



Year 5 Curriculum Newsletter

January 2016

Dear Parents

Happy New Year! We hope you all had a very restful and enjoyable Christmas break. Now that the holidays are over, it's time to get back in to the swing of all the hard work and activities that we have in store for this term!

GENERAL INFORMATION

Our topic for this term is going to be 'Explorers of the Land'. As with our other topics, we will be exploring this theme through the majority of our lessons making genuine links to a range of areas of the curriculum and to the real world.

Please do check your emails for updates from the class teachers and admissions office. We try to keep these emails to a minimum so please note down any important changes or additions when you receive them.

Our blog is constantly being updated so please keep checking it to find out what your child is getting up to at school. Homework will go onto the blog every Friday so there really isn't an excuse not to check out all the great stuff that we will be doing in Year 5 this term!

If you have any issues accessing the blog or being able to log into Firefly, please contact the Admissions team.

CURRICULUM INFORMATION

Maths:

In Mathematics we will consolidate and extend our understanding of the number system and place value to include larger integers, making connections between multiplication and division with fractions, decimals, percentages and ratio. A focus on shape, geometry and measurement will ensure we develop skills in logical thinking. Collating and analysing data will also be explored. Developing skills in solving problems, including complex properties of numbers and arithmetic by using written and mental methods of calculation will be a continued focus.

Every mathematical lesson will work towards developing children's ability to spot mathematical patterns and develop metacognitive investigative skills. It would be fantastic if you could help your child learn and be as confident as they possibly can be with their times tables. These really are integral to most of what we teach and will help them speed up as mathematicians too. There are plenty of great websites with games on but there is definitely an element of practice, practice, practice!



English:

We will focus on two writing styles this term: persuasive writing and explanation texts. We always aim to write with a purpose so that children can understand the importance of writing in the real world.

We will also continue to teach grammar lessons focusing on a wide range of grammatical techniques as well as our Guided Reading sessions where your child will read in a group with your teacher once a week.

Please can you continue to encourage children to read at home as this has a huge impact on the quality of their writing.

Theme:

Year 5's theme this year is 'Explorers'. This term, we will study 'Explorers of the Land.' This will link very closely to our Science subjects of classification and life cycles.

ICT:

This half term we will continue with coding and the Global Campus. Students will become more competent at writing their own algorithms and formulas as they work through courses that develop their confidence and skill. Students will also interact with their peers globally through forums and participate with activities such as the illustration competition and the global debate.

Science:

Science will be linked to our theme by exploring a wide range of creatures and learning how to classify different living things. We will also learn all about life cycles and discover what impacts on how a creature develops.

Mandarin:

Beginners: Pupils are expected to read and say Chinese words or expressions on the topic of body and health, school facilities, directions, time and activities. Both writing and speaking skills will continued to be practiced so that the pupils can not only express themselves in Chinese, but also recognise written words in Chinese. More Chinese radicals recognition will also be delivered in their Mandarin learning.

Lower intermediate: Pupils will use their previous learning as a springboard to their skills in understanding and dissecting passages of Chinese writing. It is intended that they will be more skilled in seeing the deeper meaning intended by different authors using different styles of expression. Essay writing will be an area of focus, and fluency and depth of expression will be our target for improvement.

Upper Intermediate: Pupils are expected to learn more vocabulary about School and subjects, Stationary, Classroom Language and Activities and Hobbies. An increasing focus will still be placed on how to comprehend a Chinese passage and produce a short paragraph. Students will also have more



opportunities to enhance their communication skills in Mandarin by speaking in front of the class and improve writing skills by doing projects like “designing a stationery monster”.

Advanced: Pupils will study chapters including 《成语故事》、《日月潭》、《望远镜》、《古诗二首》 and 《屈原》. Through these chapters, they will learn to find out the main sentence and the deep meaning of the articles. In addition, they will have more chances to write essays which are related to their chapters.

Spanish:

In Spanish we are going to learn vocabulary for Mi Familia (My Family) topic which will be consolidated by producing a family tree in Spanish with added personal descriptions - hair/eyes colour, height, and pets vocabulary. Pupils will be able to learn new adjectives and verbs in the present tense.

Pupils will also produce a role-play in which they will be asked to integrate vocabulary and grammar learned in this topic in order to consolidate learning. Again, the best 3 role-plays will be awarded receive House points.

The websites to be used by pupils continue to be:

<http://www.Linguascope.com> (ask teacher for username and password)

<http://www.espanol-extra.co.uk/>

<http://www.aprender.org.uk/>

Textbook: Mira 1 p.42-58 ISBN:978 0 435387 65 5

Music:

During the first half of term two, Year 5 students will explore the music topic ‘Explorers of the Land’, and develop skills through The Juilliard programme, through the Yearly Learning Objectives, actively engaging in the three core aspects of the UK National Curriculum, composition, listening and appraising, and performance.

They will also learn violin, trombone, keyboard or clarinet, depending on which class they are in.

They will learn a repertoire of well-known seasonal and popular songs, linked to school themes.

Art:

Year 5 classes will investigate and explore the artwork created by the Aborigines in Australia. Pupils will begin the project by learning about the various symbols that the Aborigines used to communicate with each other and the outside world. Pupils will have the opportunity to create their own piece of Aboriginal inspired artwork by using symbols, patterns and colour. Painting skills and the use of pattern will be developed throughout this project.



Drama:

In Drama, pupils will continue to explore Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, taking a series of the key scenes from "page to stage" by preparing them for performance.

PE:

Pupils will develop fundamental movement skills whilst taking part in net games (tennis & volleyball) and attacking and defending activities (dodgeball and capture the flag). 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 attacking and defending. Pupils will also focus on communicating, collaborating and competing with each other. Pupils will be taught to review performances and be given opportunities to demonstrate improvements. 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.

You can contact the Year 5 team by sending an e-mail or by making an appointment at 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!

Kind regards,

The Year 5 Team

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