



Year 2 Curriculum Newsletter

April 2015

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! We hope you've had a great Easter break.

GENERAL INFORMATION

With the weather becoming warmer and sunnier we will be reinforcing our "no hat, no play" policy. Please make sure that your child brings a named hat with them every day to wear during break and lunch times. School hats can now be purchased from reception at a cost of \$75.

A polite reminder that NAIS is a nut free school. Please ensure that this is strictly followed for the safety of all our children, this includes Nutella related products which contain Hazelnuts.

CURRICULUM INFORMATION

ENGLISH

In English we will be focusing on different stories by the same author. We will choose from a variety of authors including Julia Donaldson, Francesca Simon, Roald Dahl and Max Velthuis. Throughout this topic we will be comparing the differences and similarities between stories focusing on characters, settings and plot. In addition to this we will be making predictions about a range of texts, completing book reviews and using different drama strategies to bring stories to life. We will continue to work on sentence construction using higher-level punctuation including exclamation marks, question marks, commas in a list and speech marks and grammar such as time words, connectives, adjectives and adverbs.

MATHEMATICS

This term we will be revisiting many of the topics that we have already taught throughout the course of the year, to extend and consolidate the children's knowledge and understanding. New concepts covered in this term will include: positions, directions and rotations and linking these to our knowledge of angles; using metric units to measure and record mass, height and



capacity. The children will be given much more opportunity to put their existing Maths knowledge to use by solving real-life problems involving money, time, weight, length and capacity.

THEME

We will be starting a new theme this half term. It is connected to our previous theme on the ocean but will have a local element. The new theme is on Hong Kong and will feature the following areas;

Geography: We will look at how Hong Kong has changed, particularly in the last 150 years and discuss some of the advantages and disadvantages of these changes for different groups of people. We will focus on the human geography of Hong Kong and learn map skills do some mapping of the school and the local area.

History: We will study a famous event from history, in this case, the Great Fire of London. We will order events and talk about causes of the fire. We will write a newspaper report and a diary entry after learning about Samuel Pepys and what we can learn from his diaries.

Science: Plants and seeds, including parts of plants and what they need to grow and be healthy.

MANDARIN

Beginner pupils will learn vocabulary for animals, food and drinks. They will take part in role-plays with classmates and know how to communicate with a waiter in Mandarin. At the same time, they will learn more phonics and radicals in which help them to write characters independently.

Intermediate pupils will learn more vocabulary and sentences for talking about colours, clothing, fruits and vegetables, stationary, houses and rooms in Mandarin. They will also know how to describe people by using suitable adjectives. Pupils will engage in a range of teaching and learning activities to improve their communication skills.

Advanced pupils will be studying chapters on Xiao xue hua wen. These chapters will mainly focus on Chinese words and expressions for the topic of physical exercise and good habits. Through role-play activities children will extend their use of daily expressions in Chinese and be able to write about these and healthy lifestyles.



ART

Year 2 will be developing their observational drawing skills by investigating still life. Pupils will learn how to produce a drawing that shows form by using tone effectively. Pupils will use chalk and charcoal to create a range of tones from dark thought to light. This project will enable pupils to further develop their practical skills along with their knowledge and understanding to be able to finally produce a traditional still life painting. Pupils will learn about the artist Paul Cezanne and his still life paintings throughout this project.

PE

Pupils will develop fundamental movement skills whilst taking part in net games (tennis & volleyball) and striking & fielding activities (kwik cricket). Pupils will take part in increasingly challenging situations and will improve their hand to eye co-ordination. Focus will be placed on improving striking techniques and body awareness for fielding and defending. Pupils will also cover athletic activities focusing on jumping, throwing and running over various distances at different speeds. Pupils will also investigate movement, stillness, and how to find and use space in gymnastics. Pupils will develop their gross motor skills, become increasingly competent and confident and access a broad range of opportunities to extend their agility, balance and coordination.

Yours Sincerely, Year 2 Team

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