



Jessie Younghusband School

Year 2 – Curriculum Letter – Spring Term

Welcome back – I hope you've all enjoyed a fantastic Christmas break with your families. This curriculum letter will provide some useful information about the Spring term in Year 2. You can find out more detail about the specific areas of learning and curriculum content on our school website (www.jys.org.uk) under the 'classes' tab.

This term's topics

Our first topic this half term is called 'London Bridge is Falling Down'. This will build on some of the History learning the children began in their Year 1 topic 'The Great Fire of London', and be Science based, as we learn about materials and their properties, and why certain building materials are more suited to their purpose than others.

PE Kits

PE lessons will be on Monday and Tuesday afternoons this year, though it's useful to keep PE kits in school throughout the week in case of any ad-hoc sporting activities. We will aim to ensure PE kits are taken home at the end of each half term and would appreciate your help in getting these washed ready to be returned afterwards. Our Mondays, PE lessons for the first half term will be football. We will be on the field, which is likely to be muddy in the winter months. If you have an old pair of trainers (or already own a pair of football boots) that you don't mind potentially getting a bit muddy, these would be useful to have in school between now and the February half term.

Reading

Regular reading is the single most impactful thing you can do to help your child's academic development. Each Friday, we'll give the children a book from the school reading scheme to take home. The book will be sent home in a plastic wallet, inside their bag, in order to protect it from water bottle spillages or from becoming accidentally bent or torn. Please enjoy reading and re-reading the book at home with your child several times in order to develop their fluency and understanding of the story. We'd appreciate you making a short comment in their 'reading comments' book as well, which is also kept in the plastic wallet and brought into school every day.

The school reading scheme books are closely linked to the phonics work we're doing in class, to ensure the books they're reading are well-pitched for their level of development. Please do feel free to complement this with other reading alongside this however - in fact, the wider the range of reading, the better. Exposure to a wide range of different stories, magazines, comics etc will help them to find their own areas of interest, and help to foster a love of reading alongside their increasing fluency.

Home learning

Following last term's trial of a choice-based approach to homework and the subsequent feedback from our follow-up survey, we have decided to return to a more formal weekly homework structure. Starting this term, homework will be assigned weekly and will include

either a reading, writing/grammar, or maths activity, along with spellings and number facts. We want to emphasise that homework is not compulsory; we understand that life can sometimes interfere with completing assignments, and children will not be quizzed or penalised if homework is not returned. However, we encourage families to prioritise reading, as research consistently highlights its positive impact on children's learning and development. Thank you for your valuable feedback and ongoing support.

Show & Tell

We'll have a short opportunity for 'Show & Tell' during Privilege Time on a Friday afternoon. Please avoid sending in things like toys which have fairly limited opportunity for worthwhile discussion. Photos or short videos from day trips, holidays or events they've participated in are often better, and allow the child to talk about an experience they've enjoyed with their classmates. These can be emailed to office@jys.org.uk and marked as Y2 Show & Tell.

Contact

We know how important it is to be in regular communication with you as parents, sharing information to ensure we can each support the children both at school and at home. I am available for short conversations before school and for longer conversations after school and will aim to make myself visible and available outside the Year 2 classroom each day. Please feel free to say hello, or to ask any questions you may have! Should you need to get in contact via email, we ask that these are directed to office@jys.org.uk who will forward your message on.

Miss Kaur

We're pleased to welcome Miss Kaur to Year 2 this term. She is a final-year teaching student from the University of Chichester who will be joining us for the next 10 weeks. We look forward to working with her during our lessons.

Thank You

Mrs. Ayers and I would like to say a big thank you to Year 2 parents and carers for the extremely kind and thoughtful gifts and cards we received at Christmas. We feel very lucky – thank you so much for your generosity!

Year 2 Diary Dates

- Friday 7th February – TT Rockstars Day (whole school – details to follow)
- Wednesday 12th & Thursday 13th February – Parents' Evening (details to follow)
- Monday 17th – Friday 21st February – Half Term Break
- Monday 24th February – Inset day (school closed to pupils)
- Friday 7th March – World Book Day (whole school – details to follow)
- Friday 21st March – Red Nose Day (whole school – details to follow)
- Friday 4th April – Last day of term

Best wishes,

Mr. Vass

Year 2 Class Teacher