



# Year 5 Curriculum Newsletter

April 2016

Dear Parents

Happy Easter! We hope you all had a very restful and enjoyable Easter break. Now that the holidays are over, it's time to get back in to the swing of all the hard work and activities that we have in store for this term!

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Our topic for this term is going to be 'Explorers of the Land', which will then change to 'Space Exploration' after our residential trip. As with our other topics, we will be exploring this theme through the majority of our lessons making genuine links to a range of areas of the curriculum and to the real world.

Our residential trip is only a couple of weeks away and we will be sending out lots of information between now and when we go to Yangshuo so please keep an eye on your emails and the blog – all of the information will go up there. Hopefully, you're all as excited about the trip as we are!

## CURRICULUM INFORMATION

Maths:

In Mathematics we will consolidate and extend our understanding of the number system and place value to include larger integers, making connections between multiplication and division with fractions, decimals, percentages and ratio. A focus on shape, geometry and measurement will ensure we develop skills in logical thinking. Collating and analysing data will also be explored. Developing skills in solving problems, including complex properties of numbers and arithmetic by using written and mental methods of calculation will be a continued focus.

Every mathematical lesson will work towards developing children's ability to spot mathematical patterns and develop metacognitive investigative skills. It would be fantastic if you could help your child learn and be as confident as they possibly can be with their times tables. These really are integral to most of what we teach and will help them speed up as mathematicians too. There are plenty of great websites with games on but there is definitely an element of practice, practice, practice! Your help would very much be appreciated with this.

English:

We will focus on a range of writing styles including poetry, information texts and narratives. We always aim to write with a purpose so that children can understand the importance of writing in the real world and create links to our theme where possible.

We will also continue to teach grammar lessons focusing on a wide range of grammatical techniques as well as our Guided Reading sessions where your child will read in a group with their teacher once a week.

Please can you continue to encourage children to read at home as this has a huge impact on the quality of their writing.



#### Theme:

Year 5's theme this year has been 'Explorers'. This term, we will look closely at 'Explorers of Space' and the importance of the space race in relation to the Cold War. We will also be learning all about volcanoes, earthquakes and rock formations.

#### ICT:

This term we will continue with coding and the Global Classroom. Students will become more competent at writing their own algorithms and formulas as they work through courses that develop their confidence and skill. Students will also interact with their peers globally through forums and participate with activities such as the illustration competition and the global debate.

#### Science:

Science will be linked to our theme by learning all about Forces, Earth and Space.

#### Mandarin:

Beginner pupils are expected to recognise and say Chinese words on the topic of activities, hobbies, animals, descriptions, entertainment and places, professions, and food. An increasing focus will be put on pupils ability to recognise and read Chinese characters as well as to compose some simple expressions on these topics. They are also expected to be able to write certain words in Chinese with practice.

Lower Intermediate pupils will learn more about "Body Parts", "Favorite Food and Dishes", "Places for Entertainment" and "Rooms and Furniture". An increasing focus will still be placed on reading comprehension and independent writing. Students will also have more opportunities to enhance their Mandarin speaking skills by making dialogues with their classmates.

Upper Intermediate pupils will study topics including 《不一样的快餐店》、《词典大楼》、《中秋游园会》、《三借芭蕉扇》、《一碗云吞面》. An increasing focus will be placed on how to analyse the passage structure and encourage the pupils to express their own ideas. Their oral presentation skills and listening comprehension will continue to be developed.

Advanced pupils will study chapters including 《聂耳》、《在机场》、《游香港》、《乌鸦喝水》 and 《逛外滩》. Through these chapters, they will learn more about essay structures and develop their critical thinking. Pupils will try to use their learnt knowledge to write a different type of essay.

#### Spanish

In the summer term we will be studying the topic EN CASA (At Home). Pupils will learn how to ask and say where they live, name some European and Asian countries, say whether they live in a house or flat, describe their home using adjectives.

Grammar: use singular forms of vivir, recognise the 'nosotros' forms of -ar/-er verbs, use prepositions, shortening of de+el to del

We will finish summer term with an individual or group presentation from pupils where they will be able to choose from one of the topics learned during their first year of Spanish.

#### Music

During term three, Year 5 will explore aspects of the core works, Beethoven Symphony No.5, and



Gershwin's song 'They can't take that away from me'. They will also learn violin, trombone, keyboard or clarinet, depending on which class they are in.

#### Drama

To support and extend learning in the "Explorers of the Sky" theme, the drama lessons will cover a range of improvisations and role-plays about outer space and space exploration. These will culminate in pupils making their own documentary style films.

#### Art

Year 5 pupils will explore the theme of Space by creating a short time lapse animation. Pupils will begin the project by writing their own short story about space before producing a storyboard. They will be required to consider the characters, location, props and stage set for their animation. Pupils will be encouraged to develop their modelling skills as they create plasticine characters and use a variety of materials to design and create their final stage set.

#### 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 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 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 learn different styles of dance and focus on dancing with other people. They will create, perform and watch dances in a range of styles, working with partners and groups. Pupils will explore a range of dances, using step and gesture patterns, body shapes, contact work, and contrasts in dynamic and rhythmic patterning.

Pupils will refine technique in athletics events including sprinting, middle distance, shot put as well as high jump and long jump. Striking and fielding skills as well as tactics for cricket/T-ball will also be refined.

Children will continue with our NAIS swimming programme this term. Swimming is a compulsory part of our curriculum and like other subjects all children are expected to attend every week. Please support us in ensuring that all pupils develop this vital life skill.

You can contact the Year 5 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 5 Team

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