



# 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 couple of weeks 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.

### The Early Years Foundation Stage information and some reminders:

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.



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.

### Important Dates and Events

Please note that 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. If you are able to join us, our next one is on **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October from 9.00 – 12.00**. 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.

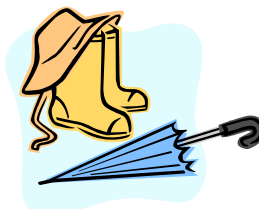


Last week you received a letter about our 'Phonics Workshop'. If you are able to join us, please add your name to the list on the table in the cloakroom. If you are unable to join us, we will make sure that you receive a copy of the PowerPoint that we share.



Shortly, we will be sending out another date for your diaries which is for a '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.

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! If possible, please send your child to school in a coat which they do not have to put on over the top of their head, as this can be difficult for them to manage independently. Any practice at home with putting on coats and zipping them up without adult support would be greatly appreciated. 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.



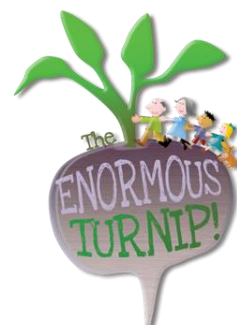
Please also ensure that your child's name is clearly visible in all of their clothing, as this will enable them to find their own belongings. Water bottles also need to be easily identified, as children are encouraged to drink water when they wish.

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.

### 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.

Next week 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.