



Jessie Younghusband School

Year 1 – Curriculum Letter – Summer Term

Welcome to the summer term in Year 1! The purpose of this curriculum letter is to give you useful information relating to your child's learning over the coming term.

Reminders:

Reading, Phonics and Spellings

School Library Books

- Every **Thursday**, the children will have the opportunity to swap their **school library book** so please ensure that they bring their library book back on this day each week. The library book that they choose may be a book that they cannot yet read themselves but which they will enjoy hearing read to them. Sharing books in this way is such a valuable learning experience.

Home Learning Routines

- Each **Friday** your child will bring home their **new reading scheme book**, a **phonics activity sheet** and **grapheme/phoneme flashcard(s)** to support the phonics learning that has taken place during the week. They will also bring home two **'tricky word' flashcards** (which are referred to as 'Common Exception Words' on the activity sheet).
- These items will all be sent home in zippy wallets, inside the children's book bags. **Please ensure that they are kept in these zippy wallets, along with your child's purple 'Reading Comments' book, in order to protect them from water bottle spillages or becoming accidentally bent or torn.** These should be brought into school every day please.

Reading At Home

- On **Friday**, when your child brings home their new reading scheme book, please write the title of it into their purple **'Reading Comments' book** and then note down any particular observations that you make each time that you read with them. It is always really valuable to hear your comments about how your child is getting on with their reading and I review the children's 'Reading Comments' books **every Thursday**, when I update them with information about our Shared Reading Group activities for the week.
- **Regular reading** is essential, daily if possible, in order to build your child's fluency and confidence. It is vital that the children are given frequent opportunities to practise applying their phonics skills so please enjoy reading and re-reading the school reading book at home with your child several times over the course of the week. Take time to talk about the content of the book and ask your child questions about what they have read, in order to help build their understanding and comprehension skills, as well as their decoding strategies and expression.
- In addition to the school's reading scheme books, we thoroughly encourage the children to **visit the library** and to **read a range of other books** at home, if at all possible. This could include fiction and non-fiction books, children's newspapers, joke books and magazines/comics. In fact, the wider the range of genres that your child reads, the better! Reading with your child regularly will help them to foster a real love of reading.



Phonics Activity Sheet and Flashcards

- Please help your child to read the words on the activity sheet and to complete the tasks given, to help them consolidate their learning.
- Remember, the 'Spelling Words' listed on the weekly activity sheet are words that the children have previously been taught to read. Encouraging your child to practise spelling these words will help them to embed their knowledge more deeply. Flashcards will not be included for these 'spelling' words.
- Please keep the weekly activity sheets at home once your child has completed them. They do not need to be returned to school. You can then revisit them at regular intervals, to help your child retain and refresh their phonics learning.

P.E.

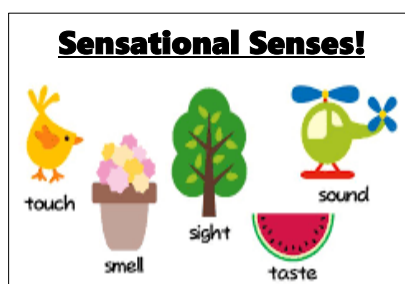
- This half term, our **P.E. days** will be on **Tuesdays** and **Thursdays**. However, please make sure that your child has their P.E. kit in school all week from Monday morning, as the children may need them for lessons, clubs and ad-hoc sporting activities at different points during the week. P.E. kits will be sent home every half term.
- Please send a written note in if your child has a verruca and cannot do P.E. barefooted or if your child is unable to take part in P.E. for a medical reason. For safety reasons, no watches or jewellery should be worn during P.E. lessons. If your child wears earrings and it is not possible for them to be removed for P.E., please let me know.



Show and Tell

- '**Show and Tell**' sessions will continue on Friday afternoons, to allow the children time to share any exciting news or items with the class. Like last term, these sessions will rotate on a group-by-group basis and the rota for the coming half term was sent out electronically to parents before the Easter holidays!

This term:



Our main learning theme for the first half of the summer term will be '**Sensational Senses!**', with a focus on learning all about ourselves and our senses. In science, we will find out about the main parts of the human body and learn how we change as we grow older. We will also explore the five senses by carrying out a range of practical science experiments. In history, we will find out about the lives of famous nurses including Florence Nightingale, Mary Seacole and Edith Cavell. In art, we will be learning how to draw portraits and self-portraits whilst in literacy, we will enjoy sharing the 'Funnybones' story about a family of skeletons and writing our own senses poems. All this promises to help make this half term another fun and exciting one!

In the second half of the summer term, our learning theme will be '**All Things Bright and Beautiful**', during which we will be learning about the wonderful plants and animals that live within different habitats around the world. In science, we will learn how to identify and name a variety of common animals including mammals, birds, fish, amphibians, reptiles and insects. We will explore simple food chains to help us understand which common animals are carnivores, herbivores and omnivores. We will also look at the basic structure of a variety of common flowering plants, including trees.



In geography, we will explore our local school environment and learn how to create simple maps. We will also think about how we can use, enjoy and look after our environment carefully, by treating wildlife with care, saving energy and recycling as much as we can.

Ideas for supporting your child's learning:

Key Skills

- Keep reading regularly with your child at home.
- Keep using the phonics resources given out each week, to develop your child's confidence with recognising and saying the different digraphs and trigraphs.
- Practise the number bonds to ten (and then to twenty) with your child until they can recall the pairs of numbers that add together to make the total instantly and without hesitation. For example, when you say '7', they can immediately reply '3' or when you say '4', they can immediately say '6'.
- Practise counting up to 100 together, going forwards and backwards in ones and then in tens, twos and fives. Start from zero first but then give your child different starting numbers when they are more confident. Can they say what is 'one more' or 'one less' than any given number up to 100? Can they tell you whether a number is 'even' or 'odd'?

Sensational Senses!

- Look through your child's baby album with them and talk about how they've changed.
- Encourage your child to use their senses: taste new flavours; listen to birds or to you whispering from the bottom of the garden; look carefully – what can you see with one eye?
- Find and make some healthy recipes and think about how we can lead a healthy lifestyle.

All Things Bright and Beautiful

- Continue to talk about the weather with your child! Talk about what changes they can see and feel in the environment around them as the seasons change.
- Talk about any plants and trees that you have in your garden or that you walk past on your way to school. What are they like? Help your child to compare and contrast them. Talk about the different parts of a plant (e.g. stem, leaf, flowers). Can your child name any of the different plants and trees that they see regularly?
- Look at plants growing with your child. Maybe they could grow some of their own at home?

Finally . . .

Thank you very much for your continued support with your child's learning at home. It is greatly appreciated and really does enhance the children's understanding and progress. As ever, if you have any questions as the term progresses, or would like to discuss anything, please either catch me at the end of the school day or send an email to the school office and I will get in touch with you as soon as I can.

Kind regards,

Mrs Neville