



Jessie Younghusband School

Year R - Spring Term - Curriculum Letter

As a team, we would like to say a really BIG thank you for all your generosity and kind wishes for Christmas and the New Year, we all felt very cared for! Thank you and a Happy New Year to you all! We hope you all had a relaxing and peaceful Christmas and enjoyed spending time with family and friends.

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

Last term's highlights:

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

- Getting to know each other and beginning to build friendships.
- Sharing our favourite books and songs.
- Beginning to learn to read and write.
- Finding a penguin whilst exploring our school grounds.
- Making ice pictures and learning about Emperor penguins.
- The Christmas production and Year R star dance; both of which brought smiles to a great many faces!
- Two successful 'Stay and Play' sessions – please look out for photographs from your visit in your child's Learning Journal!



We would also like to thank the team of firefighters for very kindly visiting school to speak to the class about fire safety. From comments we have received from you, the children have shared this learning with their families; you may have even practiced how to 'Stop, Drop, Cover and Roll'! The expressions on the children's faces, when they were trying to knock a tennis ball off a cone with the fire hose, were priceless!

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 can you 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, after a term's worth of washing, some names have faded which makes returning the item to its owner a slower process.
- Please provide them with clothing that they are confident to put on for themselves. We help children to zip up their coat, and turn sleeves in the right way but we are now encouraging them to try to do this themselves, as it helps them to be independent. Therefore, learning to zip up their coat and put their gloves on etc at home would be really useful. 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.
- This week, we sent home a letter detailing arrangements for 'Show and Tell' time 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'.
- In the coming weeks, we will be sending home a note explaining the 'word strips' that you will soon be receiving for your child to practise reading.

Thank you for all of your support helping to settle the children in the morning when they arrive. Now that they are all happy, settled and familiar with the routine, we would like to develop their independence and would appreciate you helping us with this. It would be wonderful if you could let your child come into the classroom, from the cloakroom, on their own. This will enable us to get the children settled to their 'Funky Fingers' activities promptly.

The Spring Term

Please find attached to this letter the topic overview for 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 'Out of this World!' topic which has themes of colour, shape and space 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 asking questions about space and space travel in response to a range of experiences, such as visiting the Novium museum, playing with toys they have at home or things they have seen on television, and we will be building on what they already know.



Please continue to go through your child's phonic folders regularly. We will be concentrating on two letter phonemes, if your child is confident with the single letter phonemes. At this stage children find it difficult to identify phonemes made with two letters like 'ai' as in 'rain', so the more regularly you can point them out in words, the better.

