



Jessie Younghusband School

Year 1 – Curriculum Letter – Spring Term

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a relaxing, peaceful and safe Christmas. May I take this opportunity, on behalf of all of us in the Year 1 team, to say a huge thank you for the wonderful Christmas cards and gifts that we received at the end of last term – we were very touched by your kind words and generosity.

Thank you also for all that you did throughout the autumn to enable the children to have such a successful first term in Year 1. Thank you for supporting them with their reading, phonics, Show and Tell items and so much more. Your time and efforts are greatly appreciated and they really enhance the children's experiences and learning.

Welcome to the spring term! 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.

- Our **P.E. days** will be on **Tuesdays and Thursdays** this half term. 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. Please see the 'Show and Tell' rota that was emailed out to parents before the Christmas holidays for details.

This term:



This term promises to be just as exciting and fun as the last! Our learning theme for the first half of the spring term will be '**London's Burning!**', during which we will be finding out all about the Great Fire of London. Whilst the main subject driver for this learning theme is history, there will be many cross-curricular links to other subjects including literacy, science, PSHE and art.

In the second half of the spring term, our learning theme will be '**Home Sweet Home**', during which we will be exploring different types of homes around the world.



Ideas for supporting your child's learning:

- Keep reading regularly with your child at home.
- Continue to use the flashcards that have been sent home to support your child with their recognition of the different phonic digraphs and trigraphs, and 'tricky' words.
- 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'?
- 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.
- Find out about The Great Fire of London together by reading books and researching the topic on the internet.

Finally . . .

As ever, if you have any questions as the term progresses, or would like to discuss anything with me, please catch me at the end of the school day, or contact the office to make an appointment, if it is more convenient.

Thank you for your continued support and best wishes for a very happy 2024.

Mrs Neville