



# Year 3 Curriculum Newsletter

April 2016

Dear Parents,

We hope you had a relaxing Easter break and are ready for the Summer Term. It is a long term and we have lots of exciting activities planned in our new topic *Ancient Rome*. This letter provides an indication of the areas of the curriculum that will be covered this term in Year 3.

## Mathematics

This term's mathematics objectives include: using mental and formal written methods and solving number and practical problems (using addition and subtraction to three-digit numbers and multiplying two-digit numbers); finding fractions of numbers with unit and non-unit fractions; measuring perimeter; and recognising and making 2D and 3D shapes. In our *Learn Its* sessions, we will focus on the 9 times table and revise the 3 and 4 times tables, aiming for rapid mental recall of multiplication and related division facts.

## English

Writing this term will focus on adventure stories and persuasive writing. We will be looking at developing the richness of our vocabulary and vary our sentence structures. The adventure stories unit aims to develop the pupils' skills in developing a plot, organising paragraphs and creating settings and characters. *Big Writing* will continue focusing on four main aspects of writing - vocabulary, connectives, openers and punctuation (VCOP). We will be continuing the *Letters and Sounds* phonics programme daily. During our *Literacy Workshop* time, we will develop reading, grammar and comprehension skills in small group sessions.

## Theme

*Civilisations: Ancient Rome* – As part of our cross-curricular approach, the children will be learning about Ancient Rome following on from our learning of the civilisation of Ancient Greece. We will develop geography skills by researching the topography of Rome and its Empire and understanding how the Romans adopted and copied many Greek ideas and spread them. We will develop history skills by looking at Ancient Rome on a timeline, compare the lives of Ancient Romans to the modern day, and understand the impact of the period on the world. We will be studying Gods and Goddesses, the Roman army, everyday life, myths, the class system, and the development of Art and Science. Later on in the term we will have an Ancient Rome day. More details will be sent soon.

## Science

*Plants* - Children will identify and describe the functions of different parts of flowering plants: roots, stem/trunk, leaves and flowers; explore the requirements of plants for life and growth (air, light, water, nutrients from soil, and room to grow) and how they vary from plant to plant; investigate the way in which water is transported within plants; and explore the part that flowers play in the life cycle of flowering plants, including pollination, seed formation and seed dispersal.

*Magnets and Springs* - We will observe magnetic forces and experiment with attracting materials with magnets. We will look at opposite poles of magnets and predict whether magnets will repel or attract each other depending on which poles are facing.



### Mandarin

Beginner pupils will learn more words and phrases about “Countries and nationalities” “Languages” “My school” “Daily Routine” “Food” and “Hobbies”. They are expected to introduce their classmates and school in Mandarin. They will also talk about their favorite food and their hobbies in Mandarin through the lessons in this term.

Lower Intermediate pupils will be able to demonstrate an improved vocabulary and pronunciation related to time, daily activities, transportation and expressing likes and dislikes in relation to food and drink. They will have a better understanding of some food-related customs in China. Pupils will also learn to read longer texts, and write simple sentences independently.

Upper intermediate pupils will study chapters including 《司马光救人》、《雷公公和电婆婆》、《谁住顶楼》 and 《猫和老鼠》. Through these chapters, they will know more about Chinese ancient stories, and will learn more words and expressions about the topics. Furthermore, they will have more chances for presentations and story telling.

Advanced pupils will study chapters including 《给爷爷的信》、《颐和园》、《凡尔赛宫》、《晒太阳》、《小马过河》 and 《猴子和月亮》. Through these chapters, they will know more about the places, letters and stories, and learn more words and expressions about the topics.

### Music

During term three, Year 3 students will explore aspects of the core works, Beethoven's Symphony No.5, and Gershwin's song ‘They can't take that away from me’. They will learn the ukulele, and play some chords and short melodies.

### Drama

In Drama, pupils will continue their class work about the Romans by using traditional Roman myths along with important moments in Roman history, to inspire a range of devised and improvised performances such as news reports and narrated storytelling.

### Art

Year 3 classes will conclude the year by exploring art created by the Ancient Romans. Pupils will have the opportunity to design and create a cut paper mosaic inspired by Roman artefacts. Pupils will be encouraged to consider their use of shape, pattern and colour as they create their final design. Skills in cutting, sticking and presentation will be developed throughout the project.

### 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 develop athletics skills such as running, jumping and throwing. Striking and fielding skills as well as tactics for cricket/T-ball will also be introduced.

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.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Tai O residential will soon be upon us and staff and children are becoming very excited about the trip. Please keep looking out for emails with updates and final reminders. It really is a great trip that your children will enjoy and come back tired with bags of dirty washing and happy memories.

Keep reading at home! With our Big Writing and Talk Homework this term, it is a great chance to help your children read in order to write more effectively. As you read with your child, you could point out ambitious vocabulary, new words and descriptive phrases. By stealing super ideas from established authors, children can write more creatively in class.

The weather is now heating up so a big thank you to all the pupils who have been coming with their hats. There is a **no hat, no outdoor play** policy to protect the children from the sun. Please ensure that the hat has your child's name and class so that it can be returned if it gets misplaced.

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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