



# Year 5 Curriculum Newsletter

January 2016

Dear Parents

Kung Hei Fat Choi! We hope you all had a very restful and enjoyable Chinese New Year. Now that the holidays are over, it's time to get back in to the swing of all the hard work and activities that we have in store for this half term!

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Our topic for this term will continue to be 'Explorers of the Land'. As with our other topics, we will be exploring this theme through the majority of our lessons making genuine links to a range of areas of the curriculum and to the real world.

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 blog is constantly being updated so please keep checking it to find out what your child is getting up to at school. Homework will go onto the blog every Friday so there really isn't an excuse not to check out all the great stuff that we will be doing in Year 5 this term!

If you have any issues accessing the blog or being able to log into Firefly, please contact the Admissions team.

## CURRICULUM INFORMATION

Maths:

In Mathematics we will consolidate and extend our understanding of the number system and place value to include larger integers, making connections between multiplication and division with fractions, decimals, percentages and ratio. A focus on shape, geometry and measurement will ensure we develop skills in logical thinking. Collating and analysing data will also be explored. Developing skills in solving problems, including complex properties of numbers and arithmetic by using written and mental methods of calculation will be a continued focus.

Every mathematical lesson will work towards developing children's ability to spot mathematical patterns and develop metacognitive investigative skills. It would be fantastic if you could help your child learn and be as confident as they possibly can be with their times tables. These really are integral to most of what we teach and will help them speed up as mathematicians too. There are plenty of great websites with games on but there is definitely an element of practice, practice, practice!



#### English:

We will focus on two writing styles this term: traditional stories from different cultures and play scripts. We always aim to write with a purpose so that children can understand the importance of writing in the real world.

We will also continue to teach grammar lessons focusing on a wide range of grammatical techniques as well as our Guided Reading sessions where your child will read in a group with your teacher once a week.

Please can you continue to encourage children to read at home as this has a huge impact on the quality of their writing.

#### Theme:

Year 5's theme this year is 'Explorers'. This term, we will study 'Explorers of the Land.' This will link very closely to our Science subjects of classification and life cycles.

#### ICT:

This half term we will continue with coding and the Global Campus. Students will become more competent at writing their own algorithms and formulas as they work through courses that develop their confidence and skill. Students will also interact with their peers globally through forums and participate with activities such as the illustration competition and the global debate.

#### Science:

This half term we will use our scientific skills to explore different types of gases and how we interact with them. Students will identify common gases and their properties whilst investigating their uses. This unit will have a focus on chemistry and children will get the opportunity to conduct experiments in the science lab to develop our scientific practices further.

#### Mandarin:

Beginner pupils are expected to recognise and use the Chinese words on the topics of school, location, interests and hobbies. An increasing focus will be placed on their ability to recognise and read Chinese characters. They are also expected to be able to write certain words in Chinese with practice.

Intermediate pupils are expected to expand their vocabulary on the topics of activities and hobbies and appearance descriptions. An increasing focus will be placed on how to comprehend a Chinese passage and produce a short paragraph of writing. Children will be more confident to use Mandarin fluently in real life.

Pure (Lower intermediate): This term, pupils will continue to develop their Chinese listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. They will be introduced to new topics, such as personal interests, animals,



places, and occupations. Pupils are expected to recognise more Chinese radicals and characters, and write short compositions.

Intermediate pupils will learn more chapters including; 《肥皂泡》、《第三只手》、《第一次参加马来人婚礼》、《不一样的快餐店》. Through these chapters, they will learn to find out the deep meaning of the articles. In addition, they will have more chance to write essays in which are related to the topics learned.

Advanced pupils will learn more chapters which include 《古诗二首》, 《屈原》 and 《白衣天使》. Through these chapters, they will consolidate their knowledge about ancient poems and famous people both at home and abroad. In addition, they will have more chances to practice the format of different types of writing in which are related to their chapters.

#### Spanish:

In Spanish we are going to consolidate our topic on *la Familia* (Family) by finalising with learning about *Mi Mascota (s) – My pets*. We will then bring together all the sub-topics we've learned by producing a family tree in Spanish with added personal descriptions for hair and eye colour, height, character, and pets vocabulary.

In grammar we will practice and use verbs in the present tense such as *llevar*, *vestir*, and connectives *también* (also), *pero* (but) and *y* (and). There will be a vocabulary test for topic *Mi Familia* to assess learning and the last week of the term will be dedicated to Easter traditions/vocabulary in Spanish speaking countries.

#### Music:

During this half term, Year 5 students will continue to explore the music topic 'Explorers of the Land', and develop the skills of The Juilliard programme, through the Yearly Learning Objectives, actively engaging in the three core aspects of the UK National Curriculum, composition, listening and appraising, and performance.

They will also learn violin, trombone, keyboard or clarinet, depending on which class they are in. They will learn a repertoire of well-known seasonal and popular songs, linked to school themes.

#### Art:

Year 5 pupils will investigate the landscape prints and paintings by the Japanese artist, Katsushika Hokusai as part of their explorers of the land theme. They will be introduced to watercolour painting and learn how to create layers of colour to add depth and tone to their own landscape painting.

Pupils will develop new skills as they learn how to carefully control the flow of paint and colour mixing.



#### Drama:

In Drama, pupils will complete their exploration of Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, taking a series of the key scenes from 'page to stage' by preparing them for performance.

#### PE:

Pupils will develop fundamental movement skills whilst taking part in net games (tennis & badminton). These will increase in challenge to 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 explore a range of dances, using step and gesture patterns, body shapes, contact work, and contrasts in dynamic and rhythmic patterning.

You can contact the Year 5 team by sending an e-mail or by making an appointment at reception. All our email addresses are listed below. Please do contact us if you have any questions, comments or ideas, as we love to hear from you!

Kind regards,

The Year 5 Team

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