



Jessie Younghusband School

Year 1 – Curriculum Letter – Autumn Term 1

Welcome to Year 1! I am really looking forward to working with your children, in partnership with you, to ensure that they have a very happy and successful year.

I already know some of you through teaching your older child(ren) and I have met others of you since the start of term, but please do come and say 'hello' if I haven't seen you yet! I am looking forward to getting to know you all over the coming weeks.

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 1.

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.

Morning Routines

As you know, we are asking the Year 1 children to leave you on the playground and come down the ramp by themselves, where they are guided into the Year 1 classroom by staff. One of the school's team will be on the playground to support them to do this.

From what we have already seen, the children are already beginning to take responsibility for sorting out their belongings and settling quickly to the first task of the day. This is an important step forward in encouraging the development of their independence and organisational skills. Thank you for your support with this.

Reminders:

- Our **school reading scheme** has been organised to ensure a clear progression that is closely matched to the phonics learning that the children do as they move through Year R and Key Stage 1. As you are probably aware, each reading book has a colour spine label which has a number on it. For example, within 'Red' band, certain books are labelled with a '1', whilst others are labelled with a '2'. It is important that the children have the opportunity to read the '1' books before moving onto the '2' books.



The children will be heard read regularly in school and will be helped by an adult to **change their reading books at least once a week**. The books will be sent home in a plastic zippy wallet, inside your child's bag, in order to protect them from water bottle spillages or becoming accidentally bent or torn. Please enjoy reading and re-reading the books at home with your child several times in order to develop their fluency and understanding. Please also continue to write in your child's **'reading comments' book**, noting any particular observations that you make during each reading session. The 'reading comments' book should be kept in the plastic wallet with the reading book and brought into school every day please.

Reading at home is essential; daily if possible. We encourage the children to visit the library and to read other books at home, as well as those from the school reading scheme. This could include fiction and non-fiction books, children's newspapers, joke books and magazines/comics. In fact, the wider the range of genres that your child reads, the better! Reading with your child regularly, and discussing books with them, will not only help them to develop their fluency and comprehension skills but will also help them to foster a real love of reading.

- **Home Learning activities** will be set on a Friday, to be returned by the following Wednesday please. The task sheet(s) will be sent home inside the children's reading book zippy wallets.
- **P.E. kits** should be left in school all week from Monday morning please, as the children may need them for lessons, clubs and ad-hoc sporting activities at different points during the week. P.E. kits will be sent home every half term.
- Please send a written note in if your child has a verruca and cannot do P.E. barefooted or if your child is unable to take part in P.E. for a medical reason. For safety reasons, no watches or jewellery should be worn during P.E. lessons. If your child wears earrings and it is not possible for them to be removed for P.E., please let me know.
- A weekly '**Show and Tell**' session will be held each Friday afternoon, to allow the children time to share any exciting news with the class. This will be done on a group-by-group rotation basis and the children will be told in advance which group's turn it will be each week, in order to give them time to prepare. There is no expectation that every child will want to participate but everyone will be given the opportunity to do so. Please encourage your child to choose a 'Show and Tell' topic that will be of real interest to others in the class! This might include something that is related to our current in-school learning theme or a photo from a recent special event, experience, day trip or holiday. The children are welcome to bring in an object or item for their talk but please ensure that this is not too valuable! Also, no 'favourite teddy/toy' talks please! As the time slot for each 'Show and Tell' session is limited, your child may want to prepare 3 fun facts about their topic in advance, to help them to talk confidently in front of the class.

Meet The Teacher

This term, we have made short videos to introduce ourselves to you without the need for parents to come into school. The Year 1 video is available to watch at:

https://youtu.be/UZcgcO_AJRY

Contact

We know how important it is to be in regular communication with you as parents, sharing information to ensure we can each support them both at school and at home. I am available for short conversations before school and for longer conversations after school, and will aim to make myself visible and available outside the Year 1 classroom each day. Please feel free to say hello!

Now that parents have more access to the school site again, we would kindly ask that email is no longer used as the primary contact point for teachers. Should you need to contact a member of staff via email, we ask that these are now directed to office@jys.org.uk who will forward your message on.

This half term

This half term will be an exciting and stimulating one, with many cross-curricular links. This means that there will be strong links between subjects and children can see their learning as being connected, relevant and purposeful. Our main learning theme for the half term is **'Weather Wizardry'** in which we will focus on learning all about the weather around the world and the seasons. This theme will have links with literacy, maths, science, design and technology, art and computing.

Forest Schools

Year 1 have the exciting opportunity to take part in Forest Schools sessions later this term. Forest Schools allows the children to learn outside of the classroom and to explore their environment and surroundings. A letter to explain more about this will be sent out in due course.

Ideas for supporting your child's learning:

- Keep reading regularly with your child at home.
- Help your child to practise reading and writing the numbers from 0 to 10 and then to 20. Can they show you what a number represents by using beads, coins, toy cars, pencils or pieces of dried pasta for example?
- Practise counting to ten (and then to twenty) together, going forwards and backwards in ones. Start from zero first but then give your child different starting numbers when they are more confident. Can they say what is 'one more' or 'one less' than any number up to ten (and then up to twenty)?
- Please have a look at the Year 1 Virtual Learning Environment for resources to support maths and literacy learning at home.
- Talk about the weather with your child! Discuss how the day length is getting shorter and talk about what changes they can see and feel in the environment around them as the season of summer gives way to the beginning of autumn.
- Talk about any plants and trees that you have in your garden or that you walk past on your way to school. What are they like? Help your child to compare and contrast them. Talk about the different parts of a plant (e.g. stem, leaf, flowers). Can your child name any of the different plants and trees that they see regularly?
- If possible, plant some vegetables or bulbs together at home and watch them grow!



I look forward to getting to know your child over the coming weeks and I hope that they will gain many rich learning experiences throughout the busy and exciting year ahead.

With very best wishes,

Mrs Neville