



Jessie Younghusband School

Year R – Curriculum Letter – Autumn Term

I am really pleased with the happy and settled start the children have made in Reception. You must be so proud of how well they are doing! The children are coming in independently, putting away their belongings and already starting to make new friends. I know that they will take new routines in their stride as we start to introduce lunchtimes and playtimes; and if they don't, we will be here to support them every step of the way.

We thank you for your anticipated support during the first part of next week as we build up the hours the children attend at school. Please note, from Wednesday 15th September when the children become full time, the children should arrive between 8.35-8.45 and be collected promptly at 3.15pm. Please can I remind you that children are not to play on the trim trail/playground equipment before or after school.

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.

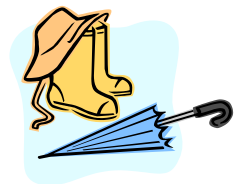
Contact

We know how important it is to be in regular communication with you as parents, sharing information to ensure we can each support them both at school and at home. I am available for short conversations before school and for longer conversations after school, and will aim to make myself visible and available outside the Year 3 classroom each day. Please feel free to say hello!

Now that parents have more access to the school site again, we would kindly ask that email is no longer used as the primary contact point for teachers. Should you need to contact a member of staff via email, we ask that these are now directed to office@jys.org.uk who will forward your message on.

Reminders:

- If you haven't already done so, **please activate your child's Tapestry account ASAP** as it will be vital for communications including accident reporting. Please see the separate letter sent via ParentMail with all the details on how to do this.
- 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 every day** (even if the weather seems pleasant outside as we know how quickly that can change!) 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 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 but we are still waiting on quite a few.
- 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. Jewelry, 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. There are some beautifully decorated book bags but if you haven't already done so, please can you also name them so that adults can easily put in letters etc. I know many of you are still waiting for book bags to arrive so please don't worry. Water bottles also need to be named please even if your child recognises the design/pattern so that the adults are aware who it belongs to. This helps us when returning rogue bottles to their owners! All of the children should now have a free school water bottle that they have brought home, you may choose to use this one at school or continue to use your own. Please can I take the opportunity to remind you that only water is permitted in class water bottles and not squash.
- Please make sure that your child keeps their **P.E. Kit** in their P.E. bag on their peg all of the time. We shall send it home at the end of every half term, so that it can be washed and returned to school after the holidays.

Important Dates and Events

As you can imagine, school is slowly returning to 'normal' 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. We will also be taking a whole class photograph for the Chichester Observer in the next couple of weeks, I will let you know the date as soon as I know. When you completed your child's welcome book you will have informed the school about whether your child's photo can be 'published' which is the category that newspaper photographs fall in to. If you are unsure about this, please come to speak to me.

Whole school newsletters are sent out on a regular basis which include the most up-to-date diary dates, so please ensure that you take note of this information.

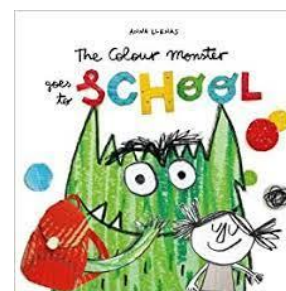
The Early Years Foundation Stage information:

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 classroom, 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 back in June.

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.

As well as completing the Reception Baseline Assessment (please see the separate letter for further detail) I will be getting to know the children to understand their starting points to best support their learning moving forward.



The children thoroughly enjoyed The Colour Monster story on the Taster Sessions as they've asked to re-read it a couple of times. We have also read The Colour Monster goes to school, which has prompted discussions on misconceptions about school and feelings around starting somewhere new. We will continue to talk about feelings, class expectations and being part of the wider school community.

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.