



# Year 3 Curriculum Newsletter

January 2016

Dear Parents,

First of all, Happy New Year and welcome back to another exciting term in Year 3! We are looking forward to more great learning in 2016 following on from our Ancient Greece topic last year. This letter aims to provide an indication of the areas of the curriculum that will be covered this term in Year 3.

## Mathematics

This term's mathematics objectives include: addition and subtraction, using mental and formal written methods; and solving number and practical problems using place value, addition and subtraction. In our *Learn Its* sessions, we will be consolidating the 4 times table, aiming for instant mental recall of multiplication and related division facts.

## English

Writing this term will focus on myths, looking at stories from China and around the world before we write our own myths based on what we have learnt. We start this term writing poetry (kennings and haikus) using stylistic devices. During our *Literacy Workshop* time, we will develop reading, grammar and comprehension skills in small group sessions. In spelling we will look at suffixes and prefixes, and consider spelling rules.

## Theme

*Our Changing World* – The main focus of the theme this term is Geography. The children will be learning about the continents, time zones and the changing seasons. We will look at some features of geographical interest around the world such as different climate zones. We will learn to use atlases and online maps to locate continents, major countries and cities around the world. We will also have a focus on *Chinese New Year* towards the end of the half term ready for the Year 3 production.

## Science

*Light* - Children will learn to: recognise that they need light in order to see things and that dark is the absence of light; notice that light is reflected from surfaces; recognise that light from the sun can be dangerous and that there are ways to protect their eyes; recognise that shadows are formed when the light from a light source is blocked by a solid object; and find patterns in the way that the size of shadows change.

## Mandarin

Beginner: Pupils are going to learn more words and phrases about "Body parts and how to describe people's look". They are expected to know what subjects they are learning and talk about their favourites. They will also introduce their nationalities and languages briefly in Mandarin through the lessons in this term.



Lower intermediate: Pupils are expected to expend their Chinese vocabulary and phrases in the topic of body, school subjects, and nationalities. They will learn to say basic expressions in Chinese. Their reading and writing skills will continued to be improved by different classroom activities and practice.

Upper Intermediate: Pupils will continue to improve the range and depth of Chinese vocabulary. Through the use of interesting and challenging class exercises, pupils will improve their use of Chinese in practical and useful real life situations. We will focus on improve writing skills, and encourage pupils to become more comfortable in composing Chinese characters. Reading Chinese will concentrate on improving levels of understanding how concepts are expressed in Chinese stories.

Advanced: Pupils will study chapters including, 《古诗二首》、《壶盖为什么会动》、《蔡伦造纸》、《龟兔赛跑》、《小猫钓鱼》 and 《狼来了》. Through these chapters, they will learn more vocabulary and different kinds of sentence structures. Furthermore, they will have more chances to do presentations and story telling.

#### Drama

In Drama, we will be learning about Chinese New Year and rehearsing for a play based on the traditions and stories of this festival. Pupils will then have the opportunity to share their work with parents, teachers and the rest of the school in a staged performance to celebrate the Chinese New Year in February.

#### Music

During the first half of term two, Year 3 students will explore the music topic 'Our Changing World', 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 play some chords and short melodies on the ukelele.

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

#### Art

Year 3 pupils will be creating props to used during their PE dance performance for Chinese New Year. Pupils will all create a fan inspired by the artist Gustav Klimt. They will have the opportunity to explore line, shape and pattern in detail as they produce their design. Secondly, they will go on to create a dragon mask suitable to worn during a dragon dance. Pupils will explore colour mixing and also develop their painting skills as they produce bright, colourful designs.

#### 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 dance in preparation for their



Chinese New Year performance. 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.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND IMPORTANT DATES

*Year 3 Production February 4<sup>th</sup> 8.30am* - As part of our Chinese New Year celebrations, Year 3 will be performing a production to parents incorporating literacy, music, dance, drama and art. Please practice any lines your child brings home so that they can perform brilliantly in the show.

*Visit to Kidsfest* - Later this month we will be going to the theatre to watch Emma Reeve's excellent *The Snow Child* as part of *Kidsfest* at the HK Academy of Performing Arts. This will link to our theme *Our Changing World* and different climate zones around the world.

Please keep reading at home! We have been very impressed with the amount of reading that is taking place. We would like your child to read for 20 minutes a day and please write what your child has read, along with any comments, in the Reading Record. Comments might be 'read well' or 'struggled with \_\_\_\_\_'. Please ask lots of questions as you read to check your child has understood what they are reading. For example, you might like to ask, 'Do you like this character? Why?' during reading and 'What do you think will happen next? Why do you think that?' after reading. Research has shown that reading books is vital to academic success so keep reading!

You can contact the Year 3 team by sending an email, we welcome any correspondence with parents. Our contact details are below. We look forward to meeting you all again very soon.

Yours sincerely,

Year 3 teachers

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