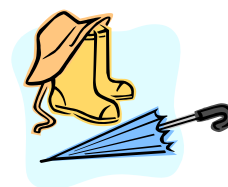
Year R – Curriculum Letter – Autumn Term

We are really pleased with the happy and settled start the children have made in Reception. We thank you for your support during the first few days of term. Please note that the school doors open at 8.35am and all children need to be in the classroom by 8.45am which is when the register is taken. Any children arriving after this time will receive a 'late' mark which will be recorded on their attendance log.

Your child's year in Reception lays the foundations for the rest of their school journey. We hope that a close partnership between you and the school will provide your child with the security and confidence they need to ensure that they have a positive learning experience. We hope that you will also enjoy getting to know one another over the coming weeks.

Reminders:

- This term will get cold and wet, so we would like to remind you that your child needs to bring a **warm, waterproof coat** to school as during the Reception Year the children are given the opportunity to learn outside whatever the weather! Any practice at home with putting on coats and zipping them up without adult support would be greatly appreciated.
- All the children in Year R receive a **free fruit (or sometimes a vegetable) snack** each day. If, however, you would like to provide your own snack for your child to have mid-morning, we do ask that it is fresh fruit or dried fruit such as raisins or apricots or a vegetable such as carrots. Biscuits, snack bars and sandwiches are not allowed. Thank you for your support with this. Please ensure any snacks brought in from home are clearly labelled with your child's name.
- We are impressed with how smart the children are looking in their school uniform. Just a gentle reminder that hair longer than shoulder length should be tied back with blue, black or brown coloured hair bands. Also, hair gel is acceptable so long as it is being used to keep hair tidy – gel used for more fashionable hair styles will need to be saved for the weekends.
- If you haven't already done so, **please make sure your child has waterproof outerwear and wellies in school every day** as we only have a few spares and we do not want their opportunities to use exciting areas such as The Mud Kitchen to be limited. We will also be venturing out to explore the school grounds within the next couple of weeks, whatever the weather, so protective clothing will be vital. Thank you to those parents that have already done so.
- Please also ensure that your **child's name is clearly visible** in all of their clothing, as this will enable them to find their own belongings. Water bottles also need to be easily identified, as children are encouraged to drink water when they wish.
- Please make sure that your child keeps their **P.E. Kit** in their P.E. bag on their peg all of the time. We shall send it home at the end of every half term, so that it can be washed and returned to school after the holidays.





Important Dates and Events

The autumn term is very busy in school with lots of class events and whole school events planned in. Usually, once a month, a whole school newsletter is sent out, the last page always

includes the most up-to-date diary dates, so please ensure that you take note of this information.

For many of you, this is the first time you are experiencing an autumn term at Jessie so we thought you would appreciate advanced notice of some of these events and also some additional information about them:

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| Wednesday 13 th September – 8.45am until 9.30am at the latest | Year R Parents coffee morning in the School Hall | A chance for you to meet and chat with some other Year R parents over a cup of tea and a biscuit. |
| Wednesday 20 th September – 8.45am in the School Hall | Phonics and early reading workshop | Last week, you received a letter about our 'Phonics Workshop'. If you are able to join us, please add your name to the list on the table in the cloakroom. If you are unable to join us, we will make sure that you receive a copy of the PowerPoint that we share. |
| Date to be confirmed... although it is always on a Saturday – 9.30am until 12.00pm | Grounds Day  | Our autumn term Grounds Day will soon be upon us. One Saturday morning each term we encourage our families to help us to manage the grounds, giving our outdoor spaces a special, community and shared feel. All families are welcome to join us as we dig, tidy and smarten up our grounds. Tea, coffee, doughnuts and biscuits keep us going. Please come and join in the fun! Even if you are only able to spend an hour or so with us, it will help us to prepare the grounds for the autumn. Grounds Days also provide an opportunity for the children to earn one point to go on their JYS badge total; points and badges are earned whenever children represent the school and Grounds Days count towards this. |
| Tuesday 28 th November – 8.55am until 10am at the latest | Stay and Play session  | During this session you will get the chance to participate in some activities with your child. We will also give you an opportunity to look through their Learning Journal. A separate letter about this will be sent out nearer the time. |
| Friday 1st December | Non-Uniform Day for the Christmas Fair | Children can wear their 'home' clothes to school instead of their school uniform in exchange for a donation for our Christmas Fair. Further details about donations will be sent out nearer the time. |
| Friday 8th December – 3.30pm until 4.45pm approximately | Christmas Fair | Join in the fun at our Christmas Fair – play games, buy some raffle tickets, visit Father Christmas and enjoy a mince pie. |
| Wednesday 13th December | Years R, 1 and 2 Christmas play | 9.30am and 2pm performances. More details will be sent out nearer the time. |

Both the Early Years' Curriculum and our school ethos highly value parental involvement and we like to welcome you, as parents, in to share in your child's learning journey regularly over their first year at school. However, we appreciate that families experience many time pressures, and for working parents it can be difficult to get time off from work to attend some or all of these events. For example, at our 'Stay and Play' sessions which happen once a term, we often see

grandparents, an aunty/uncle or even a grown-up sibling attend. Please do not worry if you are unable to join us for this event; we will always pair your child with a friend's family or a member of the Year R team. We hope that you will enjoy becoming a member of the Jessie community – please do let us know if we can help in any way.

The Early Years Foundation Stage information:

The Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum is organised into seven areas of learning. There are opportunities for your child to engage in adult led or adult directed learning experiences, and times when your child initiates activities and learning for themselves which is known by the children as 'Discovery Time'. In Reception, we ensure that your child has opportunities to learn in both our indoor and outdoor classroom, as well as within the school grounds. There is more detail about the seven areas of learning in the Reception Handbook that you received during the 'New Entrant' evening back in June.

One of the seven areas of learning is 'Expressive Arts and Design', so we encourage the children to be as creative and imaginative as possible. The children enjoy using lots of items including small boxes, bottle tops, tin foil, wrapping paper and beads in our 'Creative Workshop' to make models. Therefore, we are always grateful for odds and ends that you might usually recycle or throw away, to replenish our supplies. However, we ask that your donations are 'little and often' due to the limited storage in the classroom. Please keep an eye on the sign hanging in the cloakroom which displays whether we are in need of donations from your recycle bin or not.



We are also grateful for any help that you may be able to offer the rest of the school, such as having time available to hear children in other classes read. If you are interested, please speak to one of the Reception team, or a member of staff in the school office, and we will be happy to help.

This term:



During the first half of this term learning is based around the topic 'Food, Glorious Food!' This will be explored through some well-known traditional stories, e.g. 'The Little Red Hen', 'The Gingerbread Man' and 'The Enormous Turnip' and links will be made to autumn and Harvest. Other themes may also develop to incorporate the children's specific interests.



Please find attached to this letter the topic overview for the first half of this term. This is organised into the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum's seven areas of learning. We hope that this will provide you with a more detailed insight into what your child will be learning about over the coming weeks.

In the next couple of weeks, your child will bring home a phonics folder in their book bag, which as mentioned in the letter inside it, will contain the phonemes (letter sounds) we have learnt each week. New phonemes are added each week on sheets, which have little activities and things for you to share and talk about with your child. Please work through the phonic sheets at your child's own pace. There will be more said about this at the 'Phonics Workshop'.

Thank you for your support. We look forward to getting to know you and seeing more of you in the coming weeks.

With very best wishes,
Miss Baitup and Miss Hendriksen