



Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter

February 2015

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! We hope that you are all well rested and looking forward to a new term at NAIS Hong Kong. The children in year 4 have made a great start to school this week and we are looking forward to working with each of them to ensure they enjoy and achieve.

Thank you to all of you for your continued support and use of our Year Group Blog. Please keep checking in our site (<http://year4nais.blogspot.hk/>) for the latest pictures and information on our activity at school.

GENERAL INFORMATION

As we mentioned in our last curriculum newsletter, this term you will be receiving a 'Mid-Term' report regarding the social and academic progress that your child has made so far in Year 4. The reports will be released on **Monday 9th March** and will include a summary of progress made and some targets. Please take some time to discuss targets with your child. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the reports please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.

In addition to the reports, all parents will have the opportunity to meet their child's class teacher at Parent's Evening. You will be able to discuss your child's mid term report, as well as any other areas in their progress so far at school. Please keep an eye out for a Parent Update for details of dates and times.

We have now finished our 'Iron Man' topic and our new topic for the next 5 weeks is going to be **Harry Potter**. We have planned a whole range of engaging, cross-curricular lessons and activities so please take a moment to read the additional information about our curriculum coverage for the rest of the half term.



CURRICULUM INFORMATION

ENGLISH

In English this term we will be focusing on two different writing styles. Firstly, we will be writing explanation texts and secondly, we will be writing Fantasy stories. These units of work allow us to work closely with our theme, which will really help to inspire our children to reach their full potential with their writing.

We will be writing explanation texts about how to care for a pet owl and how to play Quidditch (a game that is played in Harry Potter). As part of this, we will be using ICT to source information and also to present it.

We will be using Harry Potter to inspire children to use their imagination to create stories about mythical worlds and creatures. We will also teach them to understand the key components of writing a fantasy story.

MATHS

In Maths this half term, we will be focusing on some of the areas that we identified during our assessments where children need extra practise. We will be having a big focus on applying all of these mathematical skills through problem solving questions to ensure that all the children can apply their knowledge.

We will be specifically looking at:

Position and direction

- Being able to Describe positions on a 2-D grid as coordinates in the first quadrant.
- Describe movements between positions as translations of a given unit to the left/right and up/down.
- Plot specified points and draw sides to complete a given polygon.

Shape

- Identify lines of symmetry in 2-D shapes presented in different orientations.
- Complete a simple symmetric figure with respect to a specific line of symmetry.



Measurement

- Estimate, compare and calculate different measures, including money in pounds and pence.
- Read, write and convert time between analogue and digital 12- and 24-hour clocks.
- Solve problems involving converting from hours to minutes; minutes to seconds; years to months; weeks to days.

As always, we will be looking at how to solve real life word problems, practising our mental maths skills and our times tables. Please help your child by working on their times tables with them at home and asking them what we are covering at school. By asking them to explain what they have been doing at school it helps to reinforce their learning and understanding. They also might be able to teach you something too!

THEME

As we mentioned earlier, our theme lessons will be based around the topic of Harry Potter. This topic will encompass several different curriculum areas;

Our latest unit of science will focus on physics and show that sounds are made when objects vibrate & that sounds travel through solids, liquids & gases. Children will investigate how well sound travels through different materials & discover how instruments make sounds. We will discover how to change the pitch & loudness of an object. Lessons will also look at areas including investigating soundproofing, how hearing works and creating musical instruments.

In computing, we will be using iPads to research information on the four fictional houses of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft & Wizardry. We will also be producing Presentations using different iPad applications to present the information that we have researched to our peers.

In History, we will be studying the features and characteristics of castles. We will be making reference to Alnwick Castle and its use as a location for the filming of the Harry Potter franchise and look at the strategic locations of castle throughout history and their relevance.

MANDARIN

Beginner pupils will be learning to name different kind of clothing, seasons, weather and school life. They have the chance to be a “fashion designer” to create a poster about what kind of clothing they like the most. They will also do a presentation to describe the weather features of their favorite cities in mandarin.



Intermediate pupils will be learning some new words and phrases to describe friends and clothes in mandarin. An increasing focus will be placed on how to comprehend a Chinese passage, for example deriving meaning of new words from the context of an article. Pupils will write simple sentences to produce a meaningful essay. Students will also get to know more about Chinese culture and asking questions.

Advanced pupils will learn more chapters which include 《捞月亮》、《大树哪儿去了》、《我的汗在哪里》 and 《小蝌蚪找妈妈》. Through these chapters, they will learn how to divide the passages into different meaning parts and conclude the meaning. They will also be able to read the passages fluently with suitable passion.

DRAMA

Pupils will engage in a wide range of drama activities from physical theatre to a text based performance based on the theme of: “Myths and Legends.” They will also be exploring the structure of a mythical story and devising their own re-telling of a popular myth.

MUSIC

This half term in music, students will continue to explore the instruments of the orchestra through the theme of Harry Potter, focusing on listening skills and identification of instruments. They will also explore the various ways in which sounds are produced on musical instruments. Students will put their knowledge into practice through creation of their own ‘junk’ orchestra.

ART

Year 4 pupils will link their artwork to their class theme, Harry Potter as they produce several studies of owls. Pupils will have the opportunity to develop their observational drawing skills as they initially create studies in their sketchbook. They will then go on to produce an owl colour study using mixed media. This project will enable pupils to enhance their knowledge of art materials and their potential when creating colour and patterned outcomes.

PE

Pupils will develop fundamental movement skills whilst taking part in net games and striking & fielding activities. 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 basic awareness for fielding 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.

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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