



# Jessie Younghusband School

## Year 4 – Curriculum Letter – Autumn Term 2019

Welcome to Year 4 and our autumn term curriculum letter! In this letter you will find useful information relating to this term's topics and special events, along with helpful information for you to assist your child in their first term in Year 4.

### **Important information:**

#### Clothing

- Please can P.E. kit be in school **all week** from Monday morning. Ideally the children will then take them home to be washed on a Friday. We will begin our P.E. units this term with netball and swimming.
- Children should bring a change of clothes and shoes if they intend to use the field at playtime during wet weather.
- To ensure that any 'found' items can be returned to their owners, please can you ensure that your child's P.E. kit and other clothing brought to school is clearly named.
- Children will need their swimming kits on **Thursdays**.



#### Home Learning

- In preparation for the new times tables test in Year 4, I ask if you can please encourage your children to practice their times tables at home. A fun way to do this is by logging into Times Table Rockstars ([www.ttrockstars.com](http://www.ttrockstars.com)).
- Home Learning is usually set on a **Friday** and should be returned to school by the following **Wednesday**. This is unless a project task is set in which the children will have more time to complete it. In most instances, home learning will be linked to what the children have been learning in class that week or a task in preparation for the following week's learning.
- The children will receive a **spelling list every Friday** along with their Home Learning task. These spellings will be reviewed every Friday morning so the children have a week to practice these at home and become confident at spelling these words independently.
- Please try and read with your children as much as possible – supporting your child by listening to them read and engaging with them on the content of their reading material.

### **This term half term:**



We will be kicking off this term by learning about the animal kingdom, with a specific focus on the Serengeti, in our topic "The Circle of Life". Sadly, we are unable to fund a whole class trip to Africa however; we will be able to visit these animals on our class trip to Marwell Zoo where we will be working with the experienced staff learning about food chains and classification of animals. There will also be a visit from a local wildlife artist who will help us to create detailed paintings of some of the animals we have seen.

## Next half term:

We will move into the following half term, exploring the ancient civilisation of the Benin Kingdom in our topic "The Benin Kingdom". Following on from our last topic, we will be exploring the customs and lifestyles of the Benin people, who lived in West Africa. There will be a very exciting Benin afternoon with our visiting specialist Paul Ullson. The children will re-create the famous Benin artwork using clay and immerse themselves in traditional music, drama activities and much more.



## Ideas for supporting your child's learning:

- Visiting the local library;
- Useful books to read: non-fiction texts about the Serengeti and the Benin Kingdom;
- <https://www.trockstars.com/> - This is a useful site to support your children in their times tables, ahead of this year's times tables test.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v7F3eaQ89kl&t=40s> – This video describes some fun facts about the animals who inhabit the Serengeti.
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z3n7mp3> - This website gives a brief overview of the Benin civilisation.

## Finally...

- I run an 'open door policy' and am available most afternoons to discuss any matters you might have or you may contact the office to arrange a time to speak to me.
- Please let me know if you are able to help out with any special events, trips, activities or volunteer to listen to children read – your help is welcomed and very appreciated.

I really look forward to working together with you and your children over the next year!

Kind regards,

Miss Weir