



Jessie Younghusband School

Year R – Summer Term - Curriculum Letter

We hope you all had a relaxing and peaceful Easter break and enjoyed spending time with family and friends. Can you believe your child has begun their last term in Year R? Their first year at JYS is definitely flying by!

Please find below key notes relating to your child's learning from the previous term and what we will be exploring in the first half of the summer term.

Last term's highlights:

The children had a very exciting and busy time last term. There were many special highlights, which included:

- Learning about space, planets, famous astronauts such as Tim Peake and Neil Armstrong, and much more;
- Dressing up as our favourite book characters for our World Book Day celebrations;
- Creating and practising our Chinese Dragon Dance to ensure it was 'performance ready';
- Making and tasting Chinese stir-fry;
- Developing our reading and writing skills;
- Finding an alien called 'Zing' in the classroom and teaching him about 3D shapes;
- Learning about Kandinsky and creating our own 2D shape pictures in his style;
- Enjoying using the mud kitchen and the water play feature;
- Another successful 'Stay and Play' session – please look out for photographs from your visit in your child's Learning Journal!



You may have noticed that changes have taken place to the layout and provision in our outside area. This space was hugely enhanced during Grounds Day and the week that followed, with the addition of a mud kitchen and water play feature kindly made for us by Mr John Baitup, who is a local builder and Miss Baitup's Dad. Mr Baitup, we thank you for your time and generosity in making these new resources out of reclaimed pallets and materials that you sourced for us! We would also like to say a HUGE thank you to Mr Vaughan, Mr Temple (Darcey's Dad), Mr Sadler (Mrs Sadler's husband) and Mr Nash (Dad to Laura in Year 5) who moved the playhouse, from its original position by the canopy to the new site near the sandpit, with the help of a couple of scooters and a plank of wood!



We purchased a new circular table for outdoor learning and had the area behind the canopy (by the fence) covered in artificial grass which the children have enjoyed exploring and using. The addition of a plastic greenhouse-like structure has enabled us to place lots

of the children's resources outside. This inspires them to self-select the resources they wish to use to enhance their play and encourages independence, whilst also developing problem-solving skills and cooperation when playing with others. Our old gymnastics platform (formerly situated in the Hall) has been re-purposed as a den which features colourful blue side panels tied on with bright orange rope, kindly made for us by Mrs Rice. The children have thoroughly enjoyed using this enhanced learning space during their Discovery Time and we know they will continue to do so this term.

Wow Moments

We are sure there were many 'Wow' moments for your child over the holidays; feel free to fill in a 'Wow' sheet to capture their achievements. These sheets enable us to obtain an understanding of your child's achievements beyond the 'school gate'; they are placed in your child's Learning Journal and the information we gather from them is a valuable source of evidence. 'Wow' sheets are available for you to take from a plastic folder attached to the Year R noticeboard in the cloakroom.

Reminders and Information:

- Please check that your child's name is still clearly visible in all their clothing and on all of their belongings (such as snack pots and drink bottles). We are finding that as the year has gone on and more washes have taken place, some names have faded which makes returning the item to its owner a slower process.
- Your child will need plimsolls for P.E this term. We would be very grateful if a pair of plimsolls could be included in their P.E kit as soon as possible. Again, your child's name needs to be written inside these to ensure they end up with the correct pair at the end of each P.E session. Thank you!



The children are encouraged to only bring **one small toy** in from home. We ask that the toy is not precious, valuable or electrical, and that it can fit into a pocket. Please may you kindly remind your child that if they bring in a toy, it is their responsibility to look after it.

- Please feel free to write any general comments about your child's reading in their purple comments book. It is also helpful for us to receive some notification of your child having read their book. This could be as simple as the title being recorded and a tick put next to it.
- Just before the holidays, we sent home a letter detailing arrangements for 'Show and Tell' time this half term for Year R. Please take a look at this and make a note of the date for your child's opportunity to 'Show and Tell'. There is also a copy displayed on the notice board in the Year R cloakroom.



Thank you for all of your support during our second 'Stay and Play' session. It was wonderful to see so many of you and it was an absolute pleasure to walk around and hear the children excitedly talking to you about the work in their Learning Journals. We also know that they enjoyed creating their front covers with you; we hope you'll agree that they look fantastic and make you want to turn the page to see their collection of work from the spring term.

