



# 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!

This term is set to be an exciting one! There is still talk of 'catch up' over the news. We will be 'catching up' on missed experiences and making memories in Year R. Happy, engaged, enthusiastic children learn the best.

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:

Both in school, and at home we:

- Learned about space and famous astronauts, such as Tim Peake and Neil Armstrong, and much more;
- Learning about different traditions and celebrations, such as Chinese New Year, Pancake Day and Valentine's Day;
- Discovering a suspected dinosaur egg and wondering what might be inside;
- Getting our hands dirty with some real growing;
- Investigating plants and seeds through dissection and exploration;
- Making our own mini gardens to take home;
- Our first ever school trip - to a local allotment.



### This term:



Our fun-filled topics for the first Summer half term will be 'The Bear-necessities', and for the second half term - 'Commotion in the Ocean' - with plenty of hooks for learning.

As we continue to monitor COVID cases within school, I will keep you updated on any further dates for parental involvement as and when I can but please **save the date Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May** PM as we may have a surprise coming your way (letter to follow shortly).



**TAPESTRY**  
ONLINE LEARNING JOURNAL

We hope that you are enjoying using Tapestry as an insight to your child's learning. We can see that you have all activated your accounts and as a result have access to your observations. Please spend the time looking through the photographs and captions – they really are a joy to read; children say the funniest things! The children often ask us to 'show Mummy / Daddy' something they have made at school, and we explain that we can send the photo home via Tapestry. We are sure they would love to see that in practice on your phone / tablet.

Most weeks I try to upload a snapshot of our whole class learning. I hope you enjoy these and help with those 'What did you do at school today?' questions.

**Did you know that you can comment on and 'like' observations? We love to read your comments; keep them coming! You can also submit your own observations by clicking the '+' button in the top right hand corner of the app. So far, we have had photographs from**

home of paintings, models, holidays, writing, number sentences and much more. Thank you to those parents who have contributed so far.

**Reminders and Information:**

- Please provide you child with a **named sunhat**, a **light waterproof jacket every day** (Please save denim jackets, gilets, jackets without hoods, fluffy jackets, and hoodies for weekends, as these do not adequately protect the children if it suddenly starts to rain at playtime.) Even if no rain is forecast, a jacket must be at school **everyday** as our British weather is very unpredictable! Please **apply sun cream before coming to school**.
- Children are increasingly bringing in large backpacks to school. Please can I kindly ask that where possible, they **use their school book bag** to hold their belongings **and leave the backpacks for weekends**. Book bags are the perfect size for their reading books and the water bottle sits neatly in the front. The weather is warmer and the children do not need many belongings so the size of the book bag is sufficient. We are finding that the large backpacks, although often lovely to look at, do not fit in our animal group boxes and are meaning that other children's book bags are being pushed out and ending up on the floor making a messy cloakroom and lost belongings. Thank you for your anticipated support with this.
- 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 and stickers fallen off 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.
- 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. We will continue to change your child's home reading books weekly (but not always on the same day) so it is helpful to know whether you haven't finished a book. Of course, it is still vital that you read books *to* your child that are rich in vocabulary from home or from the library.



Please find the 'Show and Tell' rota for this half term below. Due to it being a shorter term than usual, we will have two groups for some weeks:

<b>Animal group</b>	<b>Week commencing</b>
Crocodiles and Lions	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May
Zebras	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> May
Elephants and Giraffes	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> May

**Finally...**

Thank you for your continued support. I am so pleased that we have managed a full, relatively 'normal' first part of your child's first year at school. I hope to end the school year with as much fun as I can possibly squeeze in... they are only four- and five-year olds once!

Best wishes,

Mrs Appleby