



Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter

January 2016

Dear Parents,

Firstly, a very Happy New Year to all! We hope that everyone had a lovely break and would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your kind wishes and generous Christmas gifts- we really appreciate it!

The New Year brings a new class to our year group. A big welcome to all of our new students joining us in Class 4E- we look forward to getting to know all of you and hope you have a fantastic start to life at NAIS Hong Kong!

We are please to announce the return of our highly popular **Harry Potter** theme for this half term. This proved to be a real highlight for many students in Year 4 last year so we are really looking forward to all the engaging, exciting and magical learning that will be taking place over the next few weeks.

Following the huge success of our innovative homework format from last term, our Harry Potter theme will be accompanied by a new Harry Potter themed selection of homework tasks for students to complete. The homework will follow the same format as last term, however we have decided to add weekly '**mylmaths**' mathematics homework to ensure that our students receive a good balance of homework going forward. We thank you for your support and co-operation and look forward to another half term of fantastic homework from all students.

MATHS

In Maths this half term pupils will be focusing on; Measuring, Capacity and reading scales, Area and Perimeter focusing on rectangles, Fractions; Reducing fractions to their simplest form, Identifying equivalent fractions and decimals and consolidating their knowledge of the four operations – understanding the process of deciding which operation to use and why.

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

ENGLISH

As part of our cross-curricular approach to learning, our English lessons will be related to our Harry Potter theme for this half term. Much of our written work will be based upon the first book in the series entitled 'Harry Potter & The Philosopher's Stone' by J.K Rowling. This book will also be our class novel for the half term and students will be able to listen to frequent readings from the book over the next few weeks.

We will look specifically at 'Explanation Texts' and learn how to create detailed, informative pieces of work that answer and explain different things, for example, 'How to care for a pet Owl'.



In addition, we will also be looking at narrative writing based on the Harry Potter franchise; students will have the opportunity to create new and imaginative short stories about the adventures of Harry Potter and his friends. Finally, Students will focus on how to create interesting problems and resolutions in their stories.

The format for Literacy Workshop sessions remains the same and students will continue to independently work on a variety of skills by completing weekly grammar, reading comprehension, spelling and handwriting tasks. Additionally, students will take part in at least one guided reading session where they will discuss and share a set text in a small focus group.

THEME

Our theme lessons this term are based on the story world of Harry Potter, with learning activities linking to various aspects of the stories. We will look at magical potions [changing states of matter in science], ancient castles [the impact of invaders and settlers through history], wand making [analyse and evaluate existing products then improving our own work in design & technology], wizardly Hogwarts houses [evaluating digital content in computing] and mystical landscapes [describing and understanding physical geography].

MANDARIN

Beginner: Pupils will be learning new words and expressions about time, subjects, school life and personal interests. They will also be taught some basic Chinese radicals, which will help them to decode the meanings of characters. They are expected to read simple Chinese words and short phrases independently. An increasing focus will be placed on their pronunciation.

Lower intermediate: Pupils are expected to expand their vocabulary on practical topics including, Time and weather, School and Subjects, Stationery and Hobbies. An increasing focus will still be placed on how to comprehend a Chinese passage and produce a short paragraph. Students will also have more opportunities to enhance their communication skills in Mandarin by speaking in front of the class and improve writing skills by doing projects like “designing a stationery monster”.

Upper intermediate: Pupils will improve their vocabulary by learning the chapters of 《我多想》 《圈圈》 《和书一起飞》 《称象》。 In these chapters, they will learn to read and write more words and expressions in Chinese. An increasing focus will be placed on the words structure and sentence structure. The pupils are expected to have a deeper understanding of the dialogue structures

Advanced: Pupils will study chapters including 《买文具》、《上餐馆》、《加油站》、《狼和小羊》、《狐狸和葡萄》 and 《成语故事》. Through these chapters, they will learn to guess the words meaning from the content of the article. They will also try to use simple sentences to write a meaningful essay.

ART

Year 4 pupils will link their artwork to their class theme, Harry Potter as they produce several studies of owls (Hedwig). Pupils will have the opportunity to develop their observational drawing skills as they initially create studies in their sketchbook. They will then go on to produce an owl colour study using



mixed media. This project will enable pupils to enhance their knowledge of art materials and their potential when creating colour and patterned outcomes.

MUSIC

During the first half of term two, Year 4 students will explore the music topic 'Harry Potter', and develop skills through 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 learn violin, flute, saxophone or trumpet, depending on which class they are in.

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

DRAMA

Pupils will engage in a range of creative drama activities based on their class theme: 'Myths and Legends.' They will also work towards a scripted musical production called *Hoodwinked: A tale of Robin Hood*, which they will present to parents and students towards the end of term.

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 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.

Please do get in touch with your Class Teacher if you have any further questions regarding our curriculum coverage.

Kind regards,

The Year 4 Team

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