



Jessie Younghusband School

Year 6 – Curriculum Letter – Spring Term

I hope you all had a good Christmas and Happy New Year. May I take this opportunity, on behalf of Mrs Kibble and myself, to say thank you for all of the wonderful Christmas cards and gifts that we received at the end of last term. I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce Miss Carter, a trainee teacher who will be working in Year 6 along myself and Mrs Kibble.

The purpose of this curriculum letter is to provide useful information relating to your child's learning this term, as well as a summary of the highlights of the autumn term.

Highlights from last term:

The autumn term was an extremely busy one for us in Year 6, learning about Word War II and refugees. There were many highlights, including: 'Bikeability', Bowles, class assembly, the Christmas Fair and performing at the KS2 Christmas concert.

This term

Finders Keepers - Ancient Egypt

This half term the children will learn about the Ancient Egyptians. The children will discover why the River Nile was so important to this ancient civilisation and will learn about Moses and the origins of Judaism in RE. Through this, the children will develop their deduction skills by thinking like archaeologists in History, and much more as part of our cross-curricular learning.

Darwin's Delight - An exploration on the HMS Beagle.

In Science children will look at the significance of Charles Darwin. They will learn about his voyage on HMS Beagle to the Galápagos Islands and the amazing species that helped Darwin to develop his theory of evolution by natural selection. In geography the children will focus on these islands.

Alongside our exciting topic work this term, we will begin and to prepare for the forthcoming National Curriculum tests. The children will be sitting practice tests again this term in order to help give them a sense of what it will be like in May. They will sit papers in Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling, Reading and Maths. An information meeting will be held on Tuesday 21st January at 5:30pm.

P.E.

P.E. lessons will primarily be on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons for the spring term. I would be grateful if P.E. kits could be in school all week from Monday morning, as the children may need them for clubs and ad-hoc sporting activities at different points during the week. Please ensure kits are taken home over the weekend to be washed. If your child wears earrings and it is not possible for them to be removed for P.E., please let me know. If children would like to play football at

lunchtimes, they will need a full change of clothes (tracksuit bottoms and tracksuit top).

Home learning

Home learning tasks continue to be set once a week, typically in Literacy and Maths but occasionally in other subjects as well. This will be set each Friday and due in again the following Wednesday. Additional copies of the tasks, if required, are left in folders in the classroom.

Reading

Regular reading is essential, daily if possible. This could include reading books (fiction and non-fiction), newspapers, magazines/comics etc. The majority of our writing this term 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. Whilst many children will be reading independently, please do continue to discuss the books or texts your child is reading from time to time – this helps to gauge their understanding of what they are reading. The children will be expected to fill in their reading record at least three times a week and this will be checked weekly.

Spellings

Spellings patterns and rules will continue to be learnt and explored in class. Thank you for your continued support in helping your children to learn them at home. The children at the end of last term received a list of all key-spelling words they will be assessed on this term.

Ideas for supporting your child's learning:

Useful websites include:

- <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.
- <https://corbettmathsprimary.com> - a useful maths website with videos and resources to help consolidate their maths learning.
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education> – The fantastic Bitesize website, with KS2 pages on every subject (including some great videos on Ancient Egypt).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all the support you have given your child over the last term with their reading and home learning tasks. Your time and efforts are greatly appreciated and enhance the children's learning experiences hugely.

Best wishes,

Mr Harman