



Jessie Younghusband School

Year 2 – Curriculum Letter – Autumn Term

Welcome to Year 2! 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 have already met lots of the Year 2 parents 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.

The purpose of this autumn term curriculum letter is to give you some useful information about the topics, 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 2. A copy of this term's jigsaw sheet, which gives you an overview of the areas of learning and curriculum content that the children will be studying this term, can be found on our school website: www.jys.org.uk .

An Important Year

Year 2 is an important and exciting year for your child. This is the final year of Key Stage 1 (Infants) and, as you may be aware, it is the year in which your child will be taking the National Curriculum End of Key Stage 1 Assessment Tests during the summer term. This means the pace and intensity of the work we do will gradually build up and it is important that the children miss as little as possible of the curriculum.

Encouraging Independence

I have been very impressed with how all of the children are coming into the classroom by themselves and taking responsibility for sorting out their own belongings (e.g. coat, book bag, lunch box etc), without relying on the help of parents! This is an important step forwards in encouraging the development of their independence and organisational skills. Thank you for your support with this.

Reminders

- School **reading books** will be taken home on a regular basis. Each child will be given a plastic zippy wallet in which to store their books inside their school bag, in order to protect the books from water bottle spillages and getting accidentally bent or torn. Please encourage your child to put their reading comments book and reading book back in the plastic wallet each night so that they are available during the school day. 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. 
- **Home Learning activities** are set on a Friday and are to be returned by the following Wednesday please. These will be given out in a book with the task sheet stuck inside.
- **Spellings** will be sent home on a Friday to be learned ready for a test on the following Thursday. Children will be learning spelling patterns and rules that match phonic work shared in class as well as the frequency words to be learnt for year 2
- The children are expected to be able to fluently recall and use the multiplication and division facts for the **2x, 5x and 10x multiplication tables** by the end of Year 2. Whilst we won't be having any formal 'tables tests' yet, it would be helpful if you could begin practising these multiplication tables with your child at home, by counting in steps of each number and by chanting the multiples lists (e.g. 0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10).

- **Painting overalls** and **P.E. kits** 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. P.E. kits will be sent home on Fridays.
- 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.
- Children are not encouraged to bring any toys from home into school.
- There will be limited time for **'Show and Tell'**, to allow children to share any exciting news or items with the class. 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!

This half term

Coastlines and Fossils

This term will be an exciting and stimulating one, with many cross-curricular links between subjects so that children can see their learning as being connected, relevant and purposeful. Our main topic for this half term is 'Coastlines and Fossils', in which we will focus on learning about the physical and human characteristics of our coastlines and the important fossil discoveries of Mary Anning, as well as the story of Grace Darling and the role of lighthouses along our coastlines. This topic will have links with literacy, maths, science, design and technology, art and computing. The children have already made and painted, clay scallop shells. They will be listening to stories set around rock pool creatures and writing their own. We are very much looking forward to our trip to Dell Quay on the 27th September. We will be spending the morning on the exploring the coastline.

Ideas for supporting your child's learning:

- Practise mental maths skills such as counting on and back in steps of 1, 2, 5 and 10 from zero, recalling the number bonds to ten and playing games using a 100 square – more details will be given in a home learning activity soon!
- Generate sentences using your child's spelling words;
- <http://www.ictgames.com/resources.html> is a useful website, featuring lots of literacy and numeracy games and activities for Year 2;
- Use the internet and/or visit the local library to research information about Mary Anning or Grace Darling!



Finally . . .

If you have a particular area of interest that relates to our topic this term or if you know someone who might, then please contact me as I would welcome visitors to the class to talk to the children.

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 term ahead. 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.

With very best wishes,

Mrs Saunders