



Jessie Younghusband School

Year 1 – Curriculum Letter – Autumn Term

Welcome to Year 1! I am really looking forward to working with your children, in partnership with you, to ensure that they have a very happy and successful year.

I have already met lots of the Year 1 parents since the start of term, but please do come and say 'hello' if I haven't seen you yet! I am looking forward to getting to know you all over the coming weeks.

The purpose of this curriculum letter is to give you some useful information about the topics, routines and expectations of our class, which I hope you will find both informative and helpful in assisting your child during their first term in Year 1. 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.

Morning Routines and the Year 1 Outside Area

As you will be aware, over the summer a new weather-proof canopy has been installed over the outside area by the Key Stage 1 entrance door. This is an exciting addition as it means that Year 1 will be able to make much more use of this valuable learning environment in all weathers. The space will be an extension to our classroom and we will need to set up various learning equipment and resources before the start of the school day, so that it can be ready for the children to use as soon as the register is taken. As such, if you are waiting for the Key Stage 1 doors to open in the morning, we would be extremely grateful if you could refrain from letting your child/children enter the area. Many thanks.

I have been very impressed with how the children are taking responsibility for sorting out their belongings with parents in the Year 1 corridor and how they have been coming into the classroom by themselves! This is an important step forwards in encouraging the development of their independence and organisational skills. Thank you for your support with this.

Reminders:

- School **reading books** will be taken home on a regular basis. Each child has a plastic zippy wallet in which to store their books inside their school bag, in order to protect the books from water bottle spillages and getting accidentally bent or torn. Please encourage your child to put their purple reading comments book and reading book back in the plastic wallet each night so that they are available during the school day. Reading at home is essential; daily if possible. We encourage the children to visit the library and to read other books at home, as well as those from the school reading scheme. This could include fiction and non-fiction books, children's newspapers, joke books and magazines/comics. In fact, the wider the range of genres that your child reads, the better! Reading with your child regularly, and discussing books with them, will not only help them to develop their fluency and comprehension skills but will also help them to foster a real love of reading.



- **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.
- **Spellings** will be sent home on a Monday to be learnt ready for a test on the Friday. This routine will begin in a couple of weeks.
- **P.E. kits** 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. 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.
- A weekly '**Show and Tell**' session will be held each Friday afternoon, to allow the children time to share any exciting news or items with the class. This will be done 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! This might include items that are related to our current topics and learning, or souvenirs and/or photos from a recent special event, experience, day trip or holiday. Please remind your child that they should be able to talk about their items/experiences in some detail, in order to make it worthwhile sharing with the rest of the class!

This half term

This half term will be an exciting and stimulating one, with many cross-curricular links. This means that there will be strong links between subjects and children can see their learning as being connected, relevant and purposeful. Our main topic for the half term is '**Weather Wizardry**' in which we will focus on learning all about the weather around the world and the seasons. This topic will have links with literacy, maths, science, design and technology, art and computing. The children have already thought of lots of questions relating to our topic that they would like us to find the answers to over the next few weeks!

Forest Schools

Year 1 have the exciting opportunity to take part in Forest Schools sessions later this term. Forest Schools allows the children to learn outside of the classroom and to explore their environment and surroundings. A letter to explain more about this will be sent out in due course.

Ideas for supporting your child's learning:

- Keep reading regularly with your child at home.
- Help your child to practise reading and writing the numbers from 0 to 10 and then to 20. 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 ten (and then to twenty) together, going forwards and backwards in ones. 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 ten (and then up to twenty)?

- Talk about the weather with your child! Discuss how the day length is getting shorter and talk about what changes they can see and feel in the environment around them as the season of summer gives way to the beginning of autumn.
- Talk about any plants and trees that you have in your garden or that you walk past on your way to school. What are they like? Help your child to compare and contrast them. Talk about the different parts of a plant (e.g. stem, leaf, flowers). Can your child name any of the different plants and trees that they see regularly?
- If possible, plant some vegetables or bulbs together at home and watch them grow!



Finally . . .

If you have a particular area of interest that relates to our topic this half term or if you know someone who might, then please contact me as I would welcome visitors to the class to talk to the children.

I look forward to getting to know your child over the coming weeks and I hope that they will gain many rich learning experiences throughout the busy and exciting year ahead. 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.

With very best wishes,

Mrs Neville