



Year 3 Curriculum Newsletter

October 2015

Dear Parents,

We had a fantastic first half-term getting to know the children and we are looking forward to more exciting learning in the run up to Christmas. This letter aims to provide an indication of the areas of the curriculum covered this term in Year 3.

CURRICULUM INFORMATION

MATHEMATICS

This term's mathematics objectives include: multiplication and division, including multiplication of two-digit numbers by one-digit numbers, using mental and formal written methods; problem solving with multiplication and division; subtraction and addition using written methods; finding fractions of amounts and shape. In our *Learn Its* sessions, we will be consolidating the 3 times table, aiming for instant mental recall.

ENGLISH

Our writing units will be Non-Chronological Reports, Myths, and Persuasive Writing, which will link to our Ancient Greece theme. Every day we will have a phonics or spelling session following the *Letters and Sounds* phonics programme where the children reinforce how to blend and segment correctly. During our *Literacy Workshop* time, we will develop reading and comprehension skills in small group sessions. In grammar lessons, we will focus on connectives, verbs in the past and present tense, and in spelling we will look at suffixes and prefixes.

THEME

Ancient Greece – We will continue to learn about Ancient Greece. We will develop geography skills by researching the topography of Greece and understanding why the city-states came to develop in their specific locations. We will develop history skills by looking at Ancient Greece on a timeline, compare the lives of Ancient Greeks to the modern day, and understand the impact of the period on the world. We will be studying: Gods and Goddesses; the Olympics; everyday life; myths; the class system; and inter-state rivalry. We will have Ancient Greece Day on Monday 23rd November when we would like children to dress up in Ancient Greek clothing. We will send an email shortly with tips on what to wear.



SCIENCE

Rocks - Children will compare and group together different kinds of rocks on the basis of their appearance and simple physical properties. They will describe in simple terms how fossils are formed when things that have lived are trapped within rock and recognise that soils are made from rocks and organic matter.

PE

Individual work will focus on close control in rugby, football, netball, and basketball. Competitive games will be developed to practice and progress sending and receiving skills under pressure. Simple tactics for attacking and defending will be introduced.

ART

Year 3 pupils will explore the different shapes and patterns used by the ancient Greeks in their ceramic pot designs. Pupils will be encouraged to develop their use of line, pattern and shape as they create repeat patterns using a variety of art materials. Pupils will further develop their pattern skills as they design and create their own ceramic pot and decorate their design with colour once it has been fired in the kiln.

MANDARIN

Beginner pupils are expected to expand vocabulary and learn how to talk about zoo animals, colours, favourites and describing people.

Lower Intermediate pupils will be able to understand simple statements, requests, descriptions, and questions in specific cultural context relevant to them (family members, likes and dislikes, school life.)

Intermediate pupils will be learning more new words and expressions, and how to express themselves confidently in Chinese. An increasing focus will be placed on how to comprehend a passage and write down some basic words. Students will also get to know more about Chinese culture through Chinese Festivals and other interesting activities.

Advanced pupils will learn more about how to present their opinions confidently in front of others. Pupils will learn more vocabulary and sentence structures through the learnt chapters. An increasing focus will be placed on how to comprehend the passages and construct the sentences.

DRAMA

Pupils will continue to learn about Ancient Greek myths and will be dramatising their own story-based presentations of Medusa, Arachne, Pandora and Midas for performance.



MUSIC

During the second half of term one, Year 3 students will continue to explore the 'dimensions of music' through the theme of Ancient Greece. Students will listen to a variety of music and improvise, compose and perform multi-ability pieces. They will use ukulele to learn to play short melodies, by ear and notation. In some lessons, they will develop skills on Yamaha keyboards, and also make recordings. They will learn a repertoire of well-known, seasonal and popular songs, linked to school themes.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Important Dates

Monday 23rd November – Ancient Greek Day. We will have a day of Ancient Greece related activities in class to consolidate our learning on our theme. Pupils and staff are all asked to dress up for the occasion.

Wednesday 2nd December – Educational Visit to the Lions Nature Education Centre in Sai Kung. This will be an all day visit to the centre to look at various rocks and fossils and how they were formed. More details will be given nearer the time but the trip takes place during the school day so drop off and pick up times remain the same as usual.

We loved the visit by the author Neil Griffiths, who read some of his amazing stories with us. We really want all of our children to LOVE reading, to want to read and to choose reading over electronic devices! Please continue to find 20 minutes a day to read with your child, whether that be the school reading book or a book you already have at home. Reading should be a pleasure for children so try to find quiet time to engage with the story you are reading. We do ask you sign the orange Reading Record daily so that we can see what you have been reading.

Homework will be sent out on Fridays to be returned the following Wednesday. This homework will be a 30 minute task and will be English, Maths or Theme. There is a weekly Spelling Test and a short daily Maths *Learn Its* task (10 minutes). There is also 30 minutes Mandarin homework a week.

We will continue to use Firefly as a means of communicating information so please check the site regularly for messages, useful websites, homework, spellings and regular blog posts.

You can contact the Year 3 team by sending an email; we welcome any correspondence with parents including any feedback, positive or negative, regarding Firefly.

Thank you all for your continued assistance and support at home with your children.
Yours sincerely,

The Year 3 Team

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