



# Year 6 Curriculum Newsletter

January 2016

Dear Parents,

We hope you had a relaxing break over the Christmas holidays. We are very excited to get back to work and start focusing on our new exciting topic of 'Connections'. Please find below some more detailed information about what your children will be learning over the coming half-term.

## CURRICULUM INFORMATION

### ENGLISH

In English we will complete our study of classic literature by completing our novel study, 'Mrs Frisby and the Rats of Nimh.' Following this we will be reading, analysing, writing and performing poetry in the form of Japanese Haiku. We will then spend some time studying the recount genre of text. We will study both personal and historical recounts and identify the features that make a recount interesting and well written. Alongside this we will also create a range of fictional and factual recount texts, developing our skill and understanding of the genre. Throughout the term there will be a continued focus on Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPAG), and handwriting.

### MATHS

Our Maths work will begin with revision and extension of previous work covered on addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of number during the first term. Both written and mental methods of calculation will continue to be a focus. We will then study a unit on geometry with a focus on manipulating coordinates in four quadrants and translating shapes. Following this will be a longer unit where children will learn how to convert measures. This will involve problem solving using different measures including weight, length and capacity.

### THEME

In theme, we will look at the history of Hong Kong. We begin with focusing on what Hong Kong was like before WW2, we will then cover how it became involved in the war and what it was like to live in occupied Hong Kong. Children will look at a variety of different sources including pictures, maps and written texts and will use them to form conclusions and discuss their reliability. We will also make comparisons with Singapore as we prepare for our residential trip.

### TECHNOLOGY

In computing, we will start to look at what the internet is, how it works and what search engines actually do. We go on to discuss how the internet is non-linear and compare Web 1.0 and Web 2.0.



In DT, we start to explore savory cooking techniques and the children will be able to experiment with preparing different dishes.

#### PSHCE

In PSCHE, we will develop our understanding of how to sustain our health, growth and well being, and how to cope safely within our environment. We will look at what we need to maintain a healthy lifestyle, physical activity, eating, rest and hygiene. We will learn about the harmful affects of tobacco, alcohol and other substances. We will build on our understanding of how the body grows and develops and we will discuss, and begin to recognise, how our responsibilities change as we become older and more independent.

#### SCIENCE

Our Science this half-term will again be focusing on practical science skills. The children will practice their ability to design, carry out and evaluate an experiment. We will be starting off by looking at Physics; including friction and air resistance. The children will be asked to design their own parachute to bring an object to earth as slowly as possible.

#### MUSIC

During the first half of term two, Year 6 will explore the music topic 'Connections', 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 also learn flute, keyboard or guitar, depending on which class they are in.

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

#### ART

Pupils will explore and learn about the different buildings in Hong Kong that were taken over during the Japanese Occupation. Pupils will begin the project by studying the architecture of their selected building by paying particular attention to the use of line, shape and pattern. Pupils will go onto develop their drawings into posters, where they will be encouraged to develop their ability to use lettering and colour with skill and control.

#### DRAMA

In Drama we will be exploring basic Chinese Theatre skills and styles. Pupils will discover characters from the Beijing Opera and will perform tales from Chinese folklore.

#### 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.

#### MANDARIN

Beginner: Pupils will be learning new words and expressions about family members, body parts, nationalities, languages, and occupations. They are expected to answer simple questions by using short full sentences. They will also be learning more Chinese radicals, so they can recognise and write more Chinese characters.

Intermediate: Pupils range of Chinese vocabularies will be increased and new characters will be incorporated into meaningful usage in everyday situations. Writing skills are essential in developing pupil's use of the language and as such we will focus on producing a well composed and structured set of written assignments. The upcoming Chinese New Year will provide the backdrop to improving pupils understanding of Chinese culture and customs, and through that provide them with a useful framework from which to anchoring their studies in the language.

Advanced: The chapters covered will include 《孙中山的故事》 《虎门销烟》 《月光奏鸣曲》. Pupils will learn new words and expressions to describe a person or narrate a story. An increasing emphasis will be put on narrative writing skills, especially in biography writing. Their oral presentation skills and listening comprehension will continue be trained.

#### SPANISH

In Spanish we are going start term 2 with a new topic, *En la Ciudad* (In the city).

In this topic, pupils will be able to learn foundation vocabulary for buildings, places, directions and weather.

Grammar wise, Year 6 pupils will be learning how to use connectives **porque** (because), **pero** (but), and **cuando** (when); verb "**hay (haber)**" to say what there is in town, and verb **querer** for invitations.

Pupils will also be asked to research about a Spanish speaking city and prepare a presentation for the rest of the class to learn with; other independent tasks will be an interactive presentation about "Mi Ciudad Ideal – My ideal City" or "Ciudad del Futuro – city of the future", in which pupils will integrate vocabulary and grammar learned in this topic in order to consolidate learning. The best 4 presentations will be awarded with House points.

The websites to be used by pupils continue to be:

<http://www.Linguascope.com> (ask teacher for username and password)

<http://www.espanol-extra.co.uk/>

<http://www.aprender.org.uk/>

Textbook: *Mira 1* p.96-107 ISBN:978 0 435387 65 5

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

Year 6A have PE on Monday and Friday and they swim on Thursdays.

Year 6B have PE on Monday and Friday and they swim on Tuesdays

Year 6C have PE on Tuesday and Friday and they swim on Wednesdays.



NORD ANGLIA INTERNATIONAL  
SCHOOL HONG KONG  
A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

Please can you ensure children come to school wearing their labeled hats on all days. We would also like your support to tackle an issue of children bringing sweets into school. We are finding children with packets of sweets and gum. Please be reminded that sweets are not allowed in school.

Kind regards,

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