



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;
- Understanding ourselves and others, exploring special celebrations through cooking, music, role play and art;
- Beginning to learn to read and write;
- Learning about people who help us including a visit from the fire service and a dentist;
- Thinking about how we change and grow including a visit from Sophie's baby brother Joshua;
- Our Christmas performance, which brought smiles to many faces!

Show and Tell

This term we would like to introduce Show and Tell. This may be a shell from the beach, a favourite leaf from a walk, a map/leaflet from somewhere you have visited, photographs from a family get together, a video of a new skill you have mastered e.g. riding a bike, just to give a few examples. We do, however, ask that this is not a toy from home. We rarely find that the children can talk with interest when bringing a toy from home, and the other children become distracted easily. Photos/videos/PowerPoints can be emailed to me at Rachel.appleby@jys.org.uk if needed but they aren't necessary. To make this manageable, each animal group will have a designated week in which to share. Please do put this timetable somewhere safe as the children can become upset if they miss their slot:

Animal group	Week	Week beginning
Crocodiles	2	8.1.24
Lions	3	15.1.24
Zebras	4	22.1.24
Elephants	5	29.1.24
Giraffes	6	5.2.24

Reminders and Information:

- Please can you check that your child's name is still clearly visible in all their clothing and on all their belongings (such as snack pots, drink bottles, hats, gloves and jumpers). 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 can I remind you to keep a spare pair of clothes in your child's bag in case of accidents and messy play. In addition, if you have any spare/unwanted trousers, skirts, pants, socks and tights, we would be grateful for these to add to our emergency collection.

Thank you for all of your support helping to settle the children in the morning when they arrive. They are becoming 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 'Once upon a rhyme' focusing on traditional tales and rhymes. We will have great fun orally re-telling and acting out our stories, delving in to repeating phrases and rich vocabulary. After half term we will move on to 'Roots, shoots and muddy boots' and grow our own produce and look more closely at plants and what they need. We are excited to use some of the compost made by our tiger worms from our fruit snacks.



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.

Please continue to read our weekly updates on Tapestry. At the end of each week's summary there will be additional ways to support at home linked to our learning that week. I also love to see the things you are doing at home, so please continue to add observations of your own.

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 2024.

Mrs Appleby ☺