



Jessie Younghusband School

Year 2 – Curriculum Letter – Spring Term 2019

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a relaxing and peaceful Christmas and that you enjoyed spending time with family and friends. May I take this opportunity, on behalf of both Mrs Ayers and myself, 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.

Welcome back to the spring term in Year 2! The purpose of this curriculum letter is to give you useful information relating to your child's learning in the coming term.

By the end of the autumn term, it was lovely to see the vast majority of the children confidently coming into class by themselves each morning – we are well and truly settled into the routines of Year 2! As the new term begins, please continue to encourage your child to come into class by themselves so that they can carry on developing their independence and organisational skills. Please remember that the office staff will be happy to pass on any messages for you, regarding 'going home' arrangements or advanced notification about appointments that your child will be attending. Of course, there may be occasions when you do need to talk to me about something in person and if this is the case, please do pop in when you drop your child off in the morning. Alternatively, you can come in to see me when you collect your child from school at the end of the day. Thank you in advance for your help with this!

Reminders:

- Please can **P.E. kits** be in school all week from Monday morning. They will then be sent home at least once every half term for washing. A pair or warm tracksuit bottoms will be very useful to help us keep warm outside;
- **Home Learning** is set on a Friday and is to be returned by the following Wednesday;
- **Spellings** are sent home on a Friday and tested on the following Thursday. Looking for other words, in reading books, that show the same spelling rule that we are learning will help to reinforce and letter pattern and sound;
- Children are expected to be able to fluently recall and use the multiplication and division facts for the **2, 5 and 10 multiplication tables** by the end of Year 2 (as specified in the National Curriculum) and we will be having a particular focus on this, this term. As the term progresses, a specific multiplication table will be set on a Friday, for the children to practise at home. Multiplication and division puzzles will take place on a Monday morning as well as other opportunities throughout the week. The children will have fun moving their speedy spider up the multiplication ladder as they become fluent. Other multiplication table puzzles will be set for those children ready to move on.
- School **reading books** are taken home on a regular basis and reading at home is essential; daily if possible. We encourage the children to visit the library and to read other books at home, as well as those from the school reading scheme. 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, and discussing books with them, will not only help them to develop their fluency and comprehension skills but will also help them to foster a real love of reading. This will also impact on their ideas for writing, sentence structure and vocabulary;
- Children will have the opportunity to '**Show and Tell**' throughout the week. Please encourage your child to only bring in items that will be of real interest to others in the class! This might include items that are related to our current topics and learning, or souvenirs and/or photos from a recent special event, experience, day trip or holiday. Please remind your child that they should be able to talk about their items/experiences in some detail, in order to make it worthwhile sharing with the rest of the class!



Last term:

The autumn term was an extremely busy term for us in Year 2, learning about “Coastlines and Fossils” and “An Island Home”. There were many highlights which included:

- Visiting the beach and exploring the Dell Quay coast;
- Making our vegetable burgers and fruit salad granola with Mr Minto;
- Performing our Beach and Storm dances;
- Our paintings; cross-section of the beach, stormy seas with Grace Darling and lighthouse silhouettes, and using printing techniques in our large pictures of Ede’s House during our pop-up museum work;
- Writing some super recounts of stories and publishing information texts linked to our topic;
- Finding out about the amazing lives of Grace Darling and Mary Anning.



Thank you for your continued support with home learning tasks, spelling, tables work and reading - your time and efforts are greatly appreciated and they do enhance the children’s learning!

Thank you also for the support you gave the children in the run up to Christmas, with their costumes and practising lines for our play. I think you will agree that the children worked extremely hard to produce two fantastic performances of ‘Behind the Stable Door’ – I was very proud of them all, as I’m sure you were too!

This term:



Our first half term topic is called, ‘**London Bridge is Falling Down**’, and is science-based, learning about materials and their properties. Our second topic is ‘**On the Move!**’, which has a focus on the history of transport (particularly bicycles and cars). Both topics have many cross-curricular links with literacy, maths, science, design and technology and ICT. We also have a visit to The National Motor Museum, Beaulieu planned in March – more details to follow nearer the time!

This term certainly promises to be an exciting and stimulating one, and the children will have an input into the learning and activities that they would like to do during our topic work. If you know anyone who is an expert on cars or bicycles, who would be willing to come into class and talk to the children, please do let me know!

Ideas for supporting your child’s learning:

- <http://www.ictgames.com/resources.html> is a useful website, featuring lots of literacy and numeracy games and activities for Year 2;
- Practise mental maths such as counting in steps of 2, 5 and 10; doubling and halving numbers to at least 20 and also telling the time (‘o’clock’, ‘half past’, ‘quarter to’ and ‘quarter past’ the hour times please!);
- Visit the school or local library to research information about the history of cars and bikes.

Finally. . .

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

Thank you for your continued support and best wishes for a very happy 2019.

Mrs Saunders