



# Year 2 Curriculum Newsletter

February 2016

Dear Parents,

Happy Chinese New Year! This term we are continuing our theme of 'Inventors'. Last term we learnt about some famous inventors from the past and their inventions. We used these to create some wonderful pieces of factual writing and they even inspired some inventions of our very own. We also began to look at some of the Sumerian inventions that have stood the test of time. The Sumerians are a brand new topic to Year 2 and has proved very popular, the children have loved learning about this so far and we are all really keen to see what else these true inventors of the past developed.

## CURRICULUM INFORMATION

### THEME

'Inventors'

We will continue to study the Ancient Sumerians and begin to look at how their inventions have affected life today. As the children found out last term, the Ancient Sumerians were responsible for inventing the wheel. We will look at the history of the wheel through time and how we have used it to create cars and vehicles that we know today. Rather excitingly, this will link to our brand new Design and Technology project in which the children will invent a car.

At the end of this term, we will explore the Shang Dynasty and investigate their inventions as well.

### PSHE

In PSHE we will be considering the mindset of inventors throughout history and celebrating mistakes as a learning opportunity and developing a 'keep moving forward' mindset towards our work. This stems from our visual literacy stimulus, 'Meet the Robinsons' in which we see a lonely orphan boy follow his dreams of finding a family and becoming a successful inventor.

### ENGLISH

Having focused largely on non-fiction writing last term, we are now ready to move our story writing on to the next level. This term we will be using the film 'Meet the Robinsons' as a visual story tool. We will be exploring the way that film producers use pictures, sounds, characters and plot to make a story come to life. This will be used to inspire our writing and help us to develop our story-telling skills.



## MATHS

In Maths, we will concentrate on applying some of the skills that we have been practicing over the last term in problem solving activities. We will be continuing to work on all 4 calculation strategies: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division and continue to develop secure written methods to show our calculations. We will also recap our knowledge of shape and measure this term with a focus on capacity.

## MANDARIN

Beginner: This term, pupils will continue to develop their Chinese listening and speaking skills. They will be introduced to new topics, such as clothing, appearance description, and animals. Pupils are expected to recognise more Chinese pinyin, radicals and characters.

Intermediate pupils are expected to expand their vocabulary, pinyin and character strokes for the topics 'Appearance', 'Animals' and 'Fruits and Vegetables'. Children will be encouraged to participate in different Mandarin learning games and will feel more confident to present in front of the whole class.

This term the advanced pupils will be exploring the season of Spring. This will be done by appreciating a text about spring rain and some Chinese poems and songs. They will also explore two famous rivers in China, namely the Yangzi and Yellow River.

## MUSIC

This half term, Year 2 will continue to 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 childrens' songs, linked to school themes.

## DRAMA

In Drama, pupils will continue to explore their class theme of 'Inventors' by rehearsing and presenting a range of songs and text from the popular musical *Chitty, Chitty Bang, Bang*.

## ART

Year 2 pupils will continue to 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.



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PE

Pupils will develop fundamental movement skills whilst taking part in net games (tennis & badminton). Pupils will take part in increasingly challenging situations and will improve their hand to eye co-ordination. 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. In dance pupils will explore basic body actions such as jumping and turning, as well as using different parts of their body to create a simple sequence of movements. They will create and repeat short dances inspired by themes such as robots.

Please do not 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

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