



# Jessie Younghusband School

## Year 5 – Spring Term – Curriculum Letter

Welcome to the Year 5 curriculum letter within which you will find useful information about the forthcoming term. It is amazing to think that we are already a third of the way through the academic year! I am hoping that we might have a more normal Spring Term this year, and I am looking forward to the remainder of the year ahead.

### Reminders:

- Please send P.E. kit into school on a Monday morning. It can then be taken home each Friday to completely clear the cloakroom and to allow the kit to be washed. To ensure that any 'found' items can be returned to their owners promptly, please can you ensure that your child's P.E. kit and other school clothing is **clearly named**. The children will need **football boots for Tag Rugby in P.E.**
- **Water bottles should be taken home each day and washed thoroughly.**
- Home learning is usually set on a Friday to be returned by the following Wednesday. Thank you for your continued support with home learning tasks and encouraging your child to hand their home learning in on time.
- We are continuing to work on all of the times tables, so the children will be tested on them all once a week. Regular practise of these at home is **absolutely essential** for improving and maintaining speed and accuracy of recall – again, thank you for your continued support with this. Remember that children can practice using their TT Rockstars logins (please inform the office if you need reminding of these or the VLE logins and passwords).
- Regular reading aloud continues to be essential in Year 5 – supporting your child by listening to them read and engaging with them on the content of their reading material will help them to make progress. Daily reading material will include your child's school book, but can of course extend to texts such as other reading books, newspapers, recipe books, magazines/comics or joke books. Parents should listen to their children **read out loud at home 3 times a week and sign the purple Reading Record book** that your child has in their book bag. Thank you.

### Last term:

The Autumn Term was a **very** busy one for Year 5, learning about The Romans and being Geography Detectives– as well as some other projects. Some of the highlights included:

- The visits from Paull Ullson- History Man.
- Having a mock battle and dressing up on Roman Day.
- Visiting the Novium museum to see the new Lego exhibition.
- Singing a song for the Graylingwell Park project and being in the Chichester Observer.
- Visiting Fishbourne Roman Palace for a day of learning about Roman life.

### This term:

This term promises to be another action packed term as we learn about Space and Earthquakes. As they did last term, the children will continue to have an on-going input into their learning regarding these topics; there will be a longer Home Learning project on making a 28 day diary, recording the phases of the moon.



*At Fishbourne Roman Palace*

The Space topic has a clear science focus but also links to the English, Maths, Computing, D&T, History and Art curriculums. There will be many exciting experiences for us to look forward to which include:

- Learning about Space and what is beyond!
- “Alien Day” (date to be arranged).
- Visiting the Planetarium in Chichester (if possible!)
- Designing our own space craft or rocket.
- Learning about how Earthquakes are caused.
- Listening to The War of The Worlds by Jeff Wayne.
- Taking black and white photographs of natural forms.



### **Ideas for supporting your child's learning:**

- Useful websites for homework help include:  
<http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/space.html> .
- Visiting the local library.
- Useful books to read include non-fiction texts about space and anything to do with science fiction.
- Continue to develop your child's mental maths with some quick-fire questions based on times tables (and their related division facts), addition and subtraction of 2 or 3 numbers, including questions with money, negative numbers and decimals.
- Explore measures in the context of home, including time (e.g. the 12- and 24-hour clock), shape and fractions.

### **Changes to Spellings in Year 5**

Traditionally, we have learned Spellings in class and children have taken home words to learn, which culminated in a weekly spelling test. New research has shown that this method is not the most effective way to help children to be better and more confident at spelling. Year 5 and Year 6 are trialling several new ways in which learning to spell can be made more fun and effective for the children at school. Therefore, the children will now NOT be expected to bring home spellings each week and will not be tested weekly. More information on this will be shared with parents as methods are trialled. Thank you.

**Finally, does anyone:**

- Have any space or Earthquake-related resources? (If you can lend us anything for display in the classroom please name it in some way so that it can be returned to the owner!)
- Have a good DVD on space or Earthquakes which we could borrow, or a music CD featuring space music?
- Have time to support us on our trips or with our art and photography work?



Thank you for your continued help and support.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Cooke and Mrs Corderoy

