

YEAR 1 TERM 2 2009 / 2010

Dear Parents

This term our topic is 'Beside the Seaside'. This is a lively and exciting topic through which all areas of the curriculum can be explored. This theme will be a central thread throughout academic work, practical tasks, observation and creative activities.

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. (Please remember that as swimming is later in the day it is not appropriate to send your child to school wearing their swimming clothes first thing in the morning.)

1F

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

1EB

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

1M

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

CURRICULUM

Our English and numeracy work follow the National Literacy and Numeracy Strategies appropriate for the year group.

Literacy

The children study both fiction and non-fiction texts. We begin with instructional texts followed by work on traditional stories. The children then learn to use non-

fiction books to find information. Work on fairy stories and plays follow. At the end of term we study poetry and further develop our dictionary skills. The children will also be introduced to Big Writing, a creative approach to developing their written skills. The end of the term will see the children writing their own fairytales and sequels to popular children's stories. The Year One classes will perform class assemblies during term two.

Numeracy

Our numeracy teaching will extend work covered on aspects of number, shape, money, data handling and measures. The children will be introduced to tens and units, initially through practical activities and know what value each digit in a two-digit number represents. They will begin to partition a 'tens' number and larger two-digit numbers e.g. $19 = 10 + 9$. The Numeracy passport targets will focus on subtraction, doubling and time (o'clock and half past).

Science

In science we study 'Life Processes and Living Things' and 'Variation and Classification'. We will be looking at the similarities and differences between human beings and animals. The children will collect and select criteria for sorting seaside objects. Family trips to the beach may enable children to collect shells, pebbles and other interesting items which will reinforce our work. Towards the end of term the children will be looking closely at plants and carrying out an investigation to see what conditions they need to grow and to devise a means of fair testing.

History

During the second week back the children will take part in a history week, learning about 'Sinbad the Sailor' and his travels to trade in silks and spices, and also to learn about his links to Oman and the history of dhow building. We will be looking for any creative carpenters we have out there! Later this term we will be looking at the topic of 'Castles in Oman'. We will investigate key questions such as why castles were built and look at the location of the castles. If you have visited any of the castles in Oman or castles in other parts of the world and have photographs or leaflets that you could lend to us we would be extremely grateful. A trip to Nakhl Fort with your child would be a fantastic opportunity for your child to visit and explore a real Omani fort. More information on this will be provided nearer the time as part of our home-school links initiative.

Geography

Part of our work this term will involve a beach study at the Oman Dive Centre (date to be confirmed); we will provide more information about this closer to the time. This trip will be the focus for much of our geography work, looking at the seaside environment in relation to physical features, land use and environmental issues. We will also be studying the weather. We will compare weather in Oman to weather in the UK and devise and carry out ways of observing and recording the weather.

Art

The Art and Design syllabus for this term enables children to investigate the qualities and variety of natural and manufactured materials. Activities following a 'seaside' based theme will include printing, collage, fabric painting and tie-dye. The end of term will see the children producing sculptures from reclaimed materials, influenced by the work of Andy Goldsworthy. Please keep your eye out

for any interesting bits of drift wood, shells, bones etc on your camping trips for this project.

Personal, Social and Health Education

The themes for this term's CPSHE and circle time are 'Going for Goals' and 'Good to be me'.

'Going for Goals' focuses on the key aspect of motivation and provides an important opportunity for all children's abilities, qualities and strengths to be valued. As well as setting and achieving goals, children will be finding out how to begin to take responsibility for their learning and the importance of persistence and of resilience, (bouncing back or maintaining effort through a difficult experience or after a mistake or failure).

The second unit explores feelings in the context of the child as an individual, developing self awareness and helping children realise that it really is 'Good to be me'. The theme focuses on understanding feelings, and why and how they lead us to behave the way we do, particularly the feelings of being excited, proud, surprised, hopeful, disappointed, worried and anxious. Throughout both units, children will be learning through role play, discussion and playing games, using whole school assembly time to support classroom activities.

Throughout the term we celebrate the children's achievements both in and out of school through our CLASSY boards. Any exams grades, certificates or medals that your children receive for efforts outside of school are a great addition, so please feel free to send them in.

SPECIALIST SUBJECTS

ICT

This term children will learn that information can be presented in a variety of forms and that it comes from a variety of sources. They will also learn that pictures provide information, that information is all around us in a variety of forms and that computers use icons to provide information and instructions. Near the end of the term children will learn that data can be collected and presented as pictograms and that this data, represented graphically, can be easier to understand than textual data.

Music

This term Year One will be working on two topics. 'Taking Off' is our first topic and this focuses on the exploration of pitch. The children will learn a variety of action songs and will develop their use of simple tuned percussion. They will work together to produce a class arrangement.

The second topic 'Rhythm and Pulse' develops the children's understanding of the pulse. It also introduces the concept of rhythm. Picture symbols are introduced to the children (a clock for the pulse and a horse for the rhythm) to help them distinguish between these two, often misunderstood, concepts in music.

New musical vocabulary (or 'WOW' words) will be learnt throughout the term.

COMMUNICATION

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

HOMEWORK

Homework in Key Stage One comprises of daily reading and phonic support sheets and/ or weekly spellings, and the daily numeracy passport target. A numeracy handbook giving ideas and guidance of how to support your child at home has been prepared. An electronic copy of this handbook is available on our website www.britishschoolmuscat.com There are many practical and fun ways of how to help your child in the booklet.

Events this term

Trip to ODC Beach – To be confirmed

Mid-Year Reports sent home – 26th January

Parents Evenings – 31st January and 2nd February

KS1 Enrichment Day – 10th February

KS1 Sports Day – 17th February

KS 1 Swimming Gala – 10th March

Easter Egg Competition – 30th March

Parental Involvement

We are lucky to have so many parents helping us in school with a wide range of activities. Your help and support is very much appreciated. Please let your child's class teacher know if you are interested in helping or if you have any resources, talents or experiences that are relevant to our topic. Your class teacher with the help of the class link will let you know as and when help is required for activities such as theme weeks, cooking and the beach trip. Thank you in advance!

Further information about the National Curriculum expectations for each year group can be found at www.nc.uk.net

Mrs Fenton (Year Leader)
Mrs Ellman-Brown
Mrs Mabelson