



Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter

November 2014

Dear Parents,

Wow, what a quick first half term! We can't believe it's over so quickly, and we have now started the count-down to Christmas! It was great to see so many parents at the parent event, where we had the opportunity to chat informally about how your child has settled in to school. If you have any suggestions or ideas, we are always happy to hear from you, so don't feel you have to wait for the next event to get in touch!

Of course there is much more fantastic learning to take place before the end of term in December, with highlights this term to include some amazing chocolatey-themed lessons! Remember to check the blog regularly for the latest photos of what we have been doing in class, for updates and special messages, and of course for homework every Friday!
<http://year4nais.blogspot.hk/>

GENERAL INFORMATION

The children have been assigned to their Houses, and we have enjoyed our first inter-house competition. With great team spirit, hard work and support, the event was a huge success! Expect more events as the year progresses, with House t-shirts in the pipeline as well later on.

Our first season of ECA's have started now. You should have received your child's ECA choices already; do speak with your class teacher if you have any questions. Some of these activities sound super-fun, and are sure to be a hit with the children. By participating in an activity they may not have done before, and by allowing the opportunity for them to try and succeed at something new, provides a solid platform for the children to grow in confidence and in ability as they widen their knowledge and experience.

CURRICULUM INFORMATION

ENGLISH

As part of our cross-curricular approach to learning, our English lessons will be related to our theme for the half term, which is Chocolate. Much of our written work will focus around the popular children's book 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' by Roald Dahl.

We will focus on a variety of genres of writing in relation to this book, including newspaper reporting, story and narrative writing and also persuasive writing. Children will have the opportunity to create their own chocolate bar, interview characters from the story and even design a new room for the factory as well as many other fun and challenging activities.



MATHS

In Maths this half term we will be covering;

Number, money and place value –

- Mental multiplication and division. Looking at ways we can calculate multiplication and division sums in our head by doubling and halving
- Knowing our times table facts
- Being able to recognise multiples of numbers
- Using our knowledge of place value to add and subtract numbers especially 1, 10, 100, 1000
- Being able to add or subtract two 4-digit numbers, in the context of money
- Subtract a multiple of 10 or 100 from a 3-digit no. Subtract a near-multiple of 10 or 100 from a 3-digit number without crossing the tens or hundreds boundary.

Measures/Data - Time, bar charts, pictograms -

- Tell the time to the nearest minute on analogue clocks some with Roman numerals
- Convert between digital and analogue times using am and pm. Find times that are 30, 40 and 45 minutes later crossing the hour
- Calculate time intervals using a number line crossing over the hour. Write word problems involving time intervals
- Time events in seconds
- Collect data and record results in bar charts. Present data in pictograms where one symbol represents 4 people
- Interpret pictograms.

It is important that the children are practicing their times tables on a daily basis. They will be tested every Friday in class.

THEME

Wouldn't it be amazing if chocolate grew on trees? Well, it does! Wouldn't it be amazing if I said people have been drinking chocolate for hundreds of years? Well, they have! And we're going to discover even more amazing things about chocolate in this term's theme...

In Geography, we'll be finding out:

- Where cacao trees are found
- About the factors affecting the growth of cacao trees
- About other cash crops



In History, we'll be finding out:

- Who first discovered chocolate
- Who took the first chocolate to Europe
- About the importance of cocoa beans for trade

In Science, we'll be finding out:

- About the ingredients in chocolate
- Why chocolate wrappers are made from special materials
- What the melting point of chocolate is

We'll also look at:

- What fair trade chocolate is
- What other fair trade products there are
- How important chocolate is

MANDARIN

In Year 4, children will be introduced to the following skills through various activities. There will be a greater emphasis on sentence structure, grammar and reading comprehension.

Pathway 1 pupils will learn to say and talk about their families in Chinese (E.g., I have 5 people in my family, in my family I have a father, mother..., I don't have a younger brother, etc.). They will also learn to name different countries and nationalities. Colours and body parts will be introduced to them too.

Pathway 2 pupils will be learning to describe details of people, friends and clothing in Mandarin. An increasing emphasis will be placed on their writing skills.

Pathway 3 pupils will learn chapters including 《看企鹅》、《懂事的丽文》、《藏起来的话》、《我多想》 and 《友谊桥》. Through these chapters, they will learn about different kinds of sentence structure. Their analytical skills and logical thinking will be enhanced through completing comprehension and writing essays. *Mandarin Team*

DRAMA

Pupils will engage in a wide range of drama activities from physical theatre to text based performance all based on their learning theme: "Chocolate." Activities will include: creating their own chocolate making machine and producing a television advert for chocolate. *Miss. Bovingdon*



MUSIC

MUSIC

This term, Year 4 will study the 'elements of music' through a topic called 'Machines'. Students will listen to a variety of music and compose and perform, experimenting with dynamics, texture, timbre, duration, silence, pitch, tempo and attack and decay. They will focus in the use of graphic score in this unit. *Miss Rowan*

ART

Pupils will continue to explore their chocolate theme during their art lesson. They will initially start by researching chocolate bar designs and the colours and fonts that are used for packaging. They will then progress to develop their own brand of chocolate bar that features a name and graphics before making a papier mache prototype. *Mrs Pate*

PE

Pupils will be following a unit of ball skills that will develop fundamental sporting skills such as throwing, catching, passing, tackling and kicking. Pupils will be able to make a connection between these skills and major sporting activities. *PE Team*

You can contact the Year 4 team by sending an e-mail or by making an appointment with reception. All our email addresses are listed below. Please do contact us if you have any questions, comments or ideas, as we love to hear from you! We have had the pleasure to meet many of you already; if not, we look forward to meeting you very soon!

Kind regards,

The Year 4 Team

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