



# Year 1 Curriculum Newsletter

January 2016

Dear Parents,

HAPPY NEW YEAR! We hope you have had an enjoyable Christmas break and are ready for the new term.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Please continue to return any notes or forms in the zip reading folder as we will be checking this daily. Thank you to all the parents who have been contacting us by email please continue to do this and don't forget to check our Year 1 blog which will be updated regularly.

As the weather has turned colder please ensure that all jackets, coats and fleeces are labeled as many unnamed coats are finding their way to lost property and we are unable to find their rightful owners. Please remember we have a no hat no play policy all year round so ensure that your child continues to bring their named hat.

## CURRICULUM INFORMATION

### ENGLISH

This half term English will be focused around our topic 'Dinosaurs'. We will be looking at differences between fiction and non-fiction, focusing on note taking and writing non chronological texts. After this we will be creating our own stories about dinosaurs focusing on our individual targets. We will also be attending the play 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' by Michael Rosen during Kids Fest. This will help the children in their understanding of the story, as when we return to class we will be changing it to create our own version 'We're Going on a Dino Hunt'.

### MATHS

This half term we will be continuing to develop our mathematical skills furthering our knowledge of place value, addition, subtraction, money and measures. In particular we will also be focusing on problem solving. This will help the children to apply their learning to new scenarios and gain independence in their application of these skills.

### THEME

'Dinosaurs'

I am sure you have all seen our video from Mr Bishop asking for Year 1's help to research dinosaurs for his friend Amy in Argentina (<https://youtu.be/JERok1weUmw>). We will be looking at timelines of this period



in history and exploring the work of paleontologists. In science we will be conducting our own investigations exploring the effectiveness of different types of dinosaur teeth and classifying prehistoric animals. We will also be designing and making our own moving dinosaur puppets.

#### MANDARIN

Beginner: Students will be learning more vocabulary about animals, Chinese New Year and nationality in Mandarin and Pinyin. They will continue to learn the basic strokes and write Mandarin characters.

Lower intermediate: This term, Year One students will learn vocabulary related to school activities, clothing, transport, body parts and household objects. More nursery songs and interesting stories are ready for them to learn.

Upper intermediate: Students will focus on strengthening their understanding of Chinese culture, and the upcoming New Year celebrations will be used to consolidate their knowledge of customs and traditions. Current vocabulary will be increased through interaction within topics.

Advanced: Students will be learning more new words and how to express themselves confidently in Chinese. An increasing focus will be placed on how to comprehend a small short passage and write down some basic words. Students will also get to know more about Chinese culture through Chinese Spring Festival and other interesting activities.

#### MUSIC

This term, year 1 will learn a selection of game songs around the topic dinosaurs. They will learn about the seasons and the outdoors through lessons focused on enabling all students to find their singing voice and perform both as a soloist and as a part of a group. We will also be exploring the keyboard and continue to explore music theory through this as a medium, focusing on recognition of the notes on the treble stave and basic dynamics. They will also learn a repertoire of well-known children's songs, linked to school themes.

#### DRAMA

Pupils will engage in a range of drama activities on the theme of dinosaurs including: story based role-play, improvisation and movement. We will also be learning about Chinese New Year and acting out the traditional story.

#### ART

Year 1 will design and create their own dinosaur landscape using mixed media materials. Pupils will learn about the different dinosaur body shapes and decorate their drawings using pattern and colour. They will have the opportunity to develop their drawing and media handling skills as they progress through the project.

#### PE



Pupils will develop fundamental movement skills whilst taking part in net games (tennis & volleyball) and attacking and defending activities (dodgeball and capture the flag). 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 attacking and defending. 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.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any queries or questions. We look forward to an enjoyable and hard working half term.

Yours sincerely,

The Year 1 Team

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