



# Jessie Younghusband School

## Year 6 – Curriculum Letter – Autumn Term 2024

Welcome to Year 6 and our autumn term curriculum letter. Here you will find useful information relating to this term and information to assist your child in Year 6. I am delighted to be working again with Mrs McGurk this year in Year 6. There will be an open afternoon on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October where I will have an opportunity to introduce myself as well as highlight key points contained in this letter. A copy of this year's long-term planning provides an overview of the areas of learning and curriculum content that the children will be studying this term. This can be found on our school website: [www.jys.org.uk](http://www.jys.org.uk).

We have already enjoyed welcoming back the children after their summer and we have had a great first week - we look forward to a brilliant year ahead.

### **Autumn 1 - Ancient Maya Civilisation**



This half-term, the Year 6 children will learn about the ancient Maya civilisation. In this history unit, the children will learn who the Maya people were and when and where in the world they lived; explain what the Mayan writing system consisted of and how words were constructed; and identify and use a range of evidence sources to help understand more about the Maya civilisation.

In addition, Paul Ullson (History specialist) will join the children on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September for an 'emergence morning' on the topic.

### **Autumn 2 - Migration**

After half-term, the children will be learning about migration & refugees. In this geography unit, the children will gain an understanding of the reasons why people may leave their homes; understand key physical and human factors involved in migration; and map the journey of a Syrian refugee to England.

### **JYS Hoodies**

The children will have the opportunity to wear JYS hoodies as part of their uniform in Year 6 later this term. A letter will be sent out in due course with further details.

### **Residential trip to Cobnor**

After successful trips to Cobnor Activity Centre over the last couple of years, we are delighted to be visiting again in the Summer term on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2025. Further details will be sent out in due course, with an information meeting taking place in the Spring term.



## **Routines and reminders**

### **P.E.**

Our P.E. lessons will be on **Monday** and **Wednesday** afternoons each week. In the first half-term, children's lessons will focus on: football and netball; and after half-term: dance and ultimate frisbee. For the first three weeks, we will be joined by Tim Vail, the Under 19 England Lead Squash Coach from Chichester Racquets & Fitness Club, to give the children an opportunity to play squash at school. Later in the year, the children will have a chance to visit the club and will have an opportunity to play on the courts.

I would be grateful if P.E. kits could be in school all week from Monday morning. For safety reasons, no watches or jewellery should be worn during P.E. lessons.

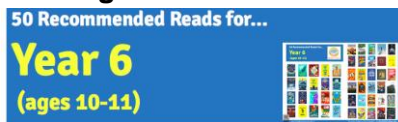
### **Mobile Phones**

We appreciate that some children may have mobile phones but advise where possible that these devices are left at home.

### **Home Learning**

Home learning is usually set on a Friday and should be completed and returned by the following Wednesday. Home learning tasks will usually be set once a week. The type of tasks set will vary, but will usually include one piece of English and one piece of maths, designed to reinforce what they have learnt in class the week before. Occasionally, the children will be set a small project linked to their theme focus and when this occurs, more time is given to complete their home learning.

### **Reading**



NEWLY UPDATED!  
We have selected a list of 50 recommended books for children aged 10-11. Find the best books for children in Year 6, including storytime read-alouds, edge-of-your-seat thrillers, issue-based stories, laugh-out-loud books, picturebooks, graphic novels, poetry and non-fiction. We've tried to include something for all tastes - but look out for legendary sea monsters, Wundrous societies, clocks that strike thirteen and the scariest school detention ever...

Scroll down to find more purchasing options and printable resources.



Regular reading is essential, daily if possible. This could include reading books (fiction and non-fiction), newspapers, magazines and comics, the wider the range of genres that your child reads, the better. Many children will now 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 have read. We have a library of books exclusively for Year 6 within the classroom that they are welcome to borrow to read at home. Please encourage your children to fill in their reading comments books as often as possible to celebrate the books they are reading. I'm always discussing and recommending books for the children to read and often asked by parents for recommendations. 'Books for Topics' is an excellent website (see link at the end of the letter) with specific recommendations for each year groups. The webpage is regularly updated throughout the year.

### **Spellings**

The children will receive a spelling list for the first half-term with words linked to spelling pattern they have been learning in class. Initially, the word lists given in Year 6 consolidate and extend spelling patterns, which have been seen in previous years. Following this, we then focus on irregular words which are commonly used by 10–12-year-olds in their everyday writing and more complex spelling patterns. Please help your children to practise their spellings where possible. The children will learn a variety of different ways this can be done.

**Ideas for supporting your child's learning:**

Useful websites include:

- <http://nrich.maths.org> – An excellent source of maths challenges.
- <https://corbettmathsprimary.com> - a useful maths website with videos and resources to help consolidate their maths learning.
- <https://www.ttrockstars.com> - A brilliant resource to help improve times table and division recall speed!
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zq6svcw> - A collection of useful videos to help support learning on the Maya civilization.
- <https://www.booksfortopics.com/year-6> - An excellent website to help your children select books for reading.

I look forward to being involved in your child's final year with us and hope to make it enjoyable. If you have any questions as the term progresses, or would like to discuss anything with me, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Mr Harman