



Jessie Younghusband School

Year 2 – Curriculum Letter – Autumn Term

A very big, welcome back, to school life and learning. I am really looking forward to working with your children, in partnership with you, to ensure that they have a very happy and safe return to school, and a successful year. As a school we have worked hard to make the classroom and routines as safe as possible for children and adults. The lifting of restrictions allows the return of assemblies and mixed playtimes as well as school events and trips.

At the end of the summer term, I spent the morning in year 1, reading a story and making clay scallop shells. It gave everyone the opportunity to meet each other and begin to build relationships. Our first week in year 2 has started well, we have painted our scallop shells, we have produced some wax crayon and colour resist hermit crab pictures as well as started our literacy and maths learning. The class seem happy and settled. Mrs Ayres has moved up with the class, which has also helped them to settle quickly.

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. 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.

Meet The Teacher

This term, we have made short videos to introduce ourselves to you without the need for parents to come into school. The Year 2 video is available to watch at: <https://youtu.be/ncNoAv7SfrU>

Contact

We know how important it is to be in regular communication with you as parents, sharing information to ensure we can each support them both at school and at home. I am available for short conversations before school and for longer conversations after school, and will aim to make myself visible and available outside the Year 2 classroom each day. Please feel free to say hello!

Now that parents have more access to the school site again, we would kindly ask that email is no longer used as the primary contact point for teachers. Should you need to contact a member of staff via email, we ask that these are now directed to office@jys.org.uk who will forward your message on.

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. At present, we do not know what these tests will look like for this coming year but hope that they reflect the learning time lost due to Covid.

Encouraging Independence

I am really pleased with how all the children are coming into the classroom in the mornings; learning the new routines for reading books, water bottles, lunch boxes and PE kits as well as settling to Early Bird tasks quietly. This is an important step forwards in encouraging the development of their independence and organisational skills. Thank you for your support with this.

The **school reading scheme**, which was updated last academic year, has clear progression and is closely matched to the phonics learning that the children do as they move through Key Stage 1. Each reading book has a colour spine label which has a number on it. For example, within 'Red' band, certain books are labelled with a '1', whilst others are labelled with a '2'. It is important that the children have the opportunity to read the '1' books before moving onto the '2' books.

Children will be helped by an adult to **change their reading book** in school **once a week**. The book will be sent home in a plastic zippy wallet, inside their bag, in order to protect it from water bottle spillages or becoming accidentally bent or torn. Please enjoy reading and re-reading the book at home with your child several times in order to develop their fluency and understanding of the story. Please also write in your child's '**reading comments**' book, noting any particular observations that you make during each reading session. The 'reading comments' book should be kept in the plastic wallet with the reading book and brought into school **every day** please.

The children will read regularly in school and observations will be recorded in their comments book. 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. Observations can be recorded in the 'reading comments' book.

- **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 quiz 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 will also be taking part in the year 1 phonics test that was postponed in the summer term of year 1.
- The children are expected to be able to fluently recall and use the multiplication and division facts for the **2x,3x, 5x and 10x multiplication tables** by the **end** of Year 2. 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 at the end of each half term, or before if washing is needed.
- 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 must not bring any toys from home into school.
- There will be limited time for '**Show and Tell**', to allow children to share any exciting news with the class. 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!

The topics for this term are Coastlines and Fossils, and, An Island Home

The 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. 'Coastlines and Fossils', is a geography topic and 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. We are very much looking forward to our trip to Dell Quay on **the 23rd September**. We will be spending the morning exploring the coastline. Paul Ulson, a history specialist will be enriching our learning with stories about pirates and smugglers, in our Island Home topic.

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 all single digit numbers including 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 . . .

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 see me at the end of the school day or send an email to the office, or telephone, to make an appointment.

With very best wishes,
Mrs Saunders