



Jessie Younghusband School

Year 6 – Curriculum Letter – Autumn Term 2023

Welcome to Year 6 and our autumn term curriculum letter. Here you will find useful information relating to this term and information to assist your child in Year 6. I am delighted to be working again with Mrs McGurk this year in Year 6. We have already enjoyed welcoming back the children after their summer and are looking forward to a brilliant year ahead.

A copy of this year's long term planning provides an overview of the areas of learning and curriculum content that the children will be studying this term. This can be found on our school website: www.jys.org.uk.

There will be an open afternoon on Friday the 29th September where I will have an opportunity to introduce myself as well as highlight key points contained in this letter.

This term

Ancient Maya Civilisation



This term, the Year 6 children will learn about the Maya civilisation. In this history unit, the children will learn who the Maya people were and when and where in the world they lived; understand how the Maya number system worked; explain what the Mayan writing system consisted of and how words were constructed; and identify and use a range of evidence sources to help understand more about the Maya civilisation.

In addition, Paul Ullson (History Specialist) will join the children on the 19th September 2023 for an 'emergence morning' on the topic.

Refugees

After half-term, the children will be learning about refugees. In this geography unit, the children will gain an understanding of the reasons why people may leave their homes; understand key physical and human factors involved in migration; and map the journey of a Syrian refugee to England.

JYS Hoodies

The children will have the opportunity to wear JYS hoodies as part of their uniform in Year 6 later this term. A letter will be sent out in due course with further details.

Residential trip to Cobnor

After successful trips to Cobnor Activity Centre over the last couple of years, we are delighted to confirm the Year 6 children will be attending Cobnor in the summer term on **Monday 17th June-Wednesday 19th 2024**. Further details about the trip will be sent out in due course.



Routines and reminders

P.E.

Our P.E. lessons will be on Monday and Thursday afternoons each week. In the first half-term, children's lessons will focus on: football and netball; and after half-term: dance and football. I would be grateful if P.E. kits could be in school all week from Monday morning as the children may need them for clubs and ad-hoc sporting activities at different points during the week. I will encourage everyone to take these home on Thursday to be washed. For safety reasons, no watches or jewellery should be worn during P.E. lessons.

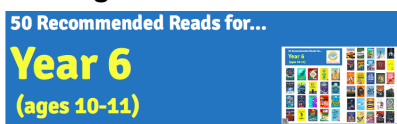
Mobile Phones

We appreciate that some children may have mobile phones, but advise where possible that these devices are left at home.

Home Learning

Home learning is usually set on a Friday and should be completed and returned by the following Wednesday. Home learning tasks will usually be set once a week. The type of tasks set will vary, but will usually include one piece of English and one piece of maths, designed to reinforce what they have learnt in class the week before. Occasionally, the children will be set a small project linked to their theme focus and when this occurs, more time is given to complete their home learning.

Reading



NEWLY UPDATED!
We have selected a list of 50 recommended books for children aged 10-11. Find the best books for children in Year 6, including storylines, read-alouds, edge-of-your-seat thrillers, issue-based stories, laugh-out-loud books, picturebooks, graphic novels, poetry and non-fiction. We've tried to include something for all tastes - but look out for legendary sea monsters, Wandersnoot societies, clocks that strike thirteen and the scariest school detention ever...

Scroll down to find more purchasing options and printable resources.



Regular reading is essential, daily if possible. This could include reading books (fiction and non-fiction), newspapers, magazines and comics, the wider the range of genres that your child reads, the better. Many children will now be reading independently, but please do continue to discuss the books or texts your child is reading from time to time – this helps to consolidate their understanding of what they have read. We have a library of books exclusively for Year 6 within the classroom that they are welcome to borrow to read at home. Please encourage your children to fill in their reading comments books as often as possible to celebrate the books they are reading. I'm always discussing and recommending books for the children to read and often asked by parents for recommendations. 'Books for Topics' is an excellent website (see link at the end of the letter) with specific recommendations for each year groups. The webpage is regularly updated throughout the year.

Spellings

The children will receive a spelling list weekly with words linked to a spelling pattern they have been learning in class. Initially, the word lists given in Year 6 consolidate and extend spelling patterns, which have been seen in previous years. Following this, we then focus on irregular words which are commonly used by 10-12 year olds in their everyday writing and more complex spelling patterns. Please help your children to practise their spellings. The children will learn a variety of different ways this can be done.

Ideas for supporting your child's learning:

Useful websites include:

- <http://nrich.maths.org> – An excellent source of maths challenges.
- <https://corbettmathsprimary.com> - a useful maths website with videos and resources to help consolidate their maths learning.
- <https://www.ttrockstars.com> - A brilliant resource to help improve times table and division recall speed!
- <https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/history/mayans/> - An interactive encyclopaedia about the Ancient Maya civilization with quizzes.
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zq6svcw> - A collection of useful videos to help support learning on the Maya civilization.
- <https://www.booksfortopics.com/year-6> - An excellent website to help your children select books for reading.

I look forward to being involved in your child's final year with us and hope to make it enjoyable. If you have any questions as the term progresses, or would like to discuss anything with me, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards,

Mr Harman