



Year 3 Curriculum Newsletter

March 2015

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the second half-term of our Spring Term and may we wish you all Kung Hei Fat Choi! We have lots of exciting activities planned as we continue our theme of Africa with a focus on Ancient Egypt. 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: multiplication and division (using mental and formal written methods) and solving number and practical problems (using place value, multiplication and division). We will also be working with decimal fractions and money. In our *Learn Its* sessions, we will be consolidating the 4 times table, aiming for rapid mental recall of multiplication and related division facts.

English

Writing this term will focus on poetry and Big Writing. Big Writing is a method of teaching writing which focuses on four main aspects of writing - vocabulary, connectives, openers and punctuation (VCOP). The aim is to develop children's writing skills in these areas whilst developing self-assessment and thinking about the writing process. As part of Big Writing, we will be setting Talk Homework which allows pupils to share vocabulary and ideas before the writing session. 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

Ancient Egypt – As part of our cross-curricular approach, the children will be learning about the history of Ancient Egypt. We will be looking at the achievements of the Ancient Egyptians and studying when and where they appeared. Pupils will research different aspects of life from that time: food and farming; The Pharaohs; temples and Gods; death and mummification; hieroglyphics and writing. We encourage children to further their knowledge at home using technology and books.

Science

Magnets and Springs - Children will continue our Science topic from last half-term. 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 students will be learning food items in mandarin. They will be able to name the common food and the food they like. They will learn how to use sentence to asking questions about food too.

Intermediate pupils will be learning new words and expressions about animals, colors, and school life. An increasing focus will be placed on how to comprehend a Chinese passage and produce a short paragraph. Students will also get more opportunities to express their opinions in Mandarin in front of the whole class.

Advanced pupils will learn more chapters which include 《孔融让梨》、《争相片》、《我的好朋友》 and 《小狗请客》. Through these chapters, pupils will learn reading and writing skills, but also how to be nice to their friends and encourage them to be polite students in school and at home.



Art

Year 3 pupils will continue to explore their class theme, The Egyptians as they create a paper batik of Tutankhamen's death mask. Pupils will develop their observational drawing skills as they prepare their image and then their media handling skills as they use paint and ink to create the batik effect.

Music

This half term in music, students will learn about, understand and identify changes in dynamics and the musical symbols used to show dynamics, through the exploration of Egyptian pyramid graphic scores. They will also explore the minor scale as we learn some Egyptian sounding melodies. Students will use both tuned and untuned percussion instruments.

Drama

Pupils will continue their learning about the Ancient Egyptians in their drama lessons where they will be exploring some popular Egyptian myths and developing their own performances based on Egyptian stories.

PE

Pupils will develop fundamental movement skills whilst taking part in net games and striking and 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.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Book Week 9th – 13th March

As a school, we will be celebrating reading with a week of book-related activities. In Year 3, we will be looking closely at Roald Dahl's books and thinking about some of his memorable



characters. We will read some of his stories to the children in class and then write using Dahl as inspiration.

Keep reading at home! With our Big Writing and Talk Homework this half-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.

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

Mr Holt (Year Group Leader)

Stephen.Holt@nais.hk

Ms Chamier

Eloise.Chamier@nais.hk

Mrs Doherty

Katie.Doherty@nais.hk

Ms Rostron

Rachael.Rostron@nais.hk