





# Jessie Younghusband School

## Year 1 – Curriculum Letter – Spring Term

Welcome to the spring term in Year 1! The purpose of this curriculum letter is to give you useful information relating to your child's learning over the coming term.

### Reminders:

- As last term, **home learning activities** will be sent home on a Friday, to be completed and returned by the following Wednesday please. The task sheet(s) will be sent home inside the children's reading book zippy wallets.
- Our **P.E. days** will continue to be on **Tuesdays and Thursdays**. However, please make sure that your child has their P.E. kit in school all week from Monday morning, as the children may need them for lessons, clubs and ad-hoc sporting activities at different points during the week. P.E. kits will be sent home every half term. 
- Please send a written note in 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., please let me know.
- **'Show and Tell'** sessions will continue on Friday afternoons, to allow the children time to share any exciting news or items with the class. Like last term, these sessions will rotate on a group-by-group basis and, by the time you read this, you should have already received a separate ParentMail letter containing the rota for the coming half term!
- **Regular reading** is essential, daily if possible, in order to build your child's fluency and confidence. It is vital that the children are given frequent opportunities to practise applying their phonics skills so that they can develop efficient decoding strategies. It is also really important for them to practise using the picture cues and to spend time talking about what they are reading, in order to develop their understanding and comprehension skills. In addition to the school's reading scheme books, please encourage your child to read their own fiction and non-fiction books, magazines, comics and library books. It is really valuable to hear your comments about how your child is getting on with their reading at home, so please do continue to leave a comment in your child's reading record book each time they read to you. 

### Last term:

The autumn term was an important one for the children as they settled into Year 1, getting used to different routines and learning styles. There were many highlights which included:

- Learning outdoors during our wonderful Forest Schools sessions;
- Investigating the weather and seasons in our 'Weather Wizardry' learning theme;
- Exploring the history of toys and enjoying a special visit from 'Paulinus the Wise Man';
- Designing and making our 'Moving Pictures' in design and technology.

Thank you for all you have done to enable the children to settle into Year 1 so well. Thank you for supporting us with home learning, reading and Show and Tell items. Your time and efforts are greatly appreciated and they really enhance the children's experiences and learning.

### **This term:**



This term promises to be just as exciting and fun as the last! Our learning theme for the first half of the spring term will be '**London's Burning!**', during which we will be finding out all about the Great Fire of London. Whilst the main subject driver for this learning theme is history, there will be many cross-curricular links to other subjects including literacy, science, PSHE and art.

In the second half of the spring term, our learning theme will be '**Home Sweet Home**', during which we will be exploring different types of homes around the world.



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

- Keep reading regularly with your child at home.
- Please have a look at the Year 1 Virtual Learning Environment for resources to support maths and literacy learning at home. In particular:
  - Continue to use the 'Year 1 Phonics Sound Mat' (along with the phonics resources that were given out for Home Learning during the autumn term), to develop your child's confidence with recognising and saying the different phonic sounds (digraphs and trigraphs);
  - Practise the number bonds to ten (and then to twenty) with your child until they can recall the pairs of numbers that add together to make the total instantly and without hesitation. For example, when you say '7', they say '3' or when you say '4', they say '6';
  - Practise counting up to 100 together, going forwards and backwards in ones and then in tens, twos and fives. Start from zero first but then give your child different starting numbers when they are more confident. Can they say what is 'one more' or 'one less' than any given number up to 100? Can they tell you whether a number is 'even' or 'odd'?
- Continue to talk about the weather with your child! Talk about what changes they can see and feel in the environment around them as the seasons change.
- Find out about The Great Fire of London together by reading books and researching the topic on the internet.

### **Finally . . .**

As ever, if you have any questions as the term progresses, or would like to discuss anything with me, please catch me 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 2022.

Mrs Neville