



Jessie Younghusband School

Year 1 – Curriculum Letter – Autumn Term 1

Welcome to Year 1! I am really looking forward to working with your children, in partnership with you, to ensure that they have a very happy and successful year.

I already know some of you through teaching your older child(ren) and I have met others of you since the start of term, but please do come and say 'hello' if I haven't seen you yet! I am looking forward to getting to know you all over the coming weeks.

I hope that you found watching the 'Introduction to Year 1' video (which you received a link to at the end of the summer term) useful! The purpose of this curriculum letter is to give you some more information about the learning themes, routines and expectations of our class, which I hope you will find both informative and helpful in assisting your child during their first term in Year 1.

You will also be able to find long term planning documents on the school website (www.jys.org.uk) which will give you an overview of the areas of learning and curriculum content that the children will be studying as they move through the school.

Morning Routines

As you know, we ask the Year 1 children to leave you on the playground and come down the ramp by themselves, where they are guided into the Year 1 classroom by staff. One of the school's senior leadership team will be on the playground to support them to do this.

We have already been impressed with how the children are taking responsibility for sorting out their belongings and settling quickly to the first task of the day. This is an important step in encouraging the development of their independence and organisational skills. Thank you for your support with this.

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 your child chooses 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.
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- **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.
- 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

- A weekly '**Show and Tell**' session will be held each Friday afternoon, to allow the children time to share any exciting news with the class. This will be done on a group-by-group rotation basis and the children will be told in advance which group's turn it will be each week, in order to give them time to prepare. The 'Show and Tell Rota' will also be emailed out to you at the beginning of each half term. There is no expectation that every child will want to participate but everyone will be given the opportunity to do so. Please encourage your child to choose a 'Show and Tell' topic that will be of real interest to others in the class! This might include something that is related to our current in-school learning theme or a photo from a recent special event, experience, day trip or holiday. The children are welcome to bring in an object or item for their talk but please ensure that this is not valuable! Also, no 'favourite teddy/toy' talks please! As the time slot for each 'Show and Tell' session is limited, your child may want to prepare 3 fun facts about their topic in advance, to help them to talk confidently in front of the class.

This half term

This half term will be an exciting and stimulating one, with many cross-curricular links. This means that there will be strong links between subjects and children can see their learning as being connected, relevant and purposeful. Our main learning theme for the half term is '**Weather Wizardry**' in which we will focus on learning all about the weather around the world and the seasons. This theme will have links with literacy, maths, science, art and computing.

Forest School

Year 1 have the exciting opportunity to take part in Forest School sessions later this term. Forest School allows the children to learn outside of the classroom and to explore their environment and surroundings. A letter to explain more about this will be sent out in due course.

Ideas for supporting your child's learning:

- Keep reading regularly with your child at home.
- Help your child to practise reading and writing the numbers from 0 to 10 and then to 20. Can they show you what a number represents by using beads, coins, toy cars, pencils or pieces of dried pasta for example?
- Practise counting to ten (and then to twenty) together, going forwards and backwards in ones. 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 number up to ten (and then up to twenty)?
- Talk about the weather with your child! Discuss how the day length is getting shorter and talk about what changes they can see and feel in the environment around them as the season of summer gives way to the beginning of autumn.
- 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?
- If possible, plant some vegetables or bulbs together at home and watch them grow!



Communicating with School

We have an 'open door' policy at school. If you are not able to catch me in person on the playground at the beginning or end of the day, please contact the school office and the staff will be happy to pass a message to me. Please do not write any 'home-school' communication messages in your child's purple 'reading record book', as I may not see them for a few days! Mr Hanna asks that all email communication is sent to teachers via the school office (office@jys.org.uk) so that queries can be dealt with in an appropriate and timely manner.

I look forward to getting to know your child over the coming weeks and I hope that they will gain many rich learning experiences throughout the busy and exciting year ahead.

With very best wishes,

Mrs Neville