



Jessie Younghusband School

Year 6 – Curriculum Letter – Spring Term 2022

I hope you all had a good Christmas and Happy New Year. May I take this opportunity, on behalf of Mrs McGurk, Mrs Rattray and myself, to say thank you for all of the wonderful Christmas cards and gifts that we received at the end of last term.

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 World War II and refugees. There were many highlights, including: the creation of amazing clay sculptures inspired by the works of Henry Moore, delicious soup recipes created in DT and fantastic results in the interschool athletic events. The children also enjoyed a workshop about the role of a Magistrate judge in court and were delighted to receive a video response from Gillian Keegan after writing to her last year about the COP26 summit.

This term

History - 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 continue to learn about Moses and the origins of Judaism in RE. The children will explore artefacts from the Novium Museum and learn about the pyramids and the Ancient Egyptian deities.

Geography – Volcanoes

We will be undertaking an in-depth study of the Galapagos Islands focusing on volcanoes and mapping skills.

Science

The first half term will focus on light and after half-term the 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.

SATs

Alongside our exciting theme learning this term, we will begin to prepare for the forthcoming National Curriculum tests. The children will be sitting practice tests 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 later this half term.

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, tracksuit top and trainers).

Home learning

Home learning tasks continue to be set once a week, typically in English and maths but occasionally in other subjects as well. Most tasks will be linked to the learning that we have done in class. This will be set each Friday and due in again the following Wednesday.

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 and purposes, 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 records in class and many have now established a good habit in doing so.

Many parents ask me for book recommendations to help support with reading at home. Please find here a link to recent titles (many of which are in our library) that you may find useful.

<https://www.booksfortopics.com/year-6>

Spellings

Spellings patterns will continue to be learnt and explored in class. Like last term, the children will receive a new bank of words to focus on. Thank you for your continued support in helping your children to learn them at home.

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.
- <https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/history/ancient-egypt/> - An interactive encyclopaedia about the Ancient Egyptians with quizzes.
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education> – The fantastic Bitesize website, with KS2 pages on every subject (including some great videos on Ancient Egypt).
- <https://www.ttrockstars.com> - A brilliant resource to help improve times table and division recall speed!
- <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.

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 will enhance the children's learning experiences hugely.

Best wishes,

Mr Harman