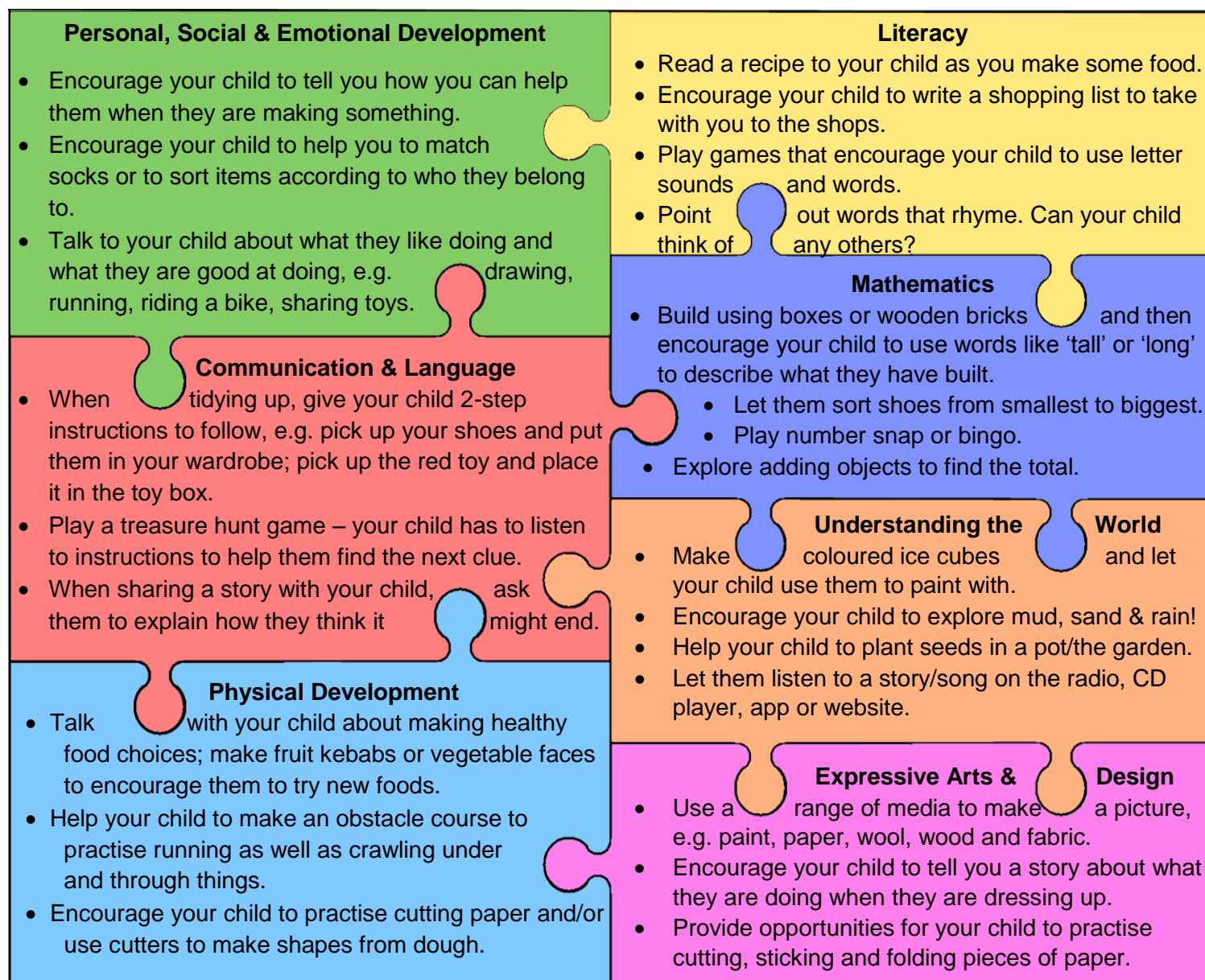
Most children can confidently make the sound in response to a letter; the next step is to help the children to write the letter in response to the sound. This is really important as the children are beginning to break down words into sounds and they need to remember what the letter looks like to write it. Having the sound card (given out at the phonics meeting during the autumn term) to refer to, will really support this. Please speak to a member of the Year R team if you would like another copy of the sound card.

It will support your child's writing if you encourage your child to think of a word with a particular phoneme in the middle and end of a word as well as at the beginning e.g. 's' in sock, music, knes. Your child may list words that begin with, say, 't' easily; can they suggest words that end with 't'? Can they hear the 't' sound in the middle of a word?

Please encourage your child to write their surname (family name), as well as their first name. These kinds of activities are most effective if they are fun and carried out for short periods of time, such as five minutes here and there. Thank you very much for your support.

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. Please keep an eye out for the sign we have hanging on the pillar in the cloakroom changing as it indicates if we are in need of more supplies.

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 autumn 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 also like to record a sentence or two about what your child enjoyed learning about/doing. What were their highlights? These speech bubbles will be stuck into your child's journal when they are returned to school.

Please return the Learning Journal by the end of Week 3 (Friday 20th January) so that we can keep it as evidence in school of the work completed during the autumn term. Enjoy!

Miss Baitup and Miss Hendriksen

End of autumn term reflection