

YEAR 1 TERM 1 2009/10

Dear Parents

Firstly, a big welcome to all of our new families who have joined the year group and welcome back to the children who have 'moved up' from Reception. We hope you all had a great holiday. Throughout the term, there will be plenty of opportunities to come in and help with activities including reading, craft based projects and theme days. Please let your class teacher or class link know if you are interested in helping.

This term our topic is 'In the Community'. This topic offers many opportunities for all areas of the curriculum to be incorporated and explored.

Equipment needed

Each day your child needs to bring their reading bag and personal organiser. Specialist lessons are as follows and the appropriate kit/equipment is required.

1F

Saturday	-	ICT
Sunday	-	PE (wear PE kit all day)
Monday	-	Music / Library
Tuesday	-	PE (wear PE kit all day)
Wednesday	-	Swimming / Music

1M

Saturday	-	PE (wear PE kit all day)
Sunday	-	Swimming / Music
Monday	-	Music / PE (wear PE kit all day) Library
Tuesday	-	ICT
Wednesday	-	

1EB

Saturday	-	ICT / Library
Sunday	-	PE (wear PE kit all day)
Monday	-	Music
Tuesday	-	PE (wear PE kit all day)
Wednesday	-	Swimming / Music

CURRICULUM

The English and maths curriculum follows the English Primary Framework.

Literacy

The children will experience a wide variety of fiction through stories and poems. They will learn about non-fiction texts through looking at and writing captions, lists, labels, signs and instructions. The children will continue to extend their phonic knowledge through our 'Letters and sounds' program, working within the appropriate

phase, and develop key words for both reading and spelling. They will learn to use appropriate literacy vocabulary. This term we will be introducing the cursive script for handwriting, focusing on individual letter formation in preparation for joining later in the year. During the course of the term children will be introduced to Big Writing through Big Speaking.

Numeracy

Our maths teaching covers aspects of number, shape, data handling and measures. Number work will focus on counting and ordering numbers and quick recall of number facts to 10. We will be looking at 2D and 3D shapes in the environment and collecting data in order to make graphs. The children will be introduced to the numeracy passport, where they will work on a number of different targets each week – revisiting them on a three week cycle. The first targets will cover addition and subtraction within 5 and number bonds to 10.

Science

Science will cover work about the body and in particular ‘ourselves’. The children will consider changes in their own body as they grow, and will make comparisons between themselves and other children – focusing on facial features (to tie in with our art topic on portraits.) We will also explore the five senses and look at different types of food. The children will learn about the properties of food and the importance of a healthy balanced diet, which will be revisited through out the year in the form of healthy picnics.

Design and Technology (DT)

Our design and make task is entitled ‘Eat more fruit and vegetables’. The children will design and make vegetable kebabs and will taste and evaluate varieties of potato salad.

Art

Our topic is entitled ‘Self Portraits’. We will be looking at ourselves and applying various media and techniques, including paint, collage, line drawings and cartoon images to produce portraits. We will study the work of other artists, with a main focus on Picasso.

Geography

Our geography topic for this term is entitled ‘Around our school’. The children will be introduced to basic mapping and planning skills using the school as a focus. They will learn to produce a simple plan of a classroom using bird’s eye view and to produce a picture plan of important locations around the school. Looking at the wider environment the children will draw simple journeys from home to school and look at where they live in relation to the school and their peers.

History

In the first week back of the second term, the children will learn about famous people from Oman. We will focus on Sinbad the Sailor and his journeys, learning about the silks and spices that he traded and using them to cook with. Linking to DT the children will also work in groups to design, build and test their own wooden dhows in the swimming pool.

SPECIALIST SUBJECTS

ICT

This term it is expected that children understand that a computer can represent a real or fantasy situation. They will create a simple representation of a real or fantasy situation using a painting or objects-based graphics program. Children will also have an opportunity to enter words from a keyboard or word bank to assemble sentences.

Music

The children will kick off Year 1 by learning a variety of new songs and games to encourage singing in the playground during playtimes.

'Sounds Interesting' is the topic that follows and focuses on the exploration of sounds. The children will begin to learn the names of the percussion instruments and through experimentation will learn that they can be played in different ways, producing different sounds.

The second unit, 'The Long and the Short of It', introduces the concept of duration in music. It develops the children's ability to discriminate between longer and shorter sounds, and to use them to create interesting sequences of sound.

PE

The children will cover two curriculum areas in PE this term: Games Activities and Gymnastic Activities. In Games Activities, the children will learn ball control using different sizes, shapes and textures of balls. They will learn to work on their own and with a partner. They will also learn chasing and avoidance games such as 'Stuck-in-the-Mud.' In Gymnastic Activities, the children will learn to use their bodies to make different body shapes and to roll in different ways.

COMMUNICATION

The personal organiser can be used as a way for parents to communicate with the class teacher. Class teachers can also be met after school when they bring the children to the playground. Otherwise an appointment to see the relevant specialist teacher can be made. Feel free to make an appointment at any time during the term. Parent and Teacher consultation meetings will be held in October and February, which provide an opportunity to discuss your child's progress.

HOMEWORK

Homework in Key Stage 1 comprises of daily reading, numeracy passport targets and in the later phases of phonics - weekly spellings. In year one we introduce the children to the cursive script and information on correct letter formation will be provided following our Meet and Greet session. A maths handbook giving ideas and guidance of how to support your child at home is available on our website www.britishschoolmuscat.com. There are many practical and fun ways of how to help your child in the booklet. Again, more information about this will be available at the Meet and Greet evening.

Activity time

Children learn through experience and investigating. In activity time they will develop their thinking skills through problem solving. Through activities such as drawing, painting and construction they will develop their fine and gross motor skills. There will be a range of activities to help develop their understanding of the world around them.

S.E.A.L. (Social, Emotional, Aspects of Learning)

This term in CPSHE the children explore two main themes entitled 'New beginnings' and 'Getting on and falling out.' The first theme offers children the opportunity to see themselves as valued individuals and to contribute to shaping a welcoming, safe and fair learning community for all. Throughout the theme, children explore feelings of happiness and excitement, sadness, anxiety and fearfulness, and learn shared models for calming down and problem solving.

In the second half of the term we will be extending the work on 'New beginnings' and focusing on developing the social skills of friendship, working well together in a group, managing anger and resolving conflict.

Our aim is to provide your child with a broad and balanced curriculum in an enjoyable way and we hope that you take the opportunity of sharing in your child's experiences. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your co-operation and support in regularly reading and enjoying books with your child.

Diary Dates

15th September – Primary Meet and Greet Evening – (Main Hall and then classrooms)

27th September – Grandparents' Day

1st Nov – Parent / Teacher Consultations (KS1 & KS2)

3rd Nov - Parent / Teacher Consultations (KS1 & KS2)

5^h Dec – Carols by Candlelight

Week beginning 12th Dec – KS1 Christmas Show

3rd Jan – Sinbad week

Mrs Fenton (Year Leader)

Mrs Ellman-Brown

Mrs Mabelson