



# Jessie Younghusband School

## Year R - Spring Term - Curriculum Letter

Hopefully you will have seen our message at the end of last term in Tapestry but to reiterate: 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;
- Understanding ourselves and others, exploring special celebrations through cooking, music, role play and art;
- Beginning to learn to read and write;
- Learning about people who help us including a visit from the fire service and Little City;
- Thinking about how we change and grow including a visit from Max and Lottie's little siblings;
- Our Christmas performance - which brought smiles to many faces!

### Show and Tell

Show and Tell was a great success last term. Hopefully you will have seen the new rota go out, but here is a reminder just in case:

<b>Animal group</b>	<b>Week</b>	<b>Week beginning</b>
Crocodiles	2	17.1.25
Lions	3	24.1.25
Zebras	4	31.1.25
Elephants	5	7.2.25
Giraffes	6	14.2.25

### Reminders and Information:

- Please can you check that your child's name is still clearly visible in all their clothing and on all their belongings (such as snack pots, drink bottles, hats, gloves and jumpers)? 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 can I remind you to provide a spare pair of clothes in a named carrier bag to go on their peg in case of accidents and messy play? In addition, if you have any spare/unwanted pants, socks and tights, we would be grateful for these to add to our emergency collection.
- If you haven't already, please return your child's P.E kit after the holiday wash. The children will be continuing with gymnastics so will not require P.E shoes this half term.

Thank you for all your support helping to settle the children in the morning when they arrive. They are becoming happy, settled and familiar with the routine, which is fantastic being only one term in.

All members of the Year R team have a designated day on the gate in the mornings so that you get to see us all. I have a fantastic team supporting me, who often know the answers to your questions.

## The Spring Term

Our theme this half term is 'Once upon a rhyme' focusing on traditional tales and rhymes. We will have great fun orally re-telling and acting out our stories, delving into repeating phrases and rich vocabulary. After half term we will move on to 'Roots, shoots and muddy boots' and grow our own produce and look more closely at plants and what they need. We are excited to use some of the compost made by our tiger worms from our fruit snacks.



## Home learning

**Although we don't have traditional home learning like the older classes, phonics is still a huge priority for daily/weekly practice. Please continue to go through your child's phonic folders regularly to ensure your child is keeping up with all the new sound and tricky word flashcards. Please also continue to work on the letter formation in the phonics folder.**

We will be concentrating on two letter phonemes (digraphs), if your child is confident with the single letter phonemes. At this stage children can find it tricky to identify digraphs letters like 'ai' as in 'rain', so the more regularly you can point them out in words, the better. 'Robot talking' is equally as important, both hearing it and saying it themselves which underpins both reading and writing. Play a game where you robot talk a word and your child has to guess what you are saying e.g. 'm-o-p.' Swap role, see if they can robot talk you a word for you to guess (they may need some ideas of simple words to start with such as cup, cat, mat, rug, dog, dug... rather than snowman!)

At school, the children are now writing words and short sentences. Encouraging writing at home is important in real life contexts e.g. helping to write a shopping list or leaving a note for someone when leaving the house. We encourage children to write in a phonetically plausible way e.g. bread may be written like bred or sausage as sosij. This is perfect for the age they are, and we don't yet correct the children to keep their confidence. There are some words that we will encourage the children to spell 'correctly' which are the tricky words the children have learnt in class. You will be familiar with these as they are sent home as flashcards in the wallet as we learn them. I will send home a sound mat to support the children with their writing at home. It is a great bridging tool if the children know which sound they want to use but don't know what it looks like.

Please continue to read our weekly updates on Tapestry. At the end of each week's summary there are often additional ways to support at home linked to our learning that week. I also love to see the things you are doing at home so please continue to add observations of your own.

## Finally...

Please do let me know if you have any queries or questions as a strong home school partnership lays the foundations for a happy, successful learning journey.

Thank you for your continued support and best wishes for a very happy 2025.

Mrs Appleby ☺