



Jessie Younghusband School

Year 4 – Curriculum Letter – Autumn 2020

Welcome to our autumn term curriculum letter. Welcoming you back, we have a fantastic first term lined up! In this letter you will find useful information relating to this term's overall learning theme and special events, along with helpful information for you to assist your child in their learning along the way.

The purpose of this curriculum letter is to give you some useful information about the learning themes, 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 4. An 'Introduction to Year 4' video, in which I introduce myself, show you around our classroom and talk about this term's learning themes, can be found on our school website:

https://www.jys.org.uk/website/year_4/133444.

You will also be able to find long term planning documents for each subject on the school website which will give you an overview of the areas of learning and curriculum content that the children will be studying as they move through the school.

Important information:

Clothing and Equipment

- We will begin our P.E. units this term with netball and OAA (outdoor and adventurous activities). Due to the situation we are in due to Covid-19, for the first half term, we are asking that children only bring in a change of shoes for PE (trainers preferably) which 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.
- Football, during play time, will be on a weekly rotation. Children will **not** need to bring a spare pair of shoes to play.
- To ensure that any 'found' items can be returned to their owners, please ensure that your any clothing brought to school is clearly named.
- Please bring in a pencil case, which is easy to clean/wipe (not fluffy or textured).
- The water fountains are currently out of use. Please remember to bring a water bottle to school, this should be clearly labelled and easy to clean.



Usually we would begin our term with swimming. However, due to COVID19 restrictions, this will **not** take place during the autumn term. When swimming does resume, we will let you know.

Home Learning

- In preparation for the times tables test in Year 4, I ask if you can please encourage your children to practice their times tables at home. A fun way to do this is by logging into Times Table Rockstars (www.ttrockstars.com).
- **Home Learning activities:** to reduce the amount of paper and books being passed between home and school at this present time, we will not be setting formal "home learning" in the first autumn half term. Instead, we are encouraging children to read, learn their spellings, practice

their times tables. If they would like to independently learn more about any of the topics they are studying in class, then we would encourage this.

- **Spellings:** again, to reduce the number of items passing between school and home in the current climate, these will be posted on the school's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) and can be accessed online. Spellings will be in place for Friday to be learnt ready for a test on the following Friday. This routine will begin soon.
- Please try and read with your children as much as possible – supporting your child by listening to them read and engaging with them on the content of their reading material.

This half term:

We will be kicking off this term by learning about environmental changes and their impact on the Earth. In this geography learning theme 'Make a Change!' we will be exploring the many environmental changes our world has faced, how these have impacted animals habitats and the different climate zones of countries and continents around the globe. There will be exciting links to art, where we will create thought provoking sculptures. We will also become 'Eco Warriors', looking for ways we can minimise our footprint both in school and at home.



Next half term:

We will move into the following half term by exploring life in the Tudor period, during our historical learning theme 'Divorced, Beheaded, Died'. Don't worry, there will be no beheadings in this unit, but we will be finding out about the terrible and great Tudor Kings and Queens and their reign. We will be creating our own Tudor music and even finishing the term with a fancy dress themed, Tudor banquet fit for a king (or queen).

Ideas for supporting your child's learning:

- Visiting the local library;
- Useful books to read: non-fiction texts about the Tudors, climate change and atlases;
- <https://www.trockstars.com/> - This is a useful site to support your children in their times tables, ahead of this year's times tables test.
- <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button> - This is another great website to help with times tables.
- Reading every day with your child at home/listening to them read.

Finally...

- Although this year is structured a little differently to usual, please feel free to email me at **bweir@jys.org.uk**. I am available to reach most afternoons to discuss any matters or questions you may have.
- Please let me know if you are able to help out by volunteering to listen to children read – your help will be very welcomed and appreciated.

I really look forward to working together with you and your children.

Kind regards,

Miss Weir