



Jessie Younghusband School

Year 5 – Curriculum Letter – Autumn Term 2020

Welcome back to school! What a year it has been so far...This is the term's curriculum letter within which you will find useful information for you to assist your child in their first term in Year 5. It will be a bit of a different feel to school this term, after being away for so long. You can rest-assured that we will take your child's needs into account and do our very best to make sure that any gaps in their education are filled over the year.

The purpose of this curriculum letter is to give you some useful 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 5. An 'Introduction to Year 5' video, in which I introduce myself, show you around our classroom and talk about this term's learning themes, can be found on our school website:

https://www.jys.org.uk/website/year_5/133445.

You will also be able to find long term planning documents for each subject on the school website 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.

Unfortunately, current restrictions mean that the informal 'hello' chats that we would usually have during the first few weeks of term won't be able to take place this year. However, I already know some of you through teaching your older child(ren) and I look forward to meeting everyone in person properly as the year progresses. In the meantime, if you do need to discuss something with me, please do get in touch via email at **Michaela.cooke@jys.org.uk**.

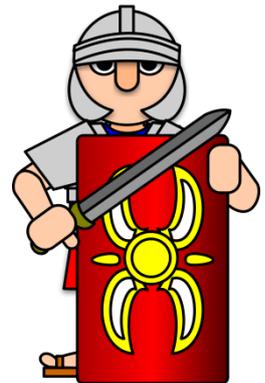
In the first week, we will be doing a lot of Circle Time activities, confidence-building work, outdoor PE and creative work. This will help the children to re-adjust to school life and gently re-introduce them to our routines and expectations. As concentration may be a little more difficult at first, we will also be including games and movement breaks into lessons, in order to make the learning fun and manageable.

This term:

This autumn term is set to be an exciting one. Our theme will be the first of our three-part investigation into the "Invaders" of the past -The Romans. (All 3 parts will consist of The Romans in Britain, the Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings). The children will have an on-going input into their learning regarding this topic and they will also choose how to present their work this term.

Our Invaders topic has history as its main focus but will also link to literacy, maths, geography, art, computing and D&T. There will also be many exciting experiences for us to look forward to, including:

- We will be learning about the Roman history and geography of Chichester and the surrounding area.
- We will be focussing on the Roman invasion of Britain circa AD43 and how it affected British life at the time.
- We will learn how to put on togas.
- We will learn about the legend of Romulus and Remus.
- We will learn about Roman onagers before designing and making our own.
- The children will bring in their Roman shields that they have made as part of their Home Learning tasks.
- In Literacy, we will be working on the play, "Julius Caesar" by William Shakespeare.



We will be having a "Roman Camp" in the summer term (when we know how 2021 is looking regarding Coronavirus).

Reminders:

- **P.E. kits** – due to the situation we are in due to Covid-19. for the first half term, we are asking that children only bring in a change of shoes for PE (trainers preferably) which should be left 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.
- The children will also need a named art apron – or old shirt – in school all week. We do activities involving pastels, painting, clay and modroc and the children will need something to protect their uniform and keep it clean.
- **Home Learning activities:** to reduce the amount of paper and books being passed between home and school at this present time, we will not be setting formal “home learning” in the first autumn half term. Instead, we are encouraging children to read, learn their spellings, practice their times tables. In Years 5 and 6, the children will be set a piece of individual research to do, linked to the work being done in class, and given different options on how to present this. Details of these task will follow in due course.
- **Spellings:** again, to reduce the number of items passing between school and home in the current climate, these will be posted on the school’s Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) and can be accessed online. Spellings will be in place for Monday to be learnt ready for a test on Friday. This routine will begin soon.
- We will test the children on the quick recall of their times tables each week. They will be working through their new Times Tables booklets and working on Verbal Reasoning problems when the booklets are completed. Please encourage your child to keep practising using the TT Rockstars website.
- Regular reading continues to be **essential** – supporting your child by listening to them read and engaging with them on the content of their reading material will help them to continue to make progress. This could include your child’s school reading books, newspapers, magazines, comics, recipe or non-fiction books.
- Children will be allowed to bring in a small, wipe-able pencil case in which to keep their pencils, pens and coloured pencils.

Ideas for supporting your child’s learning:

- useful websites might include <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/romans> or <http://primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/Romans.html>;
- visit the local library or The Novium museum (entry is free).
- useful books to read include non-fiction texts about the Romans, Celts, Boudicca, the Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings;
- develop your child’s mental maths with some quick-fire questions based on times tables (and related division facts), addition and subtraction of 2 or 3 numbers.

Finally, do you know anyone who...

- has a model of a Roman onager?
- has a suitable DVD on the Romans, the Anglo-Saxons or the Vikings that we could borrow?
- has the time to come in and help us with some art work, cooking or with trips? If so, please do let me know! (We will make a list and contact you as the year unfolds).

I am very excited to start work with my new Year 5 class. I am looking forward to seeing you all at the start of term.

If you have any questions regarding the start of term, please refer to the Parentmail which was sent out of Wednesday 15th July by Mrs Sadler headed, **September arrangements for the start of the new academic year.**

Best wishes,

Mrs Cooke