



Year 5 Curriculum Newsletter

January 2015

Dear Parents,

Below is the Year 5 curriculum outline for Term 2 2015. We hope this provides you with the necessary information to support your child's academic and social progress.

ENGLISH

We will begin this term with a narrative unit exploring short stories. Students will develop their understanding of a basic story structure and then begin to extend their knowledge with more complex structures found in genres such as mystery and fantasy. Students will attempt to write their own stories. Throughout the term there will be a continued focus on reading, comprehension spelling, punctuation and grammar, and handwriting.

MATHEMATICS

In Mathematics we will consolidate and extend our understanding of the number system and place value making connections between multiplication and division with fractions, decimals, percentages and ratio. A focus on shape, geometry and measurement will ensure we develop skills in logical thinking. Collating and analysing data will also be explored. Developing skills in solving problems, including complex properties of numbers and arithmetic by using written and mental methods of calculation will be a continued focus. We will also use the online mathematics learning resource myimaths; <http://www.myimaths.com> Your child will be provided with their login details at the beginning of the term.

HISTORY

We begin this term with a unit called "Hooked on History". Students will explore how civilisations were formed, how they ruled and conquered and how they evolved. They will develop their inquiry and data collection skills. They will record their findings in different mediums working towards a collaborative project, which will be shared in a public forum.



SCIENCE

Our Science unit is titled “Cool Vibrations” and explores the world of sound, sound waves and vibrations. Students will learn how the human ear hears sound and how objects in our world produce sound waves. They will also use their design and technology skills to produce some ‘cool vibration’ instruments. They will explore the history of audio devices from past to present. This will link with our History theme.

COMPUTING AND ICT

This term there will be a strong focus on developing coding and programming skills in our computing lessons. Students will develop their coding language skills and write simple codes for animations and games. They will then move onto more complex coding as their skills progress and become more confident.

Linking to our Science unit students will also use audio mixing programs and technology to capture, change, combine sounds and apply these to animations. They will also use tools such as Audacity and GarageBand to sample and mix their own audio tracks.

GLOBAL CLASSROOM

The Global Classroom is an opportunity for students to be risk takers and critical thinkers. They will be involved in forums, competitions and interactive activities whilst responding to local and global issues.

MANDARIN

In Year 5, children will be introduced to the following skills through various activities. There will be a greater emphasis on sentence structure, grammar, reading comprehension and listening comprehension.

Beginner pupils will learn to give and follow directions including North, East, South, West, left and right in Chinese. Through role-play pupils will consolidate their listening and speaking in Mandarin.

Intermediate pupils will learn more vocabulary and sentences for Mandarin essay writing. Pupils will be encouraged to do group topic research by using technology and will write their critical opinions as an essay in Mandarin.



Advanced pupils will study chapters including 《一件好事》、《信箱里的花束》、《骑楼下》 and 《如果没有他们——家想不起来》. Through these chapters, they will learn to find out the main sentence and the deep meaning of the articles.

SPANISH

In Spanish we are going to start the half term by re-capping the family subtopic in order to consolidate vocabulary on how to describe people. Pupils will also be able to learn new adjectives and verbs in the present tense such as *llevar* and *vestir*. We will be finishing this topic by producing a WANTED Poster for display and the best 3 posters will receive a House Point.

MUSIC

This term, students will explore a song repertoire from the Victorian Era through a combination of singing and use of tuned percussion. They will gain an understanding of some historical aspects of music in the Victorian Era.

ART

In preparation for the forthcoming Chinese New Year celebrations, pupils will be designing and creating a variety of art pieces relating to The Year of the Goat, 2015. Pupils will have the opportunity to further develop their media handling and design skills as they compete in the Sodexo design competition. This project will enable pupils to enhance their understanding of Chinese traditions and culture.

DRAMA

To compliment their exploration of life and culture in the Victorian era, the first drama lessons of this term will be covering a range of improvisations and role-plays about life as a Victorian. Pupils will then be focusing on their performance skills by learning, rehearsing a range of poems for a special presentation in February.

PE

Individual work will focus on close control and consistency in rugby, football, netball, basketball and hockey. Competitive games will be developed to practice and progress sending and receiving skills under pressure. Tactics for attacking and defending will be introduced. Pupils will develop communication and spatial awareness skills.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Continued social and emotional development is important to our students as we support them to become role models and leaders of the school environment. Although PSHCE is no longer a specific subject taught in the new English Curriculum, the principals and core values of respect, tolerance, acceptance, empathy, resilience and open mindedness will still be taught and incorporated into all lessons where relevant.

Homework is now a key part of the Year 5 curriculum. Please check the Year 5 blog for the weekly homework tasks. Individual class teachers will give Mathematics homework. Homework is handed out every Friday and due back the following Wednesday this give students the option of doing the homework during the week or on the weekend if they wish.

At present our students have a chapter book from school they take home and read and change when required within the classroom.

End of day arrangements. Please email the class teacher and this email address as early as possible in the morning if you change your end of day arrangements. ***It is extremely important you advise of any change of procedure as soon as you are aware.***
bus@nais.hk

A reminder for PE lessons; jewelry, house badges and watches must be removed if possible. Long hair tied up. No bright trainers worn. Appropriate PE Kit must be worn. No white leggings or undergarments to be worn under PE Kit. Warm PE uniform can be purchased from the uniform shop.

Thank you for your continued support.
Yours sincerely,

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