



Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter

February 2016

Dear Parents,

Kung Hei Fat Choi! We hope you all had a very restful and enjoyable Chinese New Year. Now that the holidays are over, it's time to get back in to the swing of all the hard work and activities that we have in store for this half term!

GENERAL INFORMATION

Our new topic this half term is based around legends, specifically the legend of Robin Hood. Firefly contains a brief overview of the story, and as with our other topics, we will be exploring this theme through the majority of our lessons, making genuine links to a range of areas of the curriculum and to the real world. We look forward to enjoying a live theatre production of this legend here in school!

As the weather has turned colder and wetter please ensure that all jackets, coats, 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 please ensure that your child continues to bring their named hat.

Please do check your emails for updates from the class teachers and admissions office. We try to keep these emails to a minimum so please note down any important changes or additions when you receive them.

Our blog is constantly being updated so please keep checking it to find out what your child is getting up to at school. Homework will go onto the blog every Friday so there really isn't an excuse not to check out all the great stuff that we will be doing in Year 4 this term! MyiMaths tasks will be set as well, so regularly checking the firefly site ensures you are up to date. If you have any issues accessing the blog or being able to log into Firefly, please contact the Admissions team.

Also a polite reminder NAIS is a nut free school. Please ensure that this is strictly followed for the safety of all our children, this includes Nutella related products that contain Hazelnuts. Snacks should also be a small healthy portion; bus and ECA children are allowed to eat a snack at the end of the day before their ECA or going home on the bus.

CURRICULUM INFORMATION

MATHS

In Maths this half term pupils will be focusing on;

- Continued consolidation of the four operations
- Applying the four operations to problem solving
- Position direction including 2-D grid references
- Shape, including symmetry



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

Listening to parental feedback from our topic homework in the autumn term, in addition to the new topic homework, we will also include MyiMaths homework or a similar task each week.

ENGLISH

Our English lessons this half term will be based around our 'Robin Hood' theme for the curriculum. Lessons will link to the popular legend of Robin Hood and students will become familiar with the many tales of his adventures.

We will be looking, specifically, at 'argument, discussion and debate' within the curriculum and will try to answer questions such as 'Was Robin Hood a Hero or a Villain?'

In addition, we will be writing our own 'Hero Adventure' based on Robin Hood. We will also have an exciting opportunity to use technology to turn our story into comics and film trailers!

THEME

The story of Robin Hood drives our theme studies this unit. Our big experience this term is watching a live educational theatre performance of the story; using this legend as a base, we will explore geographical and historical information, separating fact from fiction. Our focus includes:

- What is the context of Robin Hood? Detailing the locations of the story
- A comparison of travel between Robin's time, linking back to our Maya study and comparing with Hong Kong today
- Looking at trade, again comparing three different regions we study this year
- Creating a timeline to place Robin in history, and making links to our previous units of study
- Understanding people's roles in society as illustrated in the legend

MANDARIN

Beginner pupils will continue to develop their Chinese listening and speaking skills. They will be introduced to new topics, such as school life, subjects and hobbies. Pupils are expected to recognise more Chinese radicals and characters.

Intermediate pupils are expected to expand their vocabulary on the topic of stationary and school activities. An increasing focus will 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.

Upper intermediate pupils will improve their vocabulary and Chinese expressions by learning the chapters of 《捞月亮》《大树哪去了》《我的汗在哪里》《小蝌蚪找妈妈》。In these chapters, they will learn to read and write sentences in Chinese. Besides listening and oral presentation, the pupils are expected to have a better understanding in reading comprehension.



Advanced pupils will study more chapters including 《狼和小羊》、《狐狸和葡萄》 and 《成语故事》. Through these chapters, they will learn how to guess the words meaning and conclude the main meaning from the content of the article. They will also try to use simple sentences to write a meaningful essay.

MUSIC

During this half term, Year 4 students will continue to explore the music topic 'Harry Potter', and develop the of 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 learn violin, flute, saxophone or trumpet, depending on which class they are in. They will learn a repertoire of songs for the Year 4 performance.

ART

Year 4 pupils will be introduced to portraiture and they will learn about the basic proportions required to create an accurate facial image. They will then go on to create a Robin Hood inspired self portrait by paying particular attention to their use of line, shape and tone. Pupils will then look at different lettering styles in order to complete their Robin Hood poster.

DRAMA

In keeping with their class theme: 'Legends' Pupils will 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 & 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.

As always, do get in touch with any comments or suggestions.

Kind regards,

The Year 4 Team

4A Tom Handley tom.handley@nais.hk

4B Robyn Dowding robyn.dowding@nais.hk



4C Tom Ferguson tom.ferguson@nais.hk

4D Adam Branton adam.branton@nais.hk

4E Amy Beedham amy.beedham@nais.hk