



# Year 1 Curriculum Newsletter

## October 2015

Dear Parents,

It was an exciting and productive first half term and we enjoyed really getting to know your children. We now have a busy and interesting half term with the lead up to Christmas and our Christmas production.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Please continue to return any notes or forms in the zip reading folder as we will be checking this daily. Thank you to all the parents who have been contacting us by email please continue to do this and don't forget to check our Year 1 blog which will be updated regularly.

Thank you to all the parents who have put healthy snacks in separate labelled boxes and have sent their child in with a labeled hat, water bottle and spare clothes.

### CURRICULUM INFORMATION

#### ENGLISH

Our class English will be focused around our topic 'Poles Apart'. We will begin by looking at the book 'The Emperor's Egg' and use this as a base for our own non-fiction writing. After this we will be creating our own stories about the missing penguin. We will also be writing and reading the genres of instructions and letter writing.

#### MATHS

This half term we will be continuing to develop our mathematical skills furthering our knowledge of shape, time, directional language and number patterns. We will also be focusing on learning number bonds and doubles to 10 and 20 so that children know them off by heart. In addition to this we will be practising counting in 2s, 5s and 10s.



## THEME

### 'Poles Apart'

We were visited by an explorer before half term who asked for our help. They have recently returned from Antarctica after discovering that A PENGUIN CHICK HAS GONE MISSING! Throughout the half term we will be following the penguins adventures as he travels around the world. During his journey, we will learn about a range of continents, countries and the animals that inhabit them.

## MANDARIN

Beginner pupils will be learning more vocabulary about color, numbers and fruit in Mandarin and Pinyin. They will also learn the basic stroke for writing Mandarin characters.

Lower intermediate pupils will learn vocabulary for stationary, nationality, and food. They will also learn some basic sentence structures to express their needs, their feelings or describe something in Mandarin. They are expected to do some basic daily conversation in Mandarin.

Upper intermediate pupils will be consolidating their previous study of Pinyin and expanding their vocabulary on a range of topics. They will also learn to sing more Chinese songs related to the topics covered. Regarding Chinese culture, pupils will increase their understanding of Chinese traditions and customs through discussion of the upcoming Chinese New Year festival.

Advanced pupils will be learning more vocabulary through songs and topics. An increasing focus will be placed on how to recognise the radicles and write words with the correct stroke order. Pupils will also learn pinyin, which will help to reading aloud and allow children to read story books independently.

## MUSIC

During the second half of term one, Year 1 will explore the 'dimensions of music' through a focus on learning songs for their Christmas performance. We will continue to focus on enabling all students to find their singing voice and perform both as a soloist and as a part of a group. We will also be exploring the keyboard and continue to explore music theory through this as a medium. They will also learn a repertoire of well known childrens' songs, linked to school themes.



## DRAMA

In Drama, pupils will be rehearsing for their roles in a show called *Prickly Hay*. At the end of the term, they will have the opportunity to share their work with parents, teachers and the rest of the school in a special Christmas performance.

## ART

Year 1 pupils will continue to explore the theme “Poles apart” during their art lesson. They will have the opportunity to investigate different animals from around the world and discover new materials that can be used to create the required textures, patterns and colours. Pupils will also look at the work by artist Henri Rousseau before creating their own Year 1 jungle display.

## PE

Individual work will focus on close control in rugby, football, netball and basketball. Gross motor skills will be developed in fundamental movements. Co-operative games will be developed to practice and progress sending and receiving skills. Basic evasion techniques will be covered.

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

Yours sincerely,

The Year 1 Team

Jen Rowland (1A) [Jennifer.rowland@nais.hk](mailto:Jennifer.rowland@nais.hk)

Mike Ford (1B) [Michael.ford@nais.hk](mailto:Michael.ford@nais.hk)

Katie Malone (1C) [Katie.malone@nais.hk](mailto:Katie.malone@nais.hk)

Rachael Rostron (1D) [Rachael.rostron@nais.hk](mailto:Rachael.rostron@nais.hk)

Patsy Morgan (1E) [Patsy.morgan@nais.hk](mailto:Patsy.morgan@nais.hk)