



Jessie Younghusband School

Year 6 – Curriculum Letter – Autumn Term

Welcome to Year 6. I'm really looking forward to working with your children over the coming year, in partnership with you, to ensure that their final year at JYS is a successful and happy one.

This term

Ancient Egypt

Our first major topic this year is based around Ancient Egypt. Children will discover why the River Nile was so important to this ancient civilisation in Geography, learn about Moses and the origins of Judaism in RE, develop their deduction skills by thinking like archaeologists in History, and much more besides this as part of our cross-curricular learning. A copy of this term's jigsaw sheet, which gives you an overview of the areas of learning and curriculum content that the children will be studying this term, can be found on our school website: www.jys.org.uk. We will be holding an 'Egyptian Day' in the second half term, where we ask that children dress in suitable costumes for a range of practical activities – a separate letter will go out about this nearer the time.

Bowles

Our residential trip to Bowles Outdoor Learning Centre (16th – 18th October) is fast approaching! There will be an information meeting for parents at 2:30pm on Thursday September 28th, alongside some printed materials which will be sent home the same day.

Bikeability

We have our 'Bikeability' cycling safety course to look forward to during the week of 6th – 10th November. Further information will be coming shortly in separate letters and booklets which will be sent home. Please refer to these booklets and ensure that your child's bike is road worthy before this week, to ensure they can enjoy participating in full. The reply slips have – in the past - been tucked away on page 4 of these booklets – please ensure these are signed and returned to the school once they are issued.

Diary Dates

- **14th September** – "Meet The Teacher", Year 6 classroom at 2:45pm.
- **28th September** – Bowles information meeting, Year 6 classroom at 2:30pm.
- **16th – 18th October** – Bowles residential
- **19th October** – Halloween disco
- **23rd – 27th October** – Half term
- **30th October** – INSET day
- **6th – 10th November** – 'Bikeability' Cycling Proficiency training
- **8th December** – Christmas Fair
- **18th December** – Christmas Concert at 6pm

Ideas for supporting your child's learning:

Useful websites include:

- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education> – The fantastic Bitesize website, with KS2 pages on every subject (including some great videos on Ancient Egypt).
- <http://primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/Egypt.html> – A brilliant starting point for learning on Ancient Egypt.
- <http://nrich.maths.org> – An excellent source of maths challenges.

Routines and reminders

P.E.

Our P.E. lessons will be on Wednesday afternoons and Thursday mornings each week. I would be grateful if P.E. kits could be in school all week from Monday morning, however, as the children may need them for clubs and ad-hoc sporting activities at different points during the week, I will encourage everyone to take these home on Friday to be washed. 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.

Home Learning

Home learning tasks will usually be set once a week. The type of tasks set will vary, but will usually include one piece of Literacy and one piece of Maths, designed to reinforce what they have learnt in class the week before. This will be set each Tuesday and due in again the following Monday. If the tasks aren't returned on Monday for any reason, children have an additional chance to bring it in on the Tuesday before being asked to stay in at lunch break to complete it. Each child will be given a home learning book, in which they will stick the tasks set (showing the date on which they need to be handed in). Additional copies of the tasks, if required, are left in folders in the classroom or can be found by logging into the school website.

I am keen for home learning not to become a burden or to create problems at home. If a child has given a piece of work their full attention for at least half an hour but hasn't completed it, I'm happy for them to hand this in unfinished as long as this is accompanied by a short comment from a parent/carer confirming this. Occasionally, you may wish to add other comments to your child's work if there is anything you feel I should know about how they got on – please feel free to do so, or see me after school if you would prefer to discuss it in person.

Reading

Regular reading is essential, daily if possible. This could include reading books (fiction and non-fiction), newspapers, magazines and comics. In fact the wider the range of genres that your child reads, the better. Lots of our writing this year will relate to tailoring writing for different audiences, purposes and genres, so reading a range of texts will help them really understand how writing differs depending on the context. 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've read. We have a library of books exclusively for Year 6 within the classroom that they are welcome to borrow books from to read at home.

Spellings

Spellings will be given out and tested on Tuesday mornings. Initially, the word lists given in Year 6 consolidate and extend spelling patterns and rules 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.

Thanks, as always, for your support. I look forward to being involved in your child's final year with us and hope to make it their most enjoyable and successful yet. If you have any questions as the term progresses, or would like to discuss anything with me, please come and see me at the end of the school day, or contact the school office to make a more formal appointment if preferred.

Best wishes,

Mr. Vass.