



Jessie Younghusband School

Year 4 – Curriculum Letter – Spring Term 2025

A really big thank you for the many cards and presents that were given to us, as a year 4 team, for Christmas. The lovely hampers full of goodies and the vouchers for us to enjoy spending in the New year, as well as gifts from individuals that we received. It was very kind of you all. We hope that you have all had an enjoyable break.

Welcome to the spring term in Year 4. The purpose of this curriculum letter is to give you useful information relating to your child's learning over the coming term.

Reminders:

- The home learning will return to a weekly format. It will be set on a Friday and will include a task, a spelling list and a table for the week to learn. The home learning books will be returned to school by the Wednesday, or Thursday at the latest, of the following week.



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.

- Our **P.E. days** will continue to be a **Thursday** along with swimming. There will be some additional sessions this half term, with our amazing dance teacher, Rachael. On Thursdays for swimming, we will continue to meet at the Westgate leisure Centre, as we did last term. (**starting 16th January**)
- Please send a written note if your child has a verruca and cannot do P.E. barefooted or if your child is unable to take part in P.E. for a medical reason. For safety reasons, no watches or jewellery should be worn during P.E. lessons. If your child wears earrings and it is not possible for them to be removed for P.E, we will tape them up.
- **Regular reading** is essential, reading with your child will help to improve their fluency, confidence and understanding. Reading does not always have to be just from a book, it can be a magazine or children's newspaper. Please use the reading comprehension sheet at the front of the comments book to give ideas for questions and please **record your reading**.
- It is important that your child practises their **times tables** regularly as we continue to approach the Year 4 Multiplication Check in the Summer term. Some fun websites we use to improve fluency are '**TT Rockstars**', and '**Hit the Button**'. You can also practise the Multiplication Check layout by typing '**The Maths Factor Times Table Check**' into Google.



This term:

In the first half of this term, we are putting on our warm clothes and diving into the world of Antarctica to investigate the life of Ernest Shackleton and his expedition in our Geography learning theme, 'Mountain Explorers!' We will have a focus on Shackleton as an explorer, whilst also identifying mountain ranges across the world, comparing these to the conditions in the United Kingdom. We will be writing letters to explorers, making information posters, going on a virtual walk-up Mt Snowdon and learning all about how mountains are formed. The children will also be undertaking the spring PiXL assessments in reading, writing and maths.



In the second half of the spring term, our learning theme will be named 'Potions'. This is a Science based theme all about the changing states of matter. In this unit we will be learning through hands-on science activities and experiments. We will be creating our own marvellous potions and observing their changing states and writing instructions on how to create these.

Ideas for supporting your child's learning:

- Keep reading regularly with your child at home checking their understanding of what they are reading.
- Encourage your child to practise their times tables and learn their spellings. TT Rockstars' day is 7th February.
- Find out about Shackleton's Journey together by reading books and researching the topic on the internet.

If you have any questions as the term progresses, or would like to discuss anything with us, please catch us at the end of the school day, or contact the office to make an appointment, if it is more convenient.

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

Mrs Saunders and Mrs Potter