



# Year 6 Curriculum Newsletter

February 2016

Dear Parents,

We hope you enjoyed a relaxing holiday and are all set for a wonderful new year. Year 6 are very excited to share the work we will be covering over the next half term.

## ENGLISH

We have just finished off our work on recounts and will start a unit focusing on historical fiction, using quest stories as our inspiration. The children will be studying the features of a good quest and looking in greater depth at the language and styles a writer uses to create images and suspense in the readers minds. We have been focusing on the skills used to create cohesion across and through paragraphs. Children are also continuing their work on grammar skills, particularly on using adverbial phrases and fronted clauses to add interest to their writing.

## MATHS

Over the next few weeks the children will cover work on shape and measure. They will illustrate and name parts of circles, including radius, diameter and circumference and learn facts associated with circles. They will learn to calculate the areas of triangles and parallelograms and solve problems associated with this and other geometry work. The children will increase their knowledge and understanding of angles. Pupils will also learn about volume and ratios. They will solve problems associated with capacity of cuboids, conversions of units (including time) and using scale factors.

## THEME

Our Theme work continues to focus on the occupation of Hong Kong during WW2. The children will develop their understanding of how historians learn about the past and will be asked to focus on questioning and judging the reliability of sources, investigating propaganda and evaluating the information they discover. We will also continue to make further links with Dover Court School in Singapore, in preparation for our upcoming trip. In ICT, pupils are continuing to build their understanding of networks as well as how to create 3D structures using 'Sketch Up'. At the end of the half-term, children will take part in a DT project to create Japanese Bento food.

## SCIENCE

In Science we will revisit our work on Evolution, where we will be focusing on furthering our understanding of adaptive traits. The children will be learning how to identify and describe adaptive traits in plants and animals. They will explain how these traits help living things to survive in their habitats. As part of our work we will be visiting the local park to see how living things in Hong Kong have adapted to their environment. As you have already signed a permission form for local trips, we will just let you know of the date nearer the time.



#### MANDARIN

This term beginner pupils will continue to develop their Chinese listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. They will be introduced to new topics, such as body parts, nationalities, languages, and occupations. Pupils are expected to recognise more Chinese radicals and characters.

Intermediate Mandarin lessons cover the topics of “Appearance description” and “Countries and Nationalities”. Students have been further expanding their vocabulary and training to think critically about selecting appropriate words and sentences when they are conversing in Mandarin. Their reading and writing skills have developed as well through learning more complicated grammar and sentence structures.

Upper Intermediate pupils will study topics including 《肥皂泡》·《第三只手》·《第一次参加马来人的婚礼》and 《不一样的快餐店》. An increasing emphasis will be placed on writing. Pupils will learn more new words and a variety of ways to describe their feelings. They are expected to use some letter format writing skills to compose a letter. Their oral presentation skills and listening comprehension will continue to be developed.

Advanced pupils will study chapters including 《开学典礼》 《一堂有趣的中文课》 《一场篮球赛》. An increasing emphasis will be placed on reading comprehension and writing skills.

#### SPANISH

In Spanish we are going to consolidate the topic *En la Ciudad* (In the City). We will focus on bringing together all the sub-topics we have learned in the last half term by practicing our writing and speaking skills. Pupils will be asked to produce a presentation on a city/town of their choice as well as on a city from a Spanish speaking country. Both presentations will have to integrate vocabulary and grammar learned in this topic in order to consolidate learning.

There will be a vocabulary test for topic *En la Ciudad* to assess learning and the last week of the term will be dedicated to Easter traditions/vocabulary in Spanish speaking countries.

#### MUSIC

During this half term, Year 6 students will continue to explore the music topic ‘Connections’, and develop the 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 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 continue to explore and learn about the different buildings in Hong Kong that were taken over during the Japanese Occupation. Pupils started 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.



#### PE

Pupils will develop fundamental movement skills whilst taking part in net games (tennis & badminton). These will increase in challenge to 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. In dance pupils will prepare and perform a Chinese fan dance and a dragon dance working collaboratively.

#### DRAMA

In Drama we will continue to learn about basic Chinese Theatre and performance arts. Pupils will perform tales from Chinese folklore and explore traditional Chinese fan and dragon dances.

Thank you for your continued support. Please keep checking the Blog for our regular updates.

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