



Jessie Younghusband School

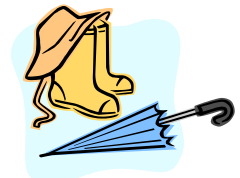
Year R – Curriculum Letter – Autumn Term

We are really pleased with the happy and settled start the children have made in Reception. We thank you for your anticipated support during the rest of the month as we build up the hours the children attend at school. Please note, from Friday 2nd October when the children become full time, the children should arrive at 9am and be collected promptly at 3.15pm.

Your child's year in Reception lays the foundations for the rest of their school journey. We hope that a close partnership between you and the school will provide your child with the security and confidence they need to ensure that they have a positive learning experience. We hope that you will also enjoy getting to know one another over the coming weeks.

Reminders:

- This term will get cold and wet, so we would like to remind you that your child needs to bring a **warm, waterproof coat** to school as during the Reception Year the children are given the opportunity to learn outside whatever the weather! Any practice at home with putting on coats and zipping them up without adult support would be greatly appreciated.
- If you haven't already done so, **please make sure your child has waterproof outerwear (trousers) and wellies in school every day** as we only have a few spares and we do not want their opportunities to use exciting areas such as The Mud Kitchen to be limited. We will also be venturing out to explore the school grounds within the next couple of weeks, whatever the weather, so protective clothing will be vital. Thank you to those parents that have already done so.
- All the children in Year R receive a **free fruit (or sometimes a vegetable) snack** each day. If, however, you would like to provide your own snack for your child to have mid-morning, we do ask that it is fresh fruit or dried fruit such as raisins or apricots or a vegetable such as carrots. Biscuits, snack bars and sandwiches are not allowed. Thank you for your support with this. Please ensure any snacks brought in from home are clearly labelled with your child's name.
- We are impressed with how smart the children are looking in their school uniform. Just a gentle reminder that hair clips, band and bows should be blue, black or brown coloured. Due to the active nature of reception, you may find that it is more comfortable for your child to have their hair tied back, if it is longer than shoulder length. Also, hair gel is acceptable so long as it is being used to keep hair tidy – gel used for more fashionable hair styles will need to be saved for the weekends. Jewellery, other than a simple stud in the ear, are not permitted.
- Please also ensure that your **child's name is clearly visible** in all of their clothing, as this will enable them to find their own belongings. Water bottles also need to be easily identified, as children are encouraged to drink water when they wish.
- P.E. kits – due to the situation we are in due to Covid-19. for the first half term, we are asking that children only bring in a change of shoes for PE (trainers preferably) which should be left 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..



Important Dates and Events

As you can imagine, school is running a little differently at the moment. At this point in the term, we would usually have a couple of informative parent workshops. This may need to take place in a different format, such as Zoom. I will keep you updated with how these will work. Usually, once a month, a whole school newsletter is sent out, the last page always includes the most up-to-date diary dates, so please ensure that you take note of this information.

The Early Years Foundation Stage information:

The Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum is organised into seven areas of learning. There are opportunities for your child to engage in adult led or adult directed learning experiences, and times when your child initiates activities and learning for themselves which is known by the children as 'Discovery Time'. In Reception, we ensure that your child has opportunities to learn in both our indoor and outdoor classrooms, as well as within the school grounds. There is more detail about the seven areas of learning in the Reception Handbook that you received through the post.

This term:

My first priority will be settling the children in to new routines and expectations and ensuring that they are happy in their new environment. It is vital that I get to know the children and they get to know me and the other Year R staff. We will spend a lot of time focusing on well-being after such an unsettled time.



During the first half of this term learning is based around the topic 'Food, Glorious Food!' This will be explored through some well-known traditional stories, e.g. 'The Little Red Hen', 'The Gingerbread Man' and 'The Enormous Turnip' and links will be made to autumn and Harvest. Other themes may also develop to incorporate the children's specific interests.



Please see the information on the school's website which goes in to more detail about how each area of learning is covered through the Early Years curriculum.

In the next few weeks, your child will bring home a phonics folder in their book bag, which as mentioned in the letter inside it, will contain the phonemes (letter sounds) we have learnt each week. New phonemes are added each week on sheets, which have little activities and things for you to share and talk about with your child. Please work through the phonic sheets at your child's own pace. Your child will also receive a reading book and reading diary which will come with instructions on how to use them.

Unfortunately, current restrictions mean that the informal 'hello' chats that we would usually have during the first few weeks of term won't be able to take place this year. However, I already know some of you through teaching your older child(ren) and I look forward to meeting everyone in person properly as the year progresses. In the meantime, if you do need to discuss something with me, please do get in touch via email at rachel.baitup@jys.org.uk.

Thank you for your support. We look forward to getting to know you and seeing more of you in the coming weeks.

With very best wishes,

Mrs Appleby and the Year R team.