



Year 1 Curriculum Newsletter

April 2016

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! We hope you've had a great Easter break.

GENERAL INFORMATION

With the weather becoming warmer and sunnier we will be continuing to reinforce our "no hat, no play" policy. Please make ensure that your child has a named hat with them every day to wear during break and lunch times.

A polite reminder NAIS is a nut free school. Please ensure that this is strictly followed for the safety of all our children, this includes Nutella related products that contain Hazelnuts. We also would like to thank all those parents that are bringing in healthy snacks and would like to remind you all that we are a healthy school.

CURRICULUM INFORMATION

ENGLISH

English lessons will be focused around our theme topics 'Rocking Around the Ages' and 'Ahoy, me Hearties'. Our fiction writing will be based around the book 'Stone Age Boy' thinking about character and setting descriptions. We will be writing a set of instructions and researching about the life of a pirate for our non-fiction writing. We will also be using our writing and language skills to create pirate poetry

MATHS

This term we will continue to consolidate our number and shape knowledge while introducing multiplication and division to the children. We will also be extending our knowledge of measure by learning about capacity. As always, number knowledge and number facts will feature prominently. Last term we trialed 'imaths' but due to the lack of suitability for Year 1 students we are now going to introduce a new internet based learning tool called Education City please stay tuned for more information regarding this.

THEME

'Rocking Around the Ages'

Our prehistoric theme will focus on the Stone Age, Bronze Age and the Iron Age. We will be learning about living condition of early humans, food, clothes and survival. We will also be looking at time lines identifying the different time periods and focusing on the different types of materials found during this period of time to link with our History and Science curriculums.

We will also be celebrating a whole school International Day. In Year One we will be celebrating our individual heritage and culture during that week.



‘Ahoy, me Hearties’

Following Miss Byrne’s discovery of a local pirate map the children will be researching a famous local pirate. We will be investigating materials in Science thinking about their properties and linking this knowledge to a waterproof experiment. In DT we will be using our knowledge of structures to create a disguise. In ICT we will be programming using algorithm ‘bee bots’ to find treasure. In PHSCE we will be learning about safety in the environment, particularly safety in the sun. We will also be looking at health; healthy eating and how to avoid scurvy!

MANDARIN

Beginner pupils will be learning the topics of weather, transportation, shapes and opposite word in Mandarin. Pupils will also learn the characters to write this vocabulary.

Lower intermediate pupils will learn the topics of animals, nationalities, stationary, activities, emotions, clothes, school, friendship, opposites, weather and house setting. They are expected to learn more vocabulary and phrases to talk about the above topics.

Upper intermediate pupils will be about to talk more topics in Mandarin, such as; stationary, nationalities, food and drink, hobbies and school life, transportations, seasons and weather as well as occupations. They will learn how to read and write more Chinese characters to describe the topics above. They will also be encouraged to participate into different Mandarin learning games and feel more confident to present based on a topic in front of the whole class.

Advanced pupils will be learning how to express themselves confidently in Chinese. Topics will include; schools, garden, directions and festivals. An increasing focus will be placed on how to use different phrases to talk about the topic accurately and fluently in Mandarin.

MUSIC

This term, year 1 will learn a selection of game songs around the topic ‘Weather’, develop their vocal range and expression and perform both as a soloist and as a part of a group. Students will also listen to a variety of music and begin to identify the families of instruments in the orchestra. We will also be continuing with keyboard skills and music theory through this as a medium, focusing on developing recognition of notes and rhythms on the treble stave.

DRAMA

Pupils will engage in a range of drama activities on the theme of pirates and the sea. Lessons will comprise a range of story based role-play, improvisation and drama games.

ART

Year 1 classes will conclude the year by exploring a Pirate theme during their art lessons. Pupils will be encouraged and supported in the creation of a pirate portrait that will enable them to develop their analytical drawing skills and exploration of mixed media. Finally pupils will create a pirate ship using clay where they will be introduced to rolling, pinching and stamping techniques.



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.

In dance pupils will explore basic body actions such as jumping and turning, as well as using different parts of their body to create a simple sequence of movements. They will create and repeat short dances inspired by themes such as animals.

Pupils will develop basic athletics skills such as running, jumping and throwing. Basic striking and fielding skills 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.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any queries or questions. We look forward to an enjoyable and hardworking term.

Yours sincerely,

The Year 1 Team

Jen Rowland (1A) Jennifer.rowland@nais.hk

Mike Ford (1B) Michael.ford@nais.hk

Katie Malone (1C) Katie.malone@nais.hk

Rachael Rostron (1D) Rachael.rostron@nais.hk

Patsy Morgan (1E) Patsy.morgan@nais.hk