



Jessie Younghusband School

Year 6 – Curriculum Letter – Spring Term 2024

I hope you all had a good Christmas and a Happy New Year! May I take this opportunity, on behalf of Mrs McGurk and myself, to say thank you for all of the wonderful Christmas cards and gifts that we received at the end of last term - you are very generous.

The purpose of this curriculum letter is to provide useful information relating to your child's learning this term, as well as a summary of the highlights of the autumn term.

Highlights from last term:

The autumn term was an extremely busy one for us in Year 6, learning about the ancient Maya people in history and migration in our geography focus. There were many highlights, including the creation of amazing watercolour paintings inspired by the Lost Words; great collaboration and teamwork in Enterprise week; fantastic persuasive adverts showcasing newly designed products; and a wonderful jive-inspired dance (a video to follow!)

This term

History - The Changing Power of Monarchs

This half term, the children will be learning about the changing power of Monarchs from 1066 to present day. The children will begin this history unit with a visit from Paul Ullson, who will focus on five key monarchs through story-telling, drama and artefact activities.



Geography – Volcanoes

We will be undertaking an in-depth study of the Galápagos Islands focusing on volcanoes and geographical mapping skills in the second part of the term.

Science



In the first half term we will focus on **light** and after half-term the children will look at the significance of the works of Charles Darwin. We will learn about his voyage on HMS Beagle to the Galápagos Islands and the amazing species that inhabit the island that helped Darwin to develop his theory of **evolution** by natural selection.

Art



The children will primarily focus on the works of **Henry Moore** beginning with his WWII shelter drawings before moving on to his semi-abstract monumental sculptures. The children will explore and create their own clay sculptures at the end of the unit focusing on form.

SATs

Alongside our exciting theme learning this term, we will begin to prepare for the forthcoming National Curriculum tests. The children will be sitting practice tests this term in order to help give them a sense of what it will be like in May. They will sit papers in Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling, Reading and Maths. An information meeting will be held later this term with details to follow.

P.E.

P.E. lessons will be on **Monday** (ultimate frisbee) and **Thursday** (dodgeball) for the spring term.

On Monday, the children will need their outdoor PE kit (tracksuit bottoms, tracksuit top, trainers/boots). On Thursday, the children will need their indoor PE kit (white shirts and blue shorts).

I would be grateful if P.E. kits could be in school all week from Monday morning, as the children may need them for clubs and ad-hoc sporting activities at different points during the week. Please ensure kits are taken home over the weekend to be washed. If your child wears earrings and it is not possible for them to be removed for P.E., please let me know.

If children would like to play football at lunchtimes, they will need a full change of clothes (tracksuit bottoms, tracksuit top and trainers).

Home learning

Home learning tasks continue to be set once a week, typically in English and maths but occasionally in other subjects as well. Most tasks will be linked to the learning that we have covered in class. This will be set each Friday and due the following Wednesday.

Reading

Regular reading is essential, daily if possible. This could include reading books (fiction and non-fiction), newspapers, magazines/comics etc. The majority of our writing this term will relate to tailoring writing for different audiences and purposes, so reading a range of texts will help them really understand how writing differs depending on the context.

Whilst many children will be reading independently, please do continue to discuss the books or texts your child is reading from time to time – this helps to gauge their understanding of what they are reading. The children will be expected to fill in their reading records in class and many have now established a good habit in doing so.

Many parents ask me for book recommendations to help support with reading at home. Please find here a link to recent titles (many of which are in our library) that you may find useful.

<https://www.booksfortopics.com/year-6>

The 'Best Books This Month' section is a great place for children to keep up-to-date with the latest recommended titles.

<https://www.booksfortopics.com/booklists/books-of-the-month-2022/best-books-this-month-december-2023/>

Spellings

Spelling patterns will continue to be learnt and explored in class. Like last term, the children will receive a new bank of words to focus on. Thank you for your continued support in helping your children to learn them at home.

Ideas for supporting your child's learning:

Useful websites include:

- <https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/history/kings-and-queens/> – A brilliant starting point for learning about the Monarchy since 1066.
- <https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/history/world-war-ii/> - An interactive encyclopaedia about the World War II.
- <https://www.trockstars.com> - A brilliant resource to help improve times table and division recall speed!
- <http://nrich.maths.org> – An excellent source of maths challenges.
- <https://corbettmathsprimary.com> - a useful maths website with videos and resources to help consolidate their maths learning.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all the support you have given your child over the last term with their reading and home learning tasks. Your time and efforts are greatly appreciated and will enhance the children's learning experiences hugely.

Best wishes,

Mr Harman