



Year 2 Curriculum Newsletter

January 2016

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! We hope that you have had a wonderful Christmas break. We would like to take the opportunity to thank you for the generous gifts that you gave us for Christmas, they were very much appreciated. To kick off the New Year we will be starting a brand new topic. Travelling back in time, we will be exploring the lives of the Ancient Sumerians and discovering how their inventions still impact on our lives today.

CURRICULUM INFORMATION

THEME

‘Inventors’

This term we will be learning about a wide range of inventors from different periods in time. Notably we will be focusing on Ancient Sumer; this was one of the earliest organised civilisations. The children will be given the opportunities to develop their historical skills by ordering events, analysing the limited sources that remain from the period and understanding how events from the past impact on our lives today.

We will be developing our geographical skills by looking at how the environment can impact the lives of those living within it and how humans have altered the landscape. We will also be recapping our mapping skills when finding the locations of ancient civilisations.

One of the most influential inventions of the Ancient Sumerians was the wheel. In Design and Technology we will be using wheels to make our own moving vehicles and evaluate the success of our designs.

PSHE

In PSHE we will be using our theme context to develop our problem solving skills in social situations. This will include team-building activities to develop communication, cooperation and consideration.



ENGLISH

This term we will be covering a range of genres. We will be starting the term off by researching a range of inventors. The children will use this as inspiration to design their own invention. They will then be challenged to persuade their friends as to why they think their invention is the most useful.

Over the course of the term we will develop our letter-writing and diary-writing skills when we take on the role of a famous inventor. This topic also allows us to explore shape poems and calligrams.

MATHS

We will continue to consolidate our knowledge of number and explore a range of written and mental methods to support our calculations. This term we will have a focus on money. We will develop our basic skills of coin recognition, simple additions to make amounts and calculating change. The children will be challenged to solve problems involving money in real life situations. We will continue to explore shape, measure and time.

MANDARIN

Beginner: Pupils will be learning basic vowels and consonants of Pinyin. They will be encouraged to learn more about family members, such as their age and family relationship. Pupils are also going to learn the vocabulary for colours, clothing and school life.

Intermediate: Pupils are expected to expand their vocabulary on colours, clothing and describing people. They will continue to learn the knowledge of Pinyin as well as Chinese character structures and strokes. They will also be encouraged to participate in Mandarin learning games and feel more confident to present based on a topic in front of the whole class.

Advanced: Pupils will undertake some demanding exercises based on everyday use of the language. Pupils will also discover how the study of the Chinese culture can instil a greater understanding of the nature of the language and through that, help them become more effective users of Chinese.

MUSIC

This term, Year 2 will focus on learning songs about inventors. Students will also listen to a variety of music and move to develop confidence of expression. We will also be exploring the keyboard and continue to explore music theory through this as a medium, focusing on recognition of the notes on the treble stave and basic dynamics. They will learn a repertoire of well-known children's songs, linked to school themes.

DRAMA

In Drama, pupils will continue to explore their class theme of *Inventors* through a range of improvisation and physical theatre activities, including making 'human machines'. They will also be exploring songs and text from the popular musical *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*.



ART

Year 2 pupils will explore three different Chinese inventions during their art lessons, namely papermaking, porcelain painting and printmaking. Pupils will have the opportunity to create their own handmade paper using specialist papermaking equipment. Pupils will then be encouraged to explore printmaking as they create prints for Chinese New Year. Finally, they will investigate the imagery used in the Willow Pattern porcelain paintings before going on to create their own blue and white design.

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 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.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any queries or questions. We look forward to an enjoyable and hard working term.

Yours sincerely,

The Year 2 Team

Gillian Johnson Gillian.Johnson@nais.hk

Hannah Rogers Hannah.Rogers@nais.hk

Jessica Howard Jessica.Howard@nais.hk

Carl Davidson Carl.Davidson@nais.hk

Thomas Chave Thomas.Chave@nais.hk