






Jessie Younghusband School

Year 1 – Curriculum Letter – Spring Term

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a relaxing and peaceful Christmas and that you enjoyed spending time with family and friends. May I take this opportunity, on behalf of both Mrs Ayers and myself, to say a huge thank you for the wonderful Christmas cards and gifts that we received at the end of last term – we were very touched by your kind words and generosity.

Welcome back 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:

- **Home Learning activities** will be set on a Friday, to be returned by the following Wednesday please. These will be given out in a clear plastic wallet with the task sheet inside.
- As last term, **spellings** will be sent home on a Friday, to be learnt ready for a test on the following Friday. 
- **P.E. kits** should be left in school all week from Monday morning please, 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 resume, to allow the children time to share any exciting news or items with the class. These sessions will happen on Friday afternoons, on a group by group basis, and the children will be told in advance which group's turn it will be each week, in order to give them time to prepare. Please encourage your child to only bring in items that will be of real interest to others in the class!
- **Regular reading** is essential, daily if possible, in order to build your child's fluency and confidence. It is vital that they are given frequent opportunities to practise applying their phonics skills so that they can develop efficient decoding strategies. 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 try and leave a comment in your child's purple 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 in our wonderful Forest Schools sessions;
- Investigating the weather and seasons in our 'Weather Wizardry' topic;
- Learning about the work of different artists, and trying out different styles of art during our 'Arts Week';
- Exploring the history of toys and enjoying a special visit from 'Paulinus the Wise Man';
- Taking part in our fabulous 'Everyone Loves a Baby!' Christmas production;
- Designing and making our 'Roly Poly' moving toys in design and technology.

Thank you for all you have done to enable the children to settle into Year 1 so well and for supporting us with home learning, reading and resources. 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 main topic 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 topic is history, there will be many cross-curricular links to other subjects including literacy, science, PSHE, design and technology and P.E. As part of this topic, we will also be having a visit from West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service, to teach us more about fire safety.

In the second half of the spring term, our topic 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.
- Continue using the phonics information that was given out just before the holidays, to develop your child's confidence with recognising and saying their target sounds.
- Help your child to practise reading and writing the numbers from 0 to 20 in numerals and words. Can they show you what a number represents by using beads, coins, toy cars, pencils or pieces of dried pasta for example?
- Practise counting to twenty (and beyond) together, going forwards and backwards in ones and then in twos. 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 number up to twenty? Can they tell you whether the starting 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 visiting the library 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 come in and see me at the end of the school day, or telephone the office to make an appointment, if it is more convenient.

Thank you for your continued support and best wishes for a very happy 2020.

Mrs Neville