



# 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 Roots, Shoots and Muddy Boots highlights:

- Baking gingerbread men and bread to support our learning on traditional tales;
- Investigating materials for The Gingerbread Man's boat;
- Transient art pictures using loose parts;
- Learning about different traditions and celebrations such as Pancake Day and Valentine's Day;
- Getting our hands dirty with some real growing;
- Investigating plants and seeds through dissection and exploration;
- Making our own mini gardens to take home;
- Making a stop frame animation video of our beans growing (which can be found here: <https://youtu.be/KuUJLdSI6H8> )
- Our first ever school trip: to the allotment! It was technically this term, but the focus was to round up last term's learning around growing but we left it a little later to have some nicer weather and to allow the produce to start growing. It is still my favourite trip from 13 plus years teaching.

### This term:



This term is set to be an exciting one! It will be made up of two overarching themes (one each half term): "Wriggle and Wag" and "What a Wonderful World" with some more wonderful hooks for learning. Wriggle and Wag will look at animals and our duty of care (specifically worms and dogs) with some fantastic visits from outside agencies. What a Wonderful World will focus on the ocean, plastic pollution and recycling. Both themes will have strong elements of our responsibility as humans on our beautiful planet.



**TAPESTRY**  
ONLINE LEARNING JOURNAL

We hope that you are enjoying using Tapestry as an insight to your child's learning. If you have had older children that have previously been taught by me in Reception, you may have noticed that you receive less personal updates than you might have done in the past. This is in line with the new EYFS guidance which encourages practitioners to spend more time interacting with the children rather than behind a screen collecting reams of observations.

However, each week I do try to upload a snapshot of our whole class learning. I hope you enjoy these and they help with those 'What did you do at school today?' questions. I would love to see more parental involvement with these so please do leave me a comment with your thoughts (or even just give it a like so I know you've seen it). I hope that the section at the bottom 'What can I do to help at home?' is also useful.

**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:**

- In the hope that we will have some good weather in the summer term: please provide your child with a **named sunhat**, a **light waterproof jacket every single day** (not a gilet or hoodless jacket as this will not protect your child from getting wet) even if no rain is forecast and **apply sun cream before coming to school**. An easy alternative is to keep a light rain mac rolled up at the bottom of the book bag at all times. Please do let us know if you think you provided one of these as part of your child's wet weather gear so we can move it in to your child's book bag as we will not have time to look through all the boxes at the point of a sudden downpour.
- 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.
- 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.
- Library books are changed at the end of the week. Please ensure that your child's book is in the bag so that we can do this. If your child's book hasn't been changed, it is either because the previous book was not in the bag or your child told us that it hasn't been read yet.



### **Finally...**

Thank you for your continued support. I know as a full-time working parent there is a lot of 'admin' associated with your child starting school. Your efforts are appreciated and really do make a difference to your child's learning journey.

Best wishes,

Mrs Appleby