The Summer Term

Please find attached to this letter the topic overview for the first half of this term. Once again this is set out as a jigsaw and shows how the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum is organised into seven areas of learning and links to our 'Bear-necessities!' topic which has theme of bears running



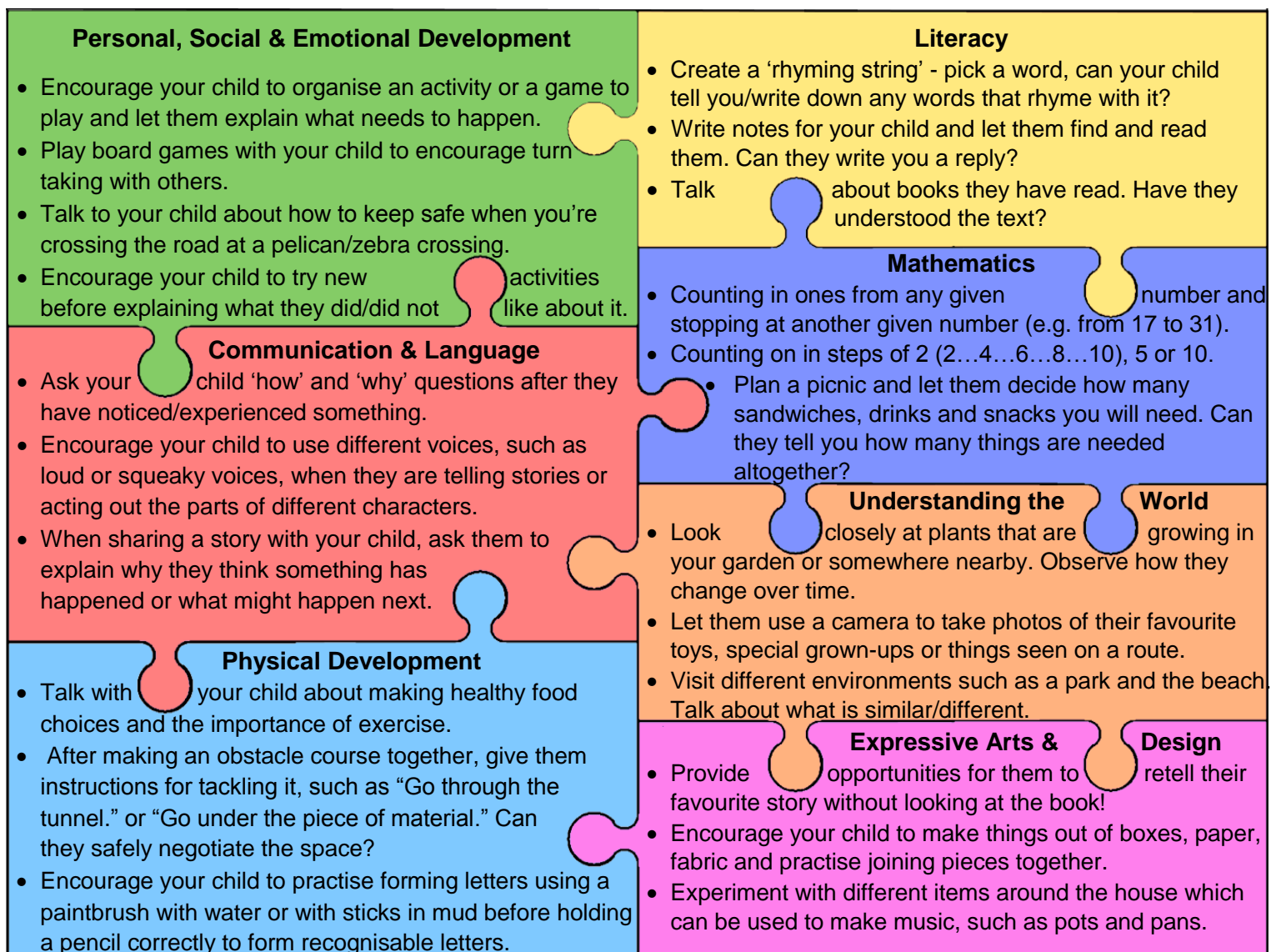
through it. We hope that this will provide you with a more detailed insight into what your child will be learning about over the coming weeks. The children have already been begun to find out about different types of bears and we will be building on what they already know.

We use lots of small boxes, bottle tops, tin foil/wrapping paper, beads etc in our 'creative workshop' and we are always grateful for odds and ends like this that you might usually recycle or throw away, to replenish our supplies. Thank you to everyone who brings in a **little and often**, as we do have a storage problem!

Things to follow in the next week or two:

- ★ A letter detailing the date for Year R's first class assembly;
- ★ Details about our 'JYS Build a Bear Factory' – please do not tell your child about this...we want it to be a secret!
- ★ Letter formation practice sheets which will also include a sheet of sayings that the children hear at school to help them form the letters correctly;
- ★ A date for a 'Teddy Bear's Picnic' to which parents are invited.

Below are some suggestions of other ways that you can help your child at home:



Finally...

Today, you will be receiving home your child's jam-packed spring term Learning Journal. We ask that you spend time over the weekend looking at, enjoying and reflecting upon your child's work from last term. We also hope that you will record some comments on the speech bubble (on the next page) to feedback your thoughts on your child's achievements. You may like to record a sentence or two about what your child enjoyed learning about/doing. What were their highlights?

Please return the Learning Journal by the end of Week 3 so that we can keep it as evidence in school of the work completed during the spring term. Enjoy!

End of spring term reflection