



Curriculum Newsletter

January 2015

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year, we hope you all had a lovely, relaxing break with your families over the festive season. A special welcome to our new families joining Year 6, we look forward to getting to know you. We would like to give you some information about the upcoming half-term and the exciting learning opportunities coming up for Year 6.

ENGLISH

We will be covering work on Myths and Legends, as well as producing fiction with multiple endings, including use of flashback, through an exciting text called *Barrowquest*. To support our Theme we will also focus on producing non-chronological reports. Throughout the term there will be a continued focus on Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPAG), and handwriting.

MATHEMATICS

Our Maths work will start with a geometry focus where children will be 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. They will also revise some previous work covered on addition and subtraction of number during the half-term. Both written and mental methods of calculation will continue to be a focus.

THEME

Our first theme this Spring will be 'The Ancient Greeks.' We will explore what life was like during this time in the Mediterranean area and cover units on; Greek Gods and their myths; democracy and what this means to us today; battles and weapons; food and theatre, as well as comparing this ancient civilization with life today.

SCIENCE

Year 6 will focus on practical experiments and the skills needed to plan, undertake and review these. Children will learn about writing up experiments correctly and how to conduct them safely while making them as accurate and fair as possible.

ICT

We will be using Sketch Up to design and construct 3D buildings. We will also use a variety of skills including hyperlinks to create our own Quest story in the style of our '*Barrowquest*' text in the English unit on extended narrative writing?



MANDARIN

In Year 6, children will be introduced to the following skills through various activities. Lessons focus on reading comprehension, grammar for writing and speaking and listening.

Beginner pupils will extend their bank of vocabulary on occupations. Pupils will learn to name common occupations in Mandarin. They will learn to present short paragraphs about their dream job. This will be supported by role play activities and with Mandarin Matrix on line.

Intermediate pupils will be learning new words and expressions, and use these to communicate confidently in Chinese. An increasing focus will be placed on presentation skills. Pupils will also get to know more about Chinese culture through Chinese Spring Festival and other interesting activities.

Advanced pupils will study chapters including 《给小主人的信》、《走进大自然》、《世界各地的问候方式》 and 《爱斯基摩人》. Through these chapters, they will be able to write different kinds of sentences and essays which include letters and poems.

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 triple time, the pentatonic scale and the leitmotif in the context of an Ancient Greek Myth. They will perform using voices and tuned percussion instruments.

DRAMA

In Drama, pupils will be learning about the history and conventions of Ancient Greek Theatre and use the traditional conventions to rehearse and present their own Greek tragedy.

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.



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, decision making and spatial awareness skills.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Promoting respect in our learning environment is a key focus throughout the school. Across the year group we have an agreed behaviour policy and positive reward systems such as using marbles in jar or success ladders. House points are given for following school rules and showing positive behavior and social graces. The children can work independently or together to earn these rewards.

Students have been given their own 'student planners' as developing independence is important in KS2. We ask that students use these to record subject information and homework. It is also important that students are wearing the correct school uniform.

Communication is a crucial element of your child's education. We ask that you keep your classroom teacher informed of all learning and logistical information via email or written communication. Teacher's email addresses are listed below.

Thank you for your continued support. Please make sure you check the blog. We have a variety of digital platforms that support learning: Moodle, Global Classroom, Reading Eggs and Myimaths. Not only do the teachers set work using these areas but they are also available any time for your child to stretch themselves and personalise their learning. These are wonderful opportunities for our children so please encourage them to be proactive about their learning and go on them – pupils have all the login codes that they need and should know how to use them. Please email us if you need support with these areas and we will be happy to help.

Yours sincerely,
The Year 6 Team

Contact details

Naima Charlier
David Gadsby

naima.hussain@nais.hk
david.gadsby@nais.hk