



Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter

January 2015

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! We hope you all enjoyed a fantastic holiday season, ate too much and relaxed a lot! The memories of the amazing Christmas party, house singing competition and musical performances on the last day have not yet faded but we must move on! This new term promises to be just as exciting and fun packed as last, with even more amazing learning to take place.

We are happy to welcome class 4D, our newest members of the year group, and I am sure that everyone will make the children, Mr. Boast and Miss Chen, their TLA, feel very welcome and at home here in NAIS!

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 weather is still a bit chilly at times, so we recommend your child wear adequate clothing for these winter months. The uniform shop stocks the full range of sweaters, long trousers and jackets, so please do stop by to ensure your child is comfortable enough in school and at play. It can rain at times so please prepare for the Hong Kong weather!

The first season of ECA's continue in January. If you are unsure which ECAs your child was signed up for, please do contact your class teacher. Changes to ECA's cannot be made at this stage unfortunately as many activities are fully subscribed at this time. The next season will start in March, when your child will have the opportunity to change their selection.

This term also sees report cards being issued, as well as parent's evening after the Chinese New Year festival, so keep an eye out for those dates. These will give an up to date snapshot of how your child is performing in school, with the opportunity to meet with your child's teacher to discuss this, should you wish.



CURRICULUM INFORMATION

ENGLISH

Our new theme this term is based around the story of *The Iron Man*, by Ted Hughes – not to be confused with Iron Man of Marvel Comics! We will use this text to continue our exploration of literary techniques and to explore different forms of writing.

We will examine and write our own poetry, recounts and character descriptions. We will further analyse the features of texts and the language used. Our grammar focus will look at the use of similes, of complex sentences and of onomatopoeia. We will also create a range of different types of text, such as wanted posters and menus, whilst our speaking skills will be developed through debate and discussion.

As we continue to use our cross-curricular approach there will be plenty of opportunities to use our language skills in other areas of our learning. This continues to be supplemented by our regular reading comprehension, sessions, grammar lessons, spelling and handwriting development.

MATHS

In mathematics this half term, we will be focusing on fractions and measures.

In fractions, we will be:

- Ordering fractions.
- Finding equivalent fractions.
- Converting improper fractions.
- Finding fractions of amounts using a variety of methods.

In measures, we will be:

- Converting different units of measures e.g. inches to centimeters.
- Using skills of estimation to determine different measures e.g. lengths that are more or less than a meter.
- Calculating the perimeter of simple shapes.
- Apply our knowledge of perimeters to real life situations.
- Calculate the perimeters of regular polygons using multiplication.
- Calculate the areas of regular and compound shapes.
- Calculate the area of triangles.

In both of these focus areas, we will be:

- Applying our new knowledge to problem solving questions.



- Applying our new knowledge to real life situations.
- Consolidating our knowledge of calculation methods when solving problems.

It is essential that children continue to practice the following elements of mental arithmetic, as this will inform their daily mathematics lessons:

- Multiplication facts.
- Number bonds to 100.
- Doubling and halving of numbers.

THEME

This term in our theme lessons we are going to be covering mostly science and DT. All of this work will be linked to our Iron Man topic. We are also going to be lucky enough to get to spend some time with Mr. Mackinnon in the science laboratory so that we can do more complex scientific experiments.

In science we will:

- Compare and group materials together, according to whether they are solids, liquids or gases
- Identify and discuss the properties of different metals.
- Identify common appliances that run on electricity
- Construct a simple series electrical circuit, identifying and naming its basic parts, including cells, wires, bulbs, switches and buzzers
- Recognise some common conductors and insulators, and associate metals with being good conductors

In DT we will:

- Use research and develop design criteria to inform the design of our own Iron Man.
- Make our own Iron Man using recyclable materials.
- Evaluate our ideas and products against our own design criteria and consider the views of others to improve our work.
- Understand and use electrical systems in our Iron Man model.

In computing we will:

- Create our own Iron Man animation using the I-motion programme on the I-pads.



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.

Beginner pupils will learn to give and follow directions, using North, East, South, West, left and right in Chinese. Through role-play pupils will consolidate their listening and speaking in mandarin.

Intermediate pupils will be learning new words and expressions, and how to express themselves confidently in Chinese. An increasing focus will be placed on how to comprehend a Chinese passage and produce a short paragraph. Students will also get to know more about Chinese culture through Chinese Spring Festival and other interesting activities.

Advanced pupils will study more chapters which include 《我多想》、《校车画廊》、《圈圈》 and 《卖西瓜》. Through these chapters, they will learn to predict a words meaning from the content of the article. They will also try to use simple sentences to write a meaningful essay. *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: “The Iron Man”, culminating in a special performance in February. *Miss. Bovingdon*

MUSIC

This term, students will be studying ‘the instruments of the orchestra’, learning to recognise instruments both visually and aurally whilst understanding the families to which they belong. Through exploration of the music composed for both ‘Harry Potter’ and the ‘Iron Man’ in addition to Benjamin Britten’s “A Young Person’s Guide to the Orchestra” by the end of the unit, all year 4 students should be able to listen to and name each instrument of the orchestra, in addition to gaining understanding how sound is produced and the process through which we hear. *Miss Rowan*

ART

In preparation for the forthcoming Chinese New Year celebrations, pupils will be designing and creating a variety of art pieces relating to The Year of the Goat, 2015. Pupils will have the opportunity to further develop their media handling and design skills as they compete in the Sodexo design competition. This project will enable pupils to enhance their understanding of Chinese traditions and culture. *Mrs Pate*



PE

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

Kind regards,

The Year 4 Team

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