



# Jessie Younghusband School

## Year R – Summer Term – Curriculum Letter

We hope you all had a relaxing and peaceful Easter break and enjoyed spending time with family and friends. Can you believe your child has begun their last term in Year R? Their first year at JYS is definitely flying by!

I would like to formally welcome Mrs Osborne to Year R. You may remember that I was temporarily covering Mrs Osborne's maternity leave for two terms since September. Many of you will have met Mrs Osborne now in the cloakroom on Thursday and Friday morning of this week where she has spent the days working alongside me and observing our routines. The children are very excited to have her as their teacher having met her several times when visiting with baby Mylo. Moving forwards, I will generally teach on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and Mrs Osborne will teach on a Thursday and Friday. Mrs Osborne is an experienced teacher who has worked at JYS for many years and I am sure you will give her a warm welcome.

Please find below key notes relating to your child's learning from the previous term and what we will be exploring in the first half of the summer term.

### Last term's highlights:

The children had a very exciting and busy time last term. There were many special highlights, which included:

- Learning about space and famous astronauts such as Tim Peake and Neil Armstrong, and much more;
- Hearing stories read from the International Space Station by real astronauts on World Book Day.
- Learning about different traditions and celebrations by making and tasting Chinese stir-fry and pancakes;
- Following the children's interests in ponies, LOL dolls, dragons, ferries, football, princesses and superheroes as a stimulus for learning;
- Learning about Kandinsky and creating our own 2D shape pictures in his style;
- Discovering a dinosaur egg and footprints in our outside area;
- Exploring our 'pop up' role play spaces; themes included a football stadium, ferry port, superhero headquarters, pancake café and a Chinese restaurant. As a team in Year R, we are always looking for ways to enhance our learning spaces; the children have used these areas during their Discovery Time and we know they will continue to enjoy being outdoors this term.
- Another successful 'Stay and Play' session – please look out for photographs from your visit in your child's Learning Journal!
- Thank you to those who attended Grounds Day and helped to clean out mud kitchen utensils; points were added to your child's name to go towards their badges. Look out for the next date in the summer term!



### This term:

The summer term is very busy in school with lots of class events and whole school events planned in. For many of you, this is the first time you are experiencing a summer term at Jessie so we thought you would appreciate extra notice of these events and also some

additional information about them. Please note that more details and exact timings will follow nearer the time:

Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> May – 8.55am until 10am at the latest	‘JYS Build a Bear Factory’ themed Stay and Play session	<b>Please do not tell your child about this... we want it to be a secret!</b> Additional invitation to follow.
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May – from 2pm	Open Day / Drop in session	Parents are invited to spend a session in school. This is a whole school event which happens once a year.
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> June – 8.55am in the school hall (We aim to be finished by 10am)	Year R’s first class assembly to be followed by a ‘Teddy Bear’s Picnic’	Parents are invited to watch the assembly in the Hall and then join us for a light ‘picnic’ in the school grounds.
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> June – timings tbc	Sports Day and picnic lunch	Parents are invited to watch the children take part in a range of team races followed by a picnic lunch on the field (please be aware if the weather is poor, there is a ‘back up’ date scheduled for Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> June).
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> June-evening	JYS has got talent	Organised by the friends, the children have the chance to audition for the school talent show and showcase their talents.
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> July- 4pm onwards	Summer Fair	Come along to join in with some games, buy some treats and have a glass of Pimms whilst raising money for the school.
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Last day of term	Have a restful summer break!



Thank you for all of your support during our second ‘Stay and Play’ session. It was wonderful to see so many of you and it was an absolute pleasure to walk around and hear the children excitedly talking to you about the work in their Learning Journals. We also know that they enjoyed creating their front covers with you; we hope you’ll agree that they look fantastic and make you want to turn the page to see their collection of work from the spring term.

Both the Early Years’ Curriculum and our school ethos highly value parental involvement and we like to welcome you, as parents, in to share in your child’s learning journey regularly over their first year at school. However, we appreciate that families experience many time pressures, and for working parents it can be difficult to get time off from work to attend some or all of these events. We often see grandparents, an auntie/uncle or even a grown-up sibling attend. Please do not worry if you are unable to join us for any of these events; we will always pair your child with a friend’s family or a member of the Year R team. We hope that you continue to enjoy these occasions – please do let us know if we can help in any way.

