



Jessie Younghusband School

Year 6 - Spring Term – Curriculum Letter

Welcome back! I hope you all had a good Christmas and that you enjoyed the holiday time with your families. May I take this opportunity, on behalf of Mrs Meyer, Mrs Blamire and myself, to say thank you for all of the wonderful Christmas cards and gifts that we received at the end of last term. This is always really appreciated. May I also wish you all a very happy new year as we look ahead to the spring term, which promises to be just as exciting and busy as the last! The purpose of this curriculum letter is to give you useful information relating to your child's learning this term, as well as a summary of the highlights of the autumn term.

P.E.

P.E. lessons will continue to be on Tuesday afternoons and Thursday mornings each week. However, I would be grateful if P.E. kits could be in school all week from Monday morning as the children may need them for clubs and ad-hoc sporting activities at different points during the week. Please ensure kits are taken home over the weekend to be washed. If your child wears earrings and it is not possible for them to be removed for P.E., please let me know.

Homework

Homework tasks continue to be set once a week, typically in Literacy and Maths but occasionally in other subjects as well. This will be set each Tuesday and due in again the following Tuesday. Additional copies of the homework, if required, are left in folders in the classroom, or can be found online if children log in to the school's website. Occasionally you may wish to add a comment on to your child's homework if there is anything you feel I should know about how they got on. If homework isn't in on Tuesday for any reason, children have an additional chance to bring it in on the Wednesday, before being asked to stay in at lunch on Thursday to finish it if they haven't already.

Reading

Regular reading is essential, daily if possible. This could include reading books (fiction and non-fiction), newspapers, joke books and magazines/comics. In fact, the wider the range of genres that your child reads the better. Lots of our writing this term will relate to tailoring writing for different audiences, purposes and genres, so reading a range of texts will help them really understand how writing differs depending on the context. Many children will be reading independently, but please do continue to discuss the books or texts your child are reading from time to time – this helps to gauge their understanding of the what they are reading.

Spellings

Spellings will be given out and tested every Tuesday morning. I have been extremely impressed with spelling test scores so far this year, thank you for your continued support in helping your children to learn them.

Highlights from last term:

The autumn term was an extremely busy one for us in Year 6, learning about Monsters and Mountains and going on our residential trip to Bowles. There were many highlights, including:

The 'Bikeability' cycle training week.

Our fabulous time away at Bowles Outdoor Centre.

Performing our class assembly on the story of Moses.

A brilliant 'Egyptian day' where we made hummus, created clay models, and wore some fantastic outfits.

Organising and running our 'games room' at the Christmas fair.

Performing in 'A Christmas Carol' in December.

This term:

Next week, we will be starting our 'World War Two' topic which enables us to learn about The Battle of Britain, a significant event in British and local history. We will also explore some aspects of life on the Home Front and will find out what life was like for people living in the local area during WWII. Our World War Two Day will be held in school later this term as part of this exciting unit of work. During our WWII topic, we will be looking at several children's books set during the Second World War, with a particular focus on 'Goodnight Mr Tom' by Michelle Magorian.



Alongside our exciting topic work this term, we will also be continuing to prepare and revise for the forthcoming National Curriculum tests. The children will be sitting practise tests again this term in order to help give them a sense of what test week will be like in May. They will sit papers in Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling, Reading and Maths.

Diary dates:

Thursday January 28th – KS2 trip to Chichester Festival Theatre.

Friday February 12th – INSET day.

Monday February 15th – Friday February 19th – Half term break

Tuesday 1st March & Wednesday 2nd March – Parents' evening.

Tuesday 8th March – Y6 class assembly.

Tuesday 22nd March – KS2 test information meeting for parents and carers.

Useful websites to support your child's learning include:

World War Two

www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk

www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/Homework/Britain.html

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/world_war2/

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/ww2peopleswar/>

National Curriculum Test Revision

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks2bitesize/>

<http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/revision>

http://www.echalk.co.uk/Maths/PrimaryNationalStrategy_Yr6/DfES-MathsActivitiesforyear6/index.html

www.counton.org

www.nrich.maths.org

www.math.rice.edu/~lanius/Patterns

www.mathsisfun.com

www.primarygames.co.uk

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. Best wishes for a very happy 2016.