



# Jessie Younghusband School

## **Year 6 – Summer Term – Curriculum Letter**

As ever, we have an extremely busy term ahead, so I hope you have all enjoyed a restful Easter break. This term is, of course, Year 6's final one with us. The children have returned full of energy and enthusiasm, and have really hit the ground running this week, so I am confident this will be their most successful yet.

### **KS2 tests**

I've been enormously proud of how mature our Year 6s have been in their approach to the forthcoming KS2 tests, with everyone really rising to the challenge and aspiring to do their best. The content of the tests is now significantly harder than in the past, with the expected standard of 10 & 11 year olds having risen dramatically, but this class has continued to surpass my (high!) expectations throughout the year. Results from our recent 'mock' test week, in which the pupils sat a sample version of the new tougher tests, were very pleasing and I am confident they are ready to tackle the real ones in May. Here are the all-important dates:

<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May</b>
<b>Reading test</b>	<b>Spelling, punctuation and grammar tests – papers 1 &amp; 2.</b>	<b>Maths tests – papers 1 &amp; 2.</b>	<b>Maths test – paper 3.</b>

I'd like to reiterate my key message that these KS2 tests are designed to assess the school, rather than the pupils. They are not a qualification or an entrance exam for high school, and really should not be the cause of undue worry or stress. Please do come and see me if you or your child has any concerns relating to the tests, but please rest assured that they are fully prepared and ready to do well.

### **This term's topic**

The first few weeks of this term will primarily be spent preparing for (and doing) the KS2 tests, and so our final topic will begin in earnest from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May. This topic – 'Islands and Independence' – will focus on Michael Morpurgo's book Kensuke's Kingdom. As well as geography based work on islands, this will include plenty of Art, Science and DT, to ensure the children get a chance to have a creative outlet after all their hard work on Literacy and Maths in the lead up to their tests. One of the key themes of Kensuke's Kingdom is independence, which ties in nicely with the transition work we will be doing ahead of their move to secondary school.

### **P.E.**

P.E. lessons will continue to be on Tuesday afternoons and Thursday mornings for the first half term. It is, however, useful to have P.E. kit 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 continue to 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 usually be set each Tuesday and due in again the following Monday. 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.

### **Reading**

Regular reading is essential, daily if possible. This could include reading books (fiction and non-fiction), newspapers, magazines and 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 is reading from time to time – this helps to consolidate their understanding of 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.

Thanks, as always, for your support. I look forward to being involved in your pupil's final term with us and hope to make it their most enjoyable yet.