



Jessie Younghusband School

Year R - Spring Term - Curriculum Letter

As a team, we would like to say a really BIG thank you for all your generosity and kind wishes for Christmas and the New Year; we all felt very cared for! Thank you, and a Happy New Year to you all! We hope you all had a relaxing and peaceful Christmas and enjoyed spending time with family and friends.

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

Last term's highlights:

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

- Getting to know each other and beginning to build friendships;
- Sharing our favourite books and songs;
- Beginning to learn to read and write;
- Making food faces;
- A virtual visit from the fire service;
- Finding a penguin on the field;
- Learning about Emperor penguins;
- A flurry of real snow at school;
- The Christmas carol concert on the playground, which brought smiles to many faces!



We have thoroughly enjoyed Show and Tell last term. Here is a reminder of the timetable for this term sent home before Christmas:

Animal group	Week	Date
Crocodiles	2	10.1.22
Lions	3	17.1.22
Zebras	4	24.1.22
Elephants	5	31.1.22
Giraffes	6	7.2.22

Reminders and Information:

- Please can you 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, after a term's worth of washing, some names have faded which makes returning the item to its owner a slower process.
- Please provide them with clothing that they are confident to put on for themselves. We help children to zip up their coat, and turn sleeves in the right way but we are now encouraging them to try to do this themselves, as it helps them to be independent. Therefore, learning to zip up their coat and put their gloves on etc at home would be really useful. The weather is still bitterly cold so please could I take the opportunity to remind you that coats should be thick, warm *and* waterproof. Some of the children have found the weather very cold at playtime wearing only a thin rain mac. Thank you!

- 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 helping to settle the children in the morning when they arrive. They are all happy, settled and familiar with the routine, which is fantastic being only one term in. All members of the Year R team have a designated day on the gate in the mornings so that you get to see us all. I have a fantastic team supporting me, who often know the answers to your questions.

The Spring Term

Our theme this half term is 'Out of this world' focusing on space. We will have great fun using space as a vehicle for lots of our other learning too. The children have already enjoyed using our space rocket role-play area and dressing up as aliens. After half term we will move on to 'What a wonderful world' and grow our own produce and look more closely at our environment and habitats for living creatures. Mrs Cockman already has grand plans for us making our own compost!



Please continue to go through your child's phonic folders regularly. We will be concentrating on two letter phonemes (digraphs), if your child is confident with the single letter phonemes. At this stage, children can find it tricky to identify digraphs letters like 'ai' as in 'rain', so the more regularly you can point them out in words, the better. 'Robot talking' is equally as important, both hearing it and saying it themselves. Play a game where you robot talk a word and your child has to guess what you are saying e.g. 'm-o-p.' Swap role, see if they can robot talk you a word for you to guess (they may need some ideas of simple words to start with such as cup, cat, mat, rug, dog, dug... rather than snowman!) Please also continue to work on the letter formation in the phonics folder.

The next step is to help the children to write the letter in response to the sound, to make words. This is really important as the children are beginning to break down words into sounds and they need to remember what the letter looks like to write it (please use the sound mat sent home with the phonics folder). These kinds of activities are most effective if they are fun and carried out for short periods of time such as five minutes here and there. Thank you very much for your support.

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

- Read bedtime stories, recipes, road signs etc. to your children.
- Encourage your child to write a shopping list to take with you to the shops.
- Play games that encourage your child to use letter sounds and words.
- Build using boxes or wooden bricks and then encourage your child to use words like 'tall' or 'long' to describe what they have built. Ask your child to tell you how many blocks they have used or why they have chosen to do it that way. Would they change anything?
- Let them sort shoes from smallest to biggest.
- Play number snap or bingo.
- Explore adding objects to find the total.
- Make coloured ice cubes and let your child use them to paint with.
- Encourage your child to explore mud, sand & rain! Dig and mark make.
- Help your child to plant seeds in a pot/the garden.
- Let them listen to a story/song on the radio, CD player, app or website.
- Use a range of media to make a picture, e.g. paint, paper, wool, wood and fabric.
- Encourage your child to tell you a story about what they are doing when they are dressing up.
- Sing familiar songs and nursery rhymes.

- Provide opportunities for your child to practice cutting, sticking and folding pieces of paper.
- Encourage your child to tell you how you can help them when they are making something.
- Encourage your child to help you to match socks or to sort items according to who they belong to.
- Talk to your child about what they like doing and what they are good at doing, e.g. drawing, running, riding a bike, sharing toys.
- When tidying up, give your child 2-step instructions to follow, e.g. pick up your shoes and put them in your wardrobe; pick up the red toy and place it in the toy box.
- Play a treasure hunt game – your child has to listen to instructions to help them find the next clue.
- When sharing a story with your child, ask them to explain how they think it might end.
- Talk with your child about making healthy food choices; make fruit kebabs or vegetable faces to encourage them to try new foods. Discuss keeping healthy and safe including oral hygiene.
- Help your child to make an obstacle course to practice running as well as crawling under and through things. Go to the park and run and jump and climb!
- Encourage discussions about similarities and differences in cultures, religions and traditions.
- Don't shy away from challenging vocabulary. Point it out in story books and discuss what it means. Have fun with words and don't limit your vocabulary with young children. Children learn through experience and exposure.

Finally...

Please do let me know if you have any queries or questions, as a strong home-school partnership lays the foundations for a happy, successful learning journey.

Thank you for your continued support and best wishes for a very happy 2022.

Mrs Appleby ☺