



# Year 5 Curriculum Newsletter

November 2014

Dear Parents,

This document aims to provide you with an overview of the curriculum in Year 5 for the second part of Term 1, 2014. The subjects covered are taught in accordance with the new National Curriculum in England, whilst also encompassing elements of global learning and citizenship from an international education perspective.

## ENGLISH

In the Non-Fiction genre we will explore instructions, explanation texts and reports. We will link with our theme by writing scientific based reports and explanations on subjects such as solar eclipses or day and night. In the Poetry genre we will study different forms of poetry leading to a slam poetry competition. Throughout the term there will be a continued focus on Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar, (SPAG) and handwriting.

## MATHEMATICS

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.

## THEME

Our next theme is titled 'Our World and Beyond' and has a strong Science focus. As part of this unit we will be exploring our planet Earth, the Sun, the Moon and the rest of the Solar System. We will conduct scientific investigations to deepen our understanding of our world and beyond.

## SCIENCE

We will use our scientific skills to investigate how different movements or events in the solar system affect our lives. This will include topics such as; the creation of night and day, the monthly and annual cycles, as well more unusual phenomena such as solar and lunar eclipses.

## GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

During the themed unit we will explore the geographical features of the Earth, Sun and Moon and their features. We will also explore our more immediate world, such as the local environment of Hong Kong and look at how the human geography has changed throughout history.



### ICT

We will integrate the use a variety of educational apps and tools within lessons to share and collaborate our ideas. Students will develop their digital literacy skills gaining greater awareness of the potential benefits these resources have to their learning.

### MANDARIN

In Year 5, children will be introduced to the following skills through various activities. There will be a greater emphasis on sentence structure, grammar, reading comprehension and listening comprehension.

Pathway 1 pupils will learn to talk about their families in Chinese (E.g., I have 5 people in my family, in my family I have a father, mother..., I don't have a younger brother, etc.). They will also learn to name different countries and tell their nationalities. In addition, they will learn to talk their favourite colours and describe their appearance (body parts).

Pathway 2 pupils will be learning vocabulary related to countries, nationalities, languages and occupations in Mandarin. An increasing emphasis will be placed on reading comprehension, listening comprehension and project presentation.

Pathway 3 pupils will cover several chapters including 《永远不满》、《皮鞋的故事》、《小飞机》、and 《铜钱的响声》. Through these chapters, they will learn about different kinds of sentence structure. They will continue to practise comprehension and essay writing skills. Pupils will begin to develop their writing skills and the presentation skills through project learning.

### SPANISH

In Spanish we are going to start the half term by focusing on pronunciation and the Spanish accent, Spanish alphabet and its differences around the world. We will learn about countries and pupils will be asked to produce a presentation about their country of origin in English and Spanish. Pupils who can speak another language will have the opportunity to teach us some important words in their mother tongue.

Our subtopic for this half-term will be 'Family and Friends' which will be consolidated by producing a family tree in Spanish in which pupils will also be able to add personal descriptions such as hair colour, height and pets. Our grammar focus will continue to be using the present tense. We will also be learning new connectives and adjectives.

In the run up to Christmas we will focus on Christmas traditions in Spanish speaking countries around the world and will celebrate with a Spanish Christmas party at the end of term.

Pupils are able to practise their Spanish online on:



<http://www.Linguascope.com> (ask teacher for username and password)  
<http://www.espanol-extra.co.uk/>  
<http://www.aprender.org.uk/>

## MUSIC

This term, Year 5 students will study the 'elements of music' through a topic called 'Haunted House'. Students will explore and experiment with their voices and listen to a variety of music. They will also compose and perform, experimenting with dynamics, texture, timbre, duration, silence, pitch, tempo and attack and decay. They will use a combination of music notation and graphic score in this unit. *Miss. Rowan*

## ART

Pupils will continue to explore their theme "Out of this world" during their art lesson. Pupils will begin by investigating the work of Nick Park before designing their own storyboard for a space themed animation. Pupils will create a set design and plasticine character before using Ipads to film their own animation. *Mrs. Pate*

## DRAMA

To support and extend learning in the "Out of this World" theme, the Drama lessons will be covering a range of improvisations and role-plays about outer space and space exploration. These will culminate in pupils making their own documentary style films. *Miss. Bovingdon*

## PE

Pupils will be following a unit of ball skills that will develop fundamental sporting skills such as throwing, catching, passing, tackling and kicking. Pupils will be able to make a connection between these skills and major sporting activities and be able to transfer these skills across a wide range of sports. *PE Team*

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Promoting respect in our learning environment is a key focus throughout the school. Across the year group we have an agreed behaviour policy and positive reward systems such as using marbles in jar or success ladders. House points are given for following school rules and showing positive behavior and social graces. The children can work independently or together to earn these rewards.

Students have their own 'student planners' as developing independence is important in KS2. We ask that students use these to record subject information and homework. It is also important that students are wearing the correct school uniform.



Communication is a crucial element of your child's education. We ask that you keep your classroom teacher informed of all learning and logistical information via email or written communication. Teacher's email addresses are listed below.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours Sincerely,

The Year 5 Team

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