



Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter

April 2015

Dear Parents

Welcome back! Doesn't time fly! Our final term of our first year is already underway. After a whirlwind last half term and a much-needed rest over Easter, the Year Four team are raring to go with our next topic. We hope you all had a fantastic holiday and are ready for another action packed term at NAIS.

There is going to be so much to look forward to this half 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 deciding on the best design for our t-shirt competition and we all look forward to wearing our favourite all over Cheung Chau Island!

We would like to again say a huge thank you to all the parents who contributed to our Harry Potter day and International Day. I think we all agree that the week before the Easter holidays was one of the best (and busiest) we have had so far this year. We wouldn't have managed it without your support with costumes, props, food and enthusiasm! Thank you for helping the children to have such a fantastic time.

Our topic for the first part of this term is going to be 'By the Sea'. As with our other topics, we will be exploring this theme through the majority of our lessons for the next few weeks. The second half of the term will be a whole school topic that we will let you know about nearer the time.

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. We have a fantastic number of views so far and would like this to continue. <http://year4nais.blogspot.hk>.



Maths:

In Maths this half term we are going to have a focus on problem solving and independent investigations. Children will be encouraged to find clues in a problem and identify what methods they need to use to solve it. They will also need to be able to make accurate estimates and use the inverse operation to check their answers.

We will be reviewing lots of the skills and calculations we have already looked at so that the children can consolidate and embed their learning. This half term we will mostly be focusing on:

- The ability to solve real life word problems. Pupils will reason mathematically and solve problems.
- Continuing to practise mental addition and subtraction.
- Revision of written addition, subtraction, multiplication and division methods
- Time will be a big focus for this half term. This will include, reading, writing and converting time between analogue and digital clocks, solving problems involving converting from hours to minutes; minutes to seconds; years to months and weeks to days. You can help your child with this at home by practicing reading analogue and digital times.

As always, in addition to this times table practise is essential to ensure that children can apply this knowledge across the curriculum.

English:

As this topic is only a short one, in English we will be concentrating on writing information texts. This unit of work will enable us to work closely with our theme, which will really help to inspire our children to reach their full potential with their writing. Children will learn the key features used when writing information texts and apply these to write about our theme, 'By the sea.'

We will also be encouraging pupils to use their personal writing targets to improve and up-level their own and others writing.

We will be continuing with phonics lessons four times a week to ensure that the children have a deep rooted understanding of the sounds and can practise and learn different spelling rules.



Theme:

Over the next few weeks, our theme lessons will be based around a topic called 'By the Sea'.

In Geography, we will be looking at the effects of coastal erosion on areas around the world, including Hong Kong. We will be investigating this process and looking at how it shapes the environment around us.

We will be looking at how the coastline forms part of the water cycle and will be explaining this process to our peers.

We will look at the issue of Global Warming and learn about its causes and effects. We will learn, about the threat of rising sea levels and research islands around the world that are at risk.

ICT:

In ICT we will be using our iPads to produce multi-modal texts describing the water cycle. We will also be using iPads to enhance our research throughout the theme.

Science:

In keeping with our seaside theme this half term we will look at habitats in science. This unit will focus on different habitats, not just by the sea. Work will include a review of the characteristics of living things and the basic needs their habitats supply. We will establish why classification of plants and animals is important and create our own classification keys. We will read and construct food chains and webs, before recognising that habitats and environments can change. A lot to consider in a short space of time!

MANDARIN

Beginner pupils will learn to use basic vocabulary about school subjects, stationery, hobbies, activities, food and drink, transport and animals. Through role-play activities, they will consolidate their listening and speaking about what they like to eat and what food they like most. They will also have the opportunity to design and create a 'stationary monster' and describe him in Mandarin.

Lower Intermediate pupils will continue to learn new vocabulary on a range of topics. An increasing focus will be placed on how to comprehend a Chinese passage and produce a short paragraph by adding an ending for a text.



Upper Intermediate pupils will continue to study chapters which include 《筷子的传说》、《小豆豆》、《种绿豆》. Through these chapters, pupils will learn how to guess a words meaning from the content of the article. They will also learn how to write a meaningful essay.

Advanced pupils will study chapters including; 《称赞》、《看电视》、《有人给我写信了》 and 《“失物”认领》. Through these chapters, they will learn how to guess the words meaning from the content of the article. They will also learn how to write a meaningful essay.

MUSIC

Year 4 will explore the concept of 'leitmotif' this term through development of themes for the characters. They will notate these accurately using staff notation and perform them both individually and as part of an ensemble. Year 4 will also learn songs and choreography for their end of year production.

ART

Year 4 will be continuing to explore their class theme 'By the Sea' as they investigate fish by initially carrying out an investigation drawing. They will then move onto creating a 3D clay fish. Pupils will be encouraged to explore the properties of clay as they mold, attach, cut and press the clay in order to create a patterned and textured fish. Once fired in the kiln, pupils will paint their fish sculpture using pattern and colour.

PE

Pupils will develop fundamental movement skills whilst taking part in net games (tennis and volleyball) and striking and fielding activities (kwik cricket). 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 body awareness for fielding and defending. Pupils will also cover athletic activities focusing on jumping, throwing and running over various distances at different speeds. 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.

You can contact the Year 4 team by sending an e-mail or by making an appointment with 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 4 Team

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