



Year 3 Curriculum Newsletter

January 2015

Dear Parents,

First of all, Happy New Year and welcome back to another exciting term in Year 3! We are looking forward to more great learning in 2015. This letter aims to provide information on the areas of the curriculum that will be covered this term in Year 3.

Mathematics

This term's mathematics objectives include: addition and subtraction, using mental and formal written methods and solving number and practical problems using place value, addition and subtraction. In our *Learn Its* sessions, we will be consolidating the 4 times table, aiming for instant mental recall of multiplication and related division facts.

English

This will include speaking and listening, reading and writing. We will be continuing the *Letters and Sounds* phonics programme daily. During our *Literacy Workshop* time, we will develop reading, grammar and comprehension skills in small group sessions. In spelling we will look at suffixes and prefixes, and consider spelling rules. Writing this term will focus on myths, legends and fables looking at stories from Africa and China.

Theme

Africa— As part of our cross-curricular approach, pupils will be learning about the continent of Africa. In Geography, we will look at some features of geographical interest in Africa. We will learn to use atlases and online maps to locate continents, major countries and cities in Africa and the world. We will also have a focus on *Chinese New Year* towards the end of the half term. We will continue to use iPads for research and we encourage children to further their knowledge at home using technology and books.

Science

Magnets and Springs - Children will observe magnetic forces and experiment with attracting materials with magnets. We will look at opposite poles of magnets and predict whether magnets will repel or attract each other depending on which poles are facing.

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 and produce artwork for their show. This project will enable pupils to enhance their understanding of Chinese traditions and culture.



Music

This term, students will be studying the music of Africa, learning about the common structure of 'call and response' singing in addition to playing and performing polyrhythms typical of the African drumming tradition. They will also gain understanding of the importance of music in African society and will listen to a wide variety of music from across the vast continent of Africa.

Drama

In Drama, we will be learning about Chinese New Year and rehearsing for a play based on the traditions and stories of this festival. Pupils will then have the opportunity to share their work with parents, teachers and the rest of the school, in a special, staged performance to celebrate the Chinese New Year in February.

PE

Individual work will focus on close control in rugby, football, netball, basketball and hockey. Competitive games will be developed to practice and progress sending and receiving skills under pressure. Simple tactics for attacking and defending will be introduced.

Mandarin

In Year 3, children will be introduced to the following skills through various activities. There will be a greater emphasis on sentence structure, grammar and reading comprehension. Beginner pupils will be learning to tell the time, they will do a presentation to describe their daily routine in mandarin.

Intermediate pupils will be learning some new words and expressions, and how to express themselves confidently in Chinese. An increasing focus will be placed on how to comprehend a passage and write down some basic words. Students will also get to know more about Chinese culture through Chinese Spring Festival and other interesting activities.

Advanced pupils will study chapters including 《小猫钓鱼》、《谁最不专心》、《文具的家》和《谁的铅笔》. Through these chapters, they will learn more vocabulary and different kinds of sentence structures. Furthermore, they will have more chances to do take part in presentations and story telling.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Keep reading at home! We have been very impressed with the amount of reading that takes place outside of school. We expect all children to read for 20 minutes a day. Please write what your child has read, along with any comments, in the Pupil Planner. Comments might be 'read well' or 'struggled with _____'. Please ask lots of questions as you read to check your child has understood what they are reading. For example, you might like to ask, 'Do you like this character? Why?' during reading and 'What do you think will happen next?'



Why do you think that?' after reading. Research has shown that reading books is vital to academic success so keep reading!

As part of Chinese New Year celebrations, Year 3 will be performing a production to parents and the school incorporating literacy, music, drama and art. Please practice any lines your child brings home so that they can perform brilliantly in the show.

You can contact the Year 3 team by sending an email; we welcome any correspondence with parents. Our contact details are below. We look forward to meeting you all again very soon.

Yours sincerely,
Year 3 teachers

Mr Holt (Year Group Leader)
Ms Chamier
Mrs Doherty
Ms Rostron

Stephen.Holt@nais.hk
Eloise.Chamier@nais.hk
Katie.Doherty@nais.hk
Rachael.Rostron@nais.hk