## Wow Moments

We are sure there were many ‘Wow’ moments for your child over the holidays; feel free to fill in a ‘Wow’ sheet to capture their achievements. These sheets enable us to obtain an understanding of your child’s achievements beyond the ‘school gate’; they are placed in your child’s Learning Journal and the information we gather from them is a valuable source of evidence. ‘Wow’ sheets are available for you to take from a plastic folder attached to the Year R noticeboard in the cloakroom. We have been overwhelmed with your support with

this so far. We love sharing them in the class and each child has their 'chance to shine' with a well-deserved round of applause. Please keep them coming!



We hope that you are enjoying using Tapestry as an insight to your child's learning. We can see that you have all activated your accounts and as a result have access to your observations. Please spend the time looking through the photographs and captions, they really are a joy to read; children say the funniest things! The children often ask us to 'show Mummy / Daddy' something they have made at school and we explain that we can send the photo home via Tapestry. We are sure they would love to see that in practice on your phone / tablet.

**Did you know that you can comment on and 'like' observations? We love to read your comments; keep them coming! You can also submit your own observations by clicking the '+' button in the top right hand corner of the app. So far, we have had photographs from home of paintings, models, holidays, writing, number sentences and much more. Thank you to those parents who have contributed so far.**

### **Reminders and Information:**

- Please check that **your child's name is still clearly visible in all their clothing and on all of their belongings** (such as snack pots and drink bottles). We are finding that as the year has gone on and more washes have taken place, some names have faded which makes returning the item to its owner a slower process.
- Just to remind you, your child will need plimsolls for P.E this term. We would be very grateful if a pair of plimsolls could be included in their P.E kit as soon as possible. Again, your child's name needs to be written inside these to ensure they end up with the correct pair at the end of each P.E session. Thank you!
- Please feel free to write any general comments about your child's reading in their purple comments book. It is also helpful for us to receive some notification of your child having read their book. This could be as simple as the title being recorded and a tick put next to it.



### **The Summer Term**

As before, please find the topic overview for this term on the school's website under 'classes' then 'Reception class'. Once again this is set out as a jigsaw and shows how the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum is organised into seven areas of learning and links to our 'Bear-necessities!' and 'Commotion in the Ocean' topics which has theme of bears and under the sea running through them. We hope that this will provide you with a more detailed insight into what your child will be learning about over the coming weeks. The children have already begun to find out about different types of bears and we will be building on what they already know.



We use lots of small boxes, bottle tops, tin foil/wrapping paper, beads etc. in our 'creative workshop' and we are always grateful for odds and ends like this that you might usually recycle or throw away, to replenish our supplies. Please keep an eye out for the sign we have hanging on the pillar in the cloakroom changing as it indicates if we are in need of more supplies. Thank you!

Thank you for attending your child's parents evening. We hope that you found it useful and that you felt like you had a clear picture of your child's learning and the steps for moving forward. Below are some general suggestions of other ways that you can help your child at home:

- Continue to read 'little and often' with your child's school reading book;
- Use the flashcards sent home to ensure your child can recognise the sounds on sight (especially the digraphs and trigraphs- the two and three letter sounds);
- Use the flashcards to build CVC words such as cut, map, top, pan and then CVCC/CCVC words such as train, spoon, flip, paint;
- Robot talk a word: can your child guess what it is? Swap roles: can they robot talk a word for you to guess?
- Use the letter formation sheets in the phonics folder to practice cursive writing. We call the lead-ons 'whooshes' and they always start with a whoosh to form a letter correctly rather than adding them on afterwards;
- Encourage purposeful writing such as leaving notes for family members when you pop out, shopping lists for the supermarket trip etc. (don't forget your child's sound mat is a great tool for writing);
- Look at real coins and their values;
- Spot 3D shapes in the environment and talk about their properties;
- Use the language add, subtract/take away using concrete materials to find the answer;
- Spot numbers out and about.

### **Finally...**

Today, you will be receiving home your child's jam-packed spring term Learning Journal. We ask that you spend time over the weekend looking at, enjoying and reflecting upon your child's work from last term. **We also hope that you will record some comments on the speech bubble (on the next page) to feedback your thoughts on your child's achievements.** Which areas do you feel your child has made progress in since the autumn term? Has their confidence increased with their reading, writing or maths? If so, please do let us know. You may like to record a sentence or two about what your child enjoyed learning about/doing. What were their highlights?

Please return the Learning Journal by **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April** (after the weekend) along with the printed speech bubble so that we can keep it as evidence in school of the work completed during the spring term. Enjoy!

End of spring term reflection