



# Year 6 Curriculum Newsletter

October 2015

Dear Parents,

Welcome back. We hope you had an enjoyable half term break with your families. Year 6 are getting ready for another exciting and packed half term. Please find below some detailed information about what your child will be learning in the following weeks.

## CURRICULUM INFORMATION

### ENGLISH

We will continue to look at stories with a historical setting. Children explore the themes and ideas in Michael Morpurgo's novel, *Friend or Foe* before writing their own work set in WW2. This topic looks at using a lot of skills such as writing with flashbacks and description. Our next unit covers stories from our literary heritage. This will have a reading focus where children will infer from the text and explore the cultural setting. They will then write their own texts focusing on writing skills such as sentence construction. Before Christmas, we look at Haikus and children will be able to compose their own poems using description and their understanding of language.

### MATHS

We will start this half-term focusing on percentages and how these relate to fractions and decimals. The children should be able to find percentages of amounts and calculate these comfortably. This will include percentages of money and solving real life problems involving discounts. They will also revisit using division to solve problems in a variety of contexts. We will start a new unit of work on statistics. This will include learning to calculate the mean, median, mode and range of a set of data as well as present this information using pie charts. Again, we will focus on 'real life' application of this maths. Towards the end of the term we will start our first unit on algebra. They will learn to use simple formulae; express missing number problems algebraically and enumerate possibilities of combinations of two variables.

### THEME

In Theme lessons we will continue our study of World War II. We will be visiting the Hong Kong History Museum on 26th November and also have a guest speaker from the Hong Kong Holocaust and Tolerance Centre coming in to talk to the children about prejudice and discrimination. The term will finish with our own 'Night in the Museum' on the afternoon of 2nd December. Children will be researching a famous person, dressing up as them, and coming to life as that character for an afternoon. Parents will be invited to attend.



#### ICT and DT

We will use excel spreadsheets to aid our work in Maths on statistics. We also take part in the upcoming 'hour of code' in December. The children will take part in a unit on 'coding skills' and have the chance to improve and build on the work they did in Year 5 in this area.

In PSCHÉ the children will be discussing and expressing their own feelings as part of learning to develop good communication and empathy with others.

#### HIKING TRIP

The children will be hiking part of the Junk Peak Trail from Hang Hao towards Clearwater Bay. We will let you know further details of the day nearer then time, but we aim to go in early December.

#### SCIENCE

We will be learning about 'Evolution'. The children will learn to recognise that living things have changed over time and that fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago. They will learn to recognise that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents. They will identify how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution. In order to explore this idea, the children have been asked to bring in photos of their own parents so that we can start our learning by looking at ourselves.

#### MUSIC

During the second half of term one, Year 6 students will further explore the 'dimensions of music' through the music of famous classical and popular composers and musicians. Students will listen to a variety of music, improvise, compose and perform multi-ability pieces. They will continue to develop their skills on Yamaha keyboards, sometimes using Garage Band software to make recordings. They will also continue learning cello, flute, keyboard, guitar, or saxophone, depending on which class they are in. They will learn a repertoire of well-known seasonal and popular songs, linked to school themes.

#### ART

Year 6 pupils will continue to look at and explore the theme "Famous People" whilst combining this with developing their knowledge of famous artists. Pupils will be taught how to create a portrait of a famous person using a technique commonly used by a famous artist. For example, Winston Churchill's portrait created in the style of Andy Warhol's Pop Art portraits.

#### DRAMA

In Drama, pupils will continue to explore Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, taking a series of the key scenes from "page to stage" by preparing them for performance.



## PE

Individual work will focus on close control and consistency in rugby, football, netball and basketball. Competitive games will be developed to practice and progress sending and receiving skills under pressure. Tactics for attacking and defending will be introduced. Pupils will develop communication, decision making and spatial awareness skills.

## MANDARIN

Beginner pupils will be able to use simple phrases appropriately in everyday situations with increasing accuracy. They will be able to recognise simple characters, including numbers, family members and time.

Intermediate pupils will be learning some new words and expressions, and how to express themselves confidently in Chinese. An increasing focus will be placed on how to present on a topic and produce a structured paragraph.

Advanced pupils will cover the chapters: 《万里长城》 《卢浮宫》 《古诗两首》 An increasing emphasis will be put on writing. Pupils will learn more new words and more various ways to describe a scene. They are expected to use some special writing skills to compose travel notes. Their oral presentation skills and listening comprehension will continue to be trained.

## SPANISH

This half –term in Y6 pupils will be studying topic EL Tiempo Libre (Free Time). Pupils will learn vocabulary for the most common sports and hobbies, how to tell the time (numbers revision), how to use opinions with respective topic vocabulary and how to say what they are going to do (brief Future tense example sentences).

We are also going to produce a video for the Global Campus Languages Competition in which pupils will play the role of teacher/pupil by using vocabulary already learned last half-term.

Grammar: Pupils will use basic forms of the present tense for verbs salir, hacer and ir; using me gusta/ir and the infinitive. A lesson on Spanish pronunciation will also take place this half-term.

### **The websites to be used by pupils are:**

<http://www.Linguascope.com> (ask teacher for username and password)

<http://www.espanol-extra.co.uk/>

<http://www.aprender.org.uk/>



## GENERAL INFORMATION

Year 6A have PE on Monday and Friday and they swim on Thursdays.

Year 6B have PE on Monday and Friday and they swim on Tuesdays

Year 6C have PE on Tuesday and Friday and they swim on Wednesdays.

Please can you ensure children come to school wearing their labeled hats on all days.

We have enjoyed getting to know your children and are looking forward to discussing their learning so far in our upcoming parents meeting.

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