



Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter

April 2016

Dear Parents

Welcome back - Doesn't time fly? Our final term of this year is already underway! We hope you all had a fantastic holiday and are ready for another action packed term at NAIS.

There is so much to look forward to this term! The excitement for our residential trip is already building and we are delighted that the majority of the children will be coming with us. We will be announcing the best design for our t-shirt competition and we all look forward to wearing our favourite all over Lantau!

Our topic for this term is going to be 'South America'. As with our other topics, we will be exploring this theme through the majority of our lessons for the next few weeks.

Please do check your emails for updates from the class teachers and admissions office. We try to keep these emails to a minimum so please note down any important changes or additions when you receive them.

Our firefly blog is constantly being updated so please keep checking it to find out what your child is getting up to at school. We have a fantastic number of views so far and would like this to continue.

CURRICULUM INFORMATION

MATHS

In Maths this year we will be reviewing many of the areas that we covered in the first two terms by going in to greater detail and depth to ensure understanding.

This term we will cover:

- Negative numbers, decimals and place value
- Four operations problem solving to ensure all children are confident with using the different methods.
- Rounding to the nearest 10, 100, 1000
- Converting between different units of measurement.
- Time
- Translations and coordinates
- Symmetry
- Fraction and decimal equivalents
- Finding fractions of amounts

We strive to make our Maths lessons based around problem solving and collaborative learning. We will be encouraging all children to use and apply the correct methods to solve problems and explain and check their answers clearly.



To help and support your child with Maths, please help them to practice their times tables – along with the corresponding division facts. You could also ask them what they have been doing in class during the week and get them to show you the methods to help reinforce their learning.

ENGLISH

Our English lessons this half term will be based around our 'South America' theme. As part of our topic we will read 'The Vanishing Rainforest' by Richard Platt and the children will use drama and 'hot seating' to imagine how the tribes people in this story felt when their home was destroyed.

We will also be looking at the differences between biographies and autobiographies and the children will look at the life of Christopher Columbus and base their biography on him.

In addition, we will be learning about persuasive texts and making adverts to promote and persuade people to visit the location of our Year 4 residential.

Year 4 pupils continue to take part in literacy workshops, which practice English skills. The skills covered include: guided reading, cursive handwriting and neat presentation along with reading comprehension and fluency; grammar and punctuation, phonics and weekly spelling practice.

These skills combined enable the children to become more confident to express themselves in writing and verbally. Improving spoken English with pronunciation and improving written English with the focus on spelling, comprehension and fluency.

THEME

In theme lessons this term, our learning in year 4 will be based around the topic of 'South America'. During this time students will;

- Learn the geographical features of South America.
- Learn about the Rainforest Habitat and the animals and plants within it.
- Learn about the Columbian Exchange.
- Learn about festivals and music in South America.

In addition to these tasks, children will also have the opportunity to visit the Hong Kong Wetlands Park to compare and contrast habitats.

Finally, all children will be issued with a 'Home Country' from South America. In addition to this, students will have a long term project that they will work on weekly basis.

MANDARIN

Beginner pupils will be learning new words and expressions related to animals, food, and transportation. They will be taught types of snacks, meal times and places to eat in China, and they will also learn to express their likes and dislikes about food. Pupils are expected to read and write short texts independently.



Lower Intermediate pupils are expected to expand their vocabulary on some very practical topics like “Daily Activities”, “Food and drinks” and “Transportation”. An increasing focus will still be placed on how to comprehend a Chinese passage and produce a short paragraph. Students will also have more opportunities to enhance their communication skills in Mandarin by speaking in front of the class and improve writing skills through projects like “designing a restaurant menu”.

Upper-intermediate pupils will improve their vocabulary and Chinese expressions by learning the chapters of 《小男孩和樱桃树》 《称赞》 《看电视》 《红山的传说》 《有人给我写信了》 《“失物”认领》 《筷子的传说》 《小豆豆》。 In these chapters, pupils will learn to read and write more sentences in Chinese. They will accumulate more vocabulary and sentence expressions. The pupils are expected to develop their reading and writing skills in Chinese.

Advanced pupils will study chapters including 《古诗二首》、《唐人街》、《神舟飞天》、《普林斯顿的老人》、《李时珍》 and 《曹冲称象》. Through these chapters, they will know more about Chinese poems, famous people and Chinese ancient stories. They are expected to write a meaningful essay about the topics this term.

MUSIC

During term three, Year 4 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 keyboard, violin, flute, saxophone or trumpet, depending on which class they are in.

DRAMA

In Drama, pupils will be using improvisation, role-play and scripted activities to explore a range of stories and characters from traditional Central and South American countries.

ART

Year 4 pupils will design and create a poster for the forthcoming Olympics in Brazil 2016 as part of their South American project. Pupils will have the opportunity to use iPads to research their ideas for images and lettering styles before they go on to explore layout, colour and pattern. This project will encourage pupils to experiment with a range of materials before selecting the most suitable for their final design.

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.

As always, do get in touch with any comments or suggestions.

Kind regards,

The Year 4 Team

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