



# Year 3 Curriculum Newsletter

February 2016

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the second half-term of our Spring Term and may we wish you all Kung Hei Fat Choi! We have lots of exciting activities planned as we continue our theme of *Our Changing World*. This letter aims to provide an indication of the areas of the curriculum that will be covered this term in Year 3.

## Mathematics

This term's mathematics objectives include: multiplication and division (using mental and formal written methods) and solving number and practical problems (using place value, multiplication and division). We will also be working with decimal fractions and money. In our *Learn Its* sessions, we will be consolidating the 4 times table, aiming for rapid mental recall of multiplication and related division facts.

## English

Writing this term will focus on myths and legends. We will look at myths involving mermaids and Beowulf and we will create our own myths based on what we have read. During the unit of work, we will use reading and comprehension strategies to help the children to think like writers. We will identify key features of the genre, understand the 'story mountain' and write in paragraphs. Big Writing will continue in order to develop children's writing skills whilst developing self-assessment and thinking about the writing process. As part of the Big Writing process, we will be setting Talk Homework which allows pupils to share vocabulary and ideas before the writing session. We will be continuing the *Letters and Sounds* phonics programme daily. During our *Literacy Workshop* time, we will develop reading, grammar and comprehension skills in small group sessions.

## Theme

*Our Changing World* – The main focus of the theme this term continues to be Geography. The children will be learning about the continents, time zones and the changing seasons. We will look at some features of geographical interest around the world such as different climate zones. We will learn to use atlases and online maps to locate continents, major countries and cities around the world.

## Science

*Light* - Children will learn to: recognise that they need light in order to see things and that dark is the absence of light; notice that light is reflected from surfaces; recognise that light from the sun can be dangerous and that there are ways to protect their eyes; recognise that shadows are formed when the light from a light source is blocked by a solid object; and find patterns in the way that the size of shadows change.



### Mandarin

Pupils in the beginner class are going to learn more words and phrases about “Countries, Nationalities and languages”. They will also introduce themselves by saying where they come from and which languages they speak.

This term, lower intermediate pupils will continue to develop their Chinese listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. They will be introduced to new topics, such as language, nationalities and school life. Pupils are expected to recognise more Chinese radicals and characters and write complete simple sentences.

Upper Intermediate pupils will study more chapters of the textbook including

《我们住下来吧》、《孔融让梨》、《我的好朋友》、《小鸟和大树》. Through these chapters, they will learn more vocabularies and different kinds of sentence structures. Furthermore, they will have more opportunities to improve their expression in Chinese through presentations and story telling.

Advanced pupils will study more chapters including 《龟兔赛跑》、《小猫钓鱼》 and 《狼来了》. Through these chapters, they will learn different kinds of sentence structures and try to start writing short paragraphs. Furthermore, they will have chances to do presentations and story telling.

### Music

During this half term, Year 3 students will continue to explore the music topic ‘Our Changing World’, 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 play some chords and short melodies on the ukelele.

They will learn a repertoire of well-known seasonal and popular songs, linked to school themes.

### 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.

### Art

Year 3 pupils will be introduced to the Canadian artist, Ted Harrison and his colourful landscape images. Pupils will be encouraged to use their imagination as they create a selection of landscape



sketches before they select one to create as a mixed media final outcome. Pupils will develop their media handling skills as they use paint, pastels and cut paper.

#### Drama

Pupils will be focusing on their presentation skills this term by choosing, learning, rehearsing and performing a range of different poems.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Keep reading at home! With our Big Writing and Talk Homework this half-term, it is a great chance to help your children read in order to write more effectively. As you read with your child, you could point out ambitious vocabulary, new words and descriptive phrases. By stealing or '*magpie-ing*' super ideas from established authors, children can write more creatively in class.

Thank you for writing your child's name in items of clothing and on other property like water bottles and lunch boxes. Children are children and they do leave items around the building and forget where they left them! With a clearly labelled name, items find their way back to class quickly.

You can contact the Year 3 team by sending an email; we welcome any correspondence with parents. Our contact details are below. We look forward to meeting you all again very soon.

Yours sincerely,

Year 3 teachers

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