



Jessie Younghusband School

Year 2 – Curriculum Letter – Autumn Term

Welcome to Year 2! I'm really looking forward to working with your children over the coming months, in partnership with you, to ensure that they enjoy a happy and successful year. Mrs. Ayers and I have had a fantastic first week with the class and have really enjoyed getting to know them.

This curriculum letter will provide some useful information about the autumn term in Year 2. You can find out more detail about the specific areas of learning and curriculum content that the children will be studying this term on our school website (www.jys.org.uk) under the 'classes' tab.

This term's topics

Our first topics this year are 'Coastlines & Fossils' and 'Island Life', in which we'll have a particular focus on Geography. We'll be learning about the physical and human characteristics of our coastlines, both locally and internationally. We'll also learn about two figures from History, finding out about the important fossil discoveries of Mary Anning, as well as the story of Grace Darling and the role of lighthouses along our coastlines.

To kick-start our Coastlines work, we'll be enjoying a class trip to Dell Quay on Thursday 14th September. Further details have gone out in a separate letter – please speak to the office if you have any queries regarding the trip.

National Tests

If you've got older children, you may remember them taking part in 'SATS' tests at the end of Year 2. Due to a change in education policy, there are no longer statutory national tests at the end of Key Stage One, and so the class will not be taking any formal tests this year.

PE

PE lessons will be on Monday and Tuesday afternoons this year, though it's useful to keep PE kits in school throughout the week in case of any ad-hoc sporting activities. We will aim to ensure PE kits are taken home every Friday and would appreciate your help in getting these washed over the weekend ready to be returned on Monday.

Reading

Regular reading is the single most impactful thing you can do to help your child's academic development. Each Friday, we'll help the children select a new book from the school reading scheme to take home. The book will be sent home in a plastic wallet, inside their bag, in order to protect it from water bottle spillages or from becoming accidentally bent or torn. Please enjoy reading and re-reading the book at home with your child several times in order to develop their fluency and understanding of the story. We'd appreciate you making a short comment in their purple 'reading comments' book as well, which is also kept in the plastic wallet and brought into school every day.

The school reading scheme books are closely linked to the phonics work we're doing in class, to ensure the books they're reading are well-pitched for their level of development. Please do feel free to complement this with other reading alongside this however – in fact, the wider the range of reading, the better. Exposure to a wide range of different stories, magazines, comics etc will help them to find their own areas of interest, and help to foster a love of reading alongside their increasing fluency.

Home learning

A home learning task will be set once each week, typically in either Literacy or Maths but occasionally in other subjects as well. Home learning aims to reinforce a key concept the children have already learnt at school. This will usually be set each Wednesday and due in again the following Monday. Additional copies of the home learning task, if required, are available in the classroom – your children can get these for themselves, or you can ask me for a copy if needed. Occasionally you may wish to add a comment if there is anything you feel I should know about how they got on. Spellings also form part of their home learning and will also be given out and tested every Wednesday. We really appreciate your continued support in helping your child to complete their home learning on time.

Show & Tell

We'll have a short opportunity for 'Show & Tell' during Privilege Time on a Friday afternoon. Please avoid sending in things like toys which have fairly limited opportunity for worthwhile discussion. Photos or short videos from day trips, holidays or events they've participated in are often better, and allow the child to share an experience with their classmates. These can be emailed to office@jys.org.uk and marked as Y2 Show & Tell.

Contact

We know how important it is to be in regular communication with you as parents, sharing information to ensure we can each support the children 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 2 classroom each day. Please feel free to say hello, or to ask any questions you may have! Should you need to get in contact via email, we ask that these are directed to office@jys.org.uk who will forward your message on.

Year 2 Diary Dates

- **Thursday 14th September – Y2 Dell Quay Trip**
- **Friday 29th September – Open Afternoon (Details to follow)**
- **Thursday 5th October – Author Visit: Joe Todd-Stanton**
- **Monday 23rd – Friday 27th October – Half Term**

Best wishes,

Mr. Vass