



Jessie Younghusband School

Year R – Summer Term – Curriculum Letter

We hope you all had a relaxing and peaceful Easter break and enjoyed spending time with family and friends. Can you believe your child has begun their last term in Year R? Their first year at JYS is definitely flying by!

Please find below key notes relating to your child's learning from the previous term and what we will be exploring in the first half of the summer term.

Last term's highlights:

The children had a very exciting and busy time last term. There were many special highlights, which included:

- Learning about space and famous astronauts such as Tim Peake and Neil Armstrong, and much more;
- Dressing up as our favourite Roald Dahl book characters for our Book Week celebrations;
- Creating, practicing and performing our Chinese Dragon Dance;
- Making and tasting Chinese stir-fry and pancakes;
- Following the children's interests in ponies, Paw Patrol characters, dinosaurs, princesses and superheroes as a stimulus for learning;
- Finding an alien called 'Zing' in the classroom and teaching him about 3D shapes;
- Learning about Kandinsky and creating our own 2D shape pictures in his style;
- Discovering a dinosaur egg in the school playground;
- Exploring our 'pop up' role play spaces under the canopied area; themes included a sweet shop, pancake café and a Chinese restaurant. As a team in Year R, we are always looking for ways to enhance our learning spaces; the children have used these areas during their Discovery Time and we know they will continue to enjoy being outdoors this term.
- Another successful 'Stay and Play' session – please look out for photographs from your visit in your child's Learning Journal!



You will have all noticed the new shed in our outside area. This was kindly put up for us by Joey's dad and grandad and we are over the moon with the extra storage space that this has created for us. We thank you for your time and generosity!



The children are thoroughly enjoying being able to self-select the resources they wish to use to enhance their play which encourages independence, whilst also developing problem-solving skills and cooperation when playing with others.



We have also re-purposed a wooden trolley given to us by Chartwells (our hot lunch providers) so that all our den building materials, such as poles, planks, string, drapes of material and pegs, are more easily accessible to the children.

This term:

The Summer term is very busy in school with lots of class events and whole school events planned in. For many of you, this is the first time you are experiencing a summer term at Jessie so we thought you would appreciate extra notice of these events and also some additional information about them:

Saturday 6th May – 9.00am until 12.00	Grounds Day	Please come and join in the fun! Even if you are only able to spend an hour or so with us, it will help us to prepare the grounds for the rest of the summer term. Grounds Days also provide an opportunity for the children to earn one point to go on their JYS badge total.
Monday 15 th May – 8.55am until 10am at the latest	‘JYS Build a Bear Factory’ themed Stay and Play session	Please do not tell your child about this...we want it to be a secret! Additional invitation to follow next week.
Friday 26th May – 12pm until 3.15pm	Open Day – Space themed	Parents are invited to spend the afternoon in school. This is a whole school event which happens once a year. More details will follow soon.
Wednesday 14 th June – 8.55am in the school hall (We aim to be finished by 10am)	Year R’s first class assembly to be followed by a ‘Teddy Bear’s Picnic’	Parents are invited to watch the assembly in the Hall and then join us for a picnic in the school grounds.
Thursday 22 nd June – timings to be confirmed but mostly likely to be from 9.45 until 11.30am	Sports Day	Parents are invited to watch the children in Years R, 1 and 2 take part in a range of team races.

Both the Early Years’ Curriculum and our school ethos highly value parental involvement and we like to welcome you, as parents, in to share in your child’s learning journey regularly over their first year at school. However, we appreciate that families experience many time pressures, and for working parents it can be difficult to get time off from work to attend some or all of these events. We often see grandparents, an aunty/uncle or even a grown-up sibling attend. Please do not worry if you are unable to join us for any of these events; we will always pair your child with a friend’s family or a member of the Year R team. We hope that you continue to enjoy these occasions – please do let us know if we can help in any way.



We are sure there were many ‘Wow’ moments for your child over the holidays; feel free to fill in a ‘Wow’ sheet to capture their achievements. These sheets enable us to obtain an understanding of your child’s achievements beyond the ‘school gate’; they are placed in your child’s Learning Journal and the information we gather from them is a valuable source of evidence. ‘Wow’ sheets are available for you to take from a plastic folder attached to the Year R noticeboard in the cloakroom.

