



Jessie Younghusband School

Year 5 – Spring Term – Curriculum Letter 2024

Welcome to the Year 5 curriculum letter within which you will find useful information about the forthcoming term. It is amazing to think that we are already a third of the way through the academic year! I am hoping that we will have a great Spring Term this year and I am looking forward to the remainder of the year ahead.

Reminders:

- Please send P.E. kit into school on a Monday morning. It can then be taken home each Friday to completely clear the cloakroom and to allow the kit to be washed. To ensure that any 'found' items can be returned to their owners promptly, please can you ensure that your child's P.E. kit and other school clothing is **clearly named**? We recommend that the children have **football boots for Tag Rugby in P.E.**, although trainers that can get muddy will suffice for those without boots.
- **Waterbottles should be taken home each day and washed thoroughly.**
- Home learning is usually set on a Friday to be returned by the following Wednesday. Thank you for your continued support with home learning tasks and encouraging your child to hand their home learning in on time.
- We are continuing to work on all of the times tables, so the children will be tested on them all once a week. Regular practise of these at home is **absolutely essential** for improving and maintaining speed and accuracy of recall – again, thank you for your continued support with this. Remember that children can practice using their TT Rockstars logins (please inform the office if you need reminding of these or the VLE logins and passwords).
- Regular reading aloud continues to be essential in Year 5 – supporting your child by listening to them read and engaging with them on the content of their reading material will help them to make progress. Daily reading material will include your child's school book, but can of course extend to texts such as other reading books, newspapers, recipe books, magazines/comics or joke books. Parents should listen to their children **read out loud at home 3 times a week and sign the purple Reading Record book** that your child has in their book bag. Thank you.

Last term:

The Autumn Term was a **very** busy one for Year 5, learning about The Romans and being Geography Detectives– as well as some other projects. Some of the highlights included:

- The visit from Paull Ullson- History Man.
- Having a mock battle and dressing up on Roman Day.
- Having a visit from Cats Protection Charity.
- Visiting Fishbourne Roman Palace for a day of learning about Roman life.
- Drama workshop from the drama students at Chichester University.
- Out Rainforest dance with Rachel Royce.

This term:

This term promises to be another action-packed term as we learn about Space and more Invaders (Vikings, Anglo-Saxons and Picts). As they did last term, the children will continue to have an on-going input into their learning regarding these topics; there will be a longer Home Learning project on making a 28-day moon diary, recording the phases of the moon and choices on Home Learning projects from a grid of activities.

The Space topic has a clear science focus but also links to the English, Maths, Computing, D&T, History and Art curriculums. There will be many exciting experiences for us to look forward to which include:

- Learning about Space and what is beyond!
- “Alien Day” (date to be arranged).
- Visiting the Planetarium in Chichester.
- Designing our own mixed media artwork based on the work of Peter Thorpe.
- Learning about Invaders with Paul Ullson.
- Listening to “The War of The Worlds” by Jeff Wayne.
- Taking black and white photographs of natural forms.



Ideas for supporting your child’s learning:

- Useful websites for homework help include:
<http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/space.html> .
- Visiting the local library.
- Useful books to read include non-fiction texts about space and anything to do with science fiction.
- Continue to develop your child’s mental maths with some quick-fire questions based on times tables (and their related division facts), addition and subtraction of 2 or 3 numbers, including questions with money, negative numbers and decimals.
- Explore measures in the context of home, including time (e.g. the 12- and 24-hour clock), shape and fractions.

Spellings in Year 5

Traditionally, we have learned Spellings in class and children have taken home words to learn, which culminated in a weekly spelling test. New research has shown that this method is not the most effective way to help children to be better and more confident at spelling. Year 5 and Year 6 are trialling several new ways in which learning to spell can be made more fun and effective for the children at school. Therefore, the children will now NOT be expected to bring home spellings each week and will have low stakes spelling quizzes, rather than a formal test. However, I will provide a copy of the term’s spellings for parents to work on with their children at home, should they wish.

Finally, does anyone:

- Have any space-related resources? (If you can lend us anything for display in the classroom, please name it in some way so that it can be returned to the owner!)
- Have a good DVD on Space which we could borrow, or a music CD featuring space music?
- Have time to support us on our trips or with our art and photography work?



Thank you for your continued help and support.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Cooke, Mrs Corderoy & Mrs Taylor.

