



Curriculum Newsletter

April 2015

Dear Parents,

We hope you had a relaxing Easter break and you and your children are ready for the Summer Term. It is a long term and we have lots of exciting activities planned in our new topic *Our Changing World*. This letter provides an indication of the areas of the curriculum that will be covered this term in Year 3.

Mathematics

This term's mathematics objectives include: using mental and formal written methods and solving number and practical problems (using addition and subtraction to three-digit numbers and multiplying two-digit numbers); finding fractions of numbers with unit and non-unit fractions; measuring perimeter; and recognising and making 2D and 3D shapes.

In our Learn Its sessions, we will focus on the 9 times table and revise the 3 and 4 times tables, aiming for rapid mental recall of multiplication and related division facts.

English

Writing this term will focus on adventure stories and newspaper writing. We will be looking at developing the richness of our vocabulary and vary our sentence structures. The adventure stories unit aims to develop the pupils' skills in developing a plot, organising paragraphs and creating settings and characters.

Big Writing will continue, focusing on four aspects of writing - vocabulary, connectives, openers and punctuation (VCOP). We will also 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 – As part of our cross-curricular approach, the children will be learning about how different places in the world vary according to their location. We will look at



different climate zones and learn how to read climatic graphs. We will also be researching seasons, time zones, night and day, and weather.

Science

Plants - Children will identify and describe the functions of different parts of flowering plants: roots, stem/trunk, leaves and flowers; explore the requirements of plants for life and growth (air, light, water, nutrients from soil, and room to grow) and how they vary from plant to plant; investigate the way in which water is transported within plants; and explore the part that flowers play in the life cycle of flowering plants, including pollination, seed formation and seed dispersal.

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

Beginner pupils will be learning vocabulary related to hobbies. Through 'Around the world', Quizlet and survey activities pupils will be able to name hobbies in Mandarin. They will learn how to use sentences to ask and answer questions about hobbies.

Lower Intermediate students will continue to learn vocabulary for topics such as colours, body parts, school and subjects, nationalities, time, food and drinks and transportation. They will not only consolidate the vocabulary but also start to learn basic grammar to improve their independent writing. Pupils will have more opportunities to improve their Mandarin communication skills.

Upper Intermediate Y3 pupils will study chapters including 《借生日》、《美丽的海边》. These chapters focus on different occupations and creatures in the sea. Pupils will learn words and expressions about the topics and will have more chances to take part in presentations and storytelling.

Advanced pupils will study chapters including; 《司马光救人》、《雷公公和电婆婆》、《谁住顶楼》 and 《猫和老鼠》. Through these chapters, they will learn more about Chinese ancient stories, and learn words and expressions about the topics. Furthermore, they will have opportunities to take part in presentations and storytelling.



Art

Year 3 will be investigating the flower paintings by artist Georgia O’Keeffe before they produce their own close up flower study using a magnifying glass. Pupils will further develop their drawing and media handling skills as they experiment with soft pastels and oil pastels. Pupils will be encouraged to focus on achieving a range of tones and texture by blending and mixing colours in their flower drawing.

Music

Pupils will be engaged in music activities linked to 'The Seasons.' Through exploration of Vivaldi’s 'The Four Seasons', pupils will learn about the string concerto, the Baroque period and other Baroque composers. They will learn to recognise each of the seasons and how to play some of the basic melodies on tuned percussion and keyboard.

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 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.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This week we will be having a look around the new library and by next week pupils will be able to borrow books using their Octopus cards. The new librarian, Mrs Richardson, is very keen to work with the children to develop their research skills in the library and to foster a love of reading.

Keep reading at home! With our Big Writing and Talk Homework this 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 super ideas from established authors, children can write more creatively in class.

The weather is now heating up so a big thank you to all the pupils who have been coming with their hats. There is a **no hat, no outdoor play** policy to protect the children from the



sun. Please ensure that the hat has your child's name and class so that it can be returned if it gets misplaced.

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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