Reminders and Information:

- Please check that **your child's name is still clearly visible in all their clothing and on all of their belongings** (such as snack pots and drink bottles). We are finding that as the year has gone on and more washes have taken place, some names have faded which makes returning the item to its owner a slower process.
- Just to remind you, your child will need plimsolls for P.E this term. We would be very grateful if a pair of plimsolls could be included in their P.E kit as soon as possible. Again, your child's name needs to be written inside these to ensure they end up with the correct pair at the end of each P.E session. Thank you!
- It would be incredibly helpful if the girls in Year R could wear socks instead of tights on Mondays as it will enable them to be more independent when getting changed for P.E. Thank you!
- The children are encouraged to only bring **one small toy** in from home. We ask that the toy is not precious, valuable or electrical, and that it can fit into a pocket. Please may you kindly remind your child that if they bring in a toy, it is their responsibility to look after it.
- Please feel free to write any general comments about your child's reading in their purple comments book. It is also helpful for us to receive some notification of your child having read their book. This could be as simple as the title being recorded and a tick put next to it.



Thank you for all of your support during our second 'Stay and Play' session. It was wonderful to see so many of you and it was an absolute pleasure to walk around and hear the children excitedly talking to you about the work in their Learning Journals. We also know that they enjoyed creating their front covers with you; we hope you'll agree that they look fantastic and make you want to turn the page to see their collection of work from the spring term.

The Summer Term

Please find attached to this letter the topic overview for the first half of this term. Once again this is set out as a jigsaw and shows how the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum is organised into seven areas of learning and links to our 'Bear-necessities!' topic which has theme of bears running through it. We hope that this will provide you with a more detailed insight into what your child will be learning about over the coming weeks. The children have already been begun to find out about different types of bears and we will be building on what they already know.



We use lots of small boxes, bottle tops, tin foil/wrapping paper, beads etc in our 'creative workshop' and we are always grateful for odds and ends like this that you might usually recycle or throw away, to replenish our supplies. Please keep an eye out for the sign we have hanging on the pillar in the cloakroom changing as it indicates if we are in need of more supplies. Thank you!

Below are some suggestions of other ways that you can help your child at home:

<p>Personal, Social & Emotional Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage your child to organise an activity or a game to play and let them explain what needs to happen. • Play board games with your child to encourage turn taking with others. • Talk to your child about how to keep safe when you're crossing the road at a pelican/zebra crossing. • Encourage your child to try new activities before explaining what they did/did not like about it. 	<p>Literacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a 'rhyming string' - pick a word, can your child tell you/write down any words that rhyme with it? • Write notes for your child and let them find and read them. Can they write you a reply? • Talk about books they have read. Have they understood the text?
<p>Communication & Language</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask your child 'how' and 'why' questions after they have noticed/experienced something. • Encourage your child to use different voices, such as loud or squeaky voices, when they are telling stories or acting out the parts of different characters. • When sharing a story with your child, ask them to explain why they think something has happened or what might happen next. 	<p>Mathematics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counting in ones from any given number and stopping at another given number (e.g. from 17 to 31). • Counting on in steps of 2 (2...4...6...8...10), 5 or 10. • Plan a picnic and let them decide how many sandwiches, drinks and snacks you will need. Can they tell you how many things are needed altogether?
<p>Physical Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk with your child about making healthy food choices and the importance of exercise. • After making an obstacle course together, give them instructions for tackling it, such as "Go through the tunnel." or "Go under the piece of material." Can they safely negotiate the space? • Encourage your child to practise forming letters using a paintbrush with water or with sticks in mud before holding a pencil correctly to form recognisable letters. 	<p>Understanding the World</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look closely at plants that are growing in your garden or somewhere nearby. Observe how they change over time. • Let them use a camera to take photos of their favourite toys, special grown-ups or things seen on a route. • Visit different environments such as a park and the beach. Talk about what is similar/different. <p>Expressive Arts & Design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide opportunities for them to retell their favourite story without looking at the book! • Encourage your child to make things out of boxes, paper, fabric and practise joining pieces together. • Experiment with different items around the house which can be used to make music, such as pots and pans.

Finally...

Today, you will be receiving home your child's jam-packed spring term Learning Journal. We ask that you spend time over the weekend looking at, enjoying and reflecting upon your child's work from last term. We also hope that you will record some comments on the speech bubble (on the next page) to feedback your thoughts on your child's achievements. Which areas do you feel your child has made progress in since the autumn term? Has their confidence increased with their reading, writing or maths? If so, please do let us know. You may like to record a sentence or two about what your child enjoyed learning about/doing. What were their highlights?

Please return the Learning Journal by **Tuesday 2nd May** (after the Bank Holiday weekend) so that we can keep it as evidence in school of the work completed during the spring term. Enjoy!

End of spring term reflection