

## YEAR 4 TERM 1 – 2009/10

Dear Parents

Welcome to Year Four! We hope that you have had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday. We wish to welcome all the new families to Muscat and the British School. We hope that the following information about the curriculum will be helpful and informative. Over the next few weeks we look forward to getting to know your child and helping him/her settle in. Please read the following information carefully and keep this letter safe so you may refer to it over the term.

### **4D**

Saturday	-	Swimming, French
Sunday	-	PE.
Monday-	-	
Tuesday	-	Music, French, Library
Wednesday	-	PE, ICT.

### **4L**

Saturday	-	Swimming, French, Library
Sunday	-	PE
Monday	-	ICT
Tuesday	-	Music
Wednesday	-	PE, French

### **4M**

Saturday	-	Swimming, French, ICT
Sunday	-	PE
Monday	-	
Tuesday	-	Music, Library
Wednesday	-	PE, French

## **CURRICULUM**

### **Literacy**

This term, Year Four re-visit the criteria needed to write a story. We examine the descriptive language needed to develop the setting and the characters within our stories, introducing the uses of adjectival and noun phrases to add pace and excitement to their writing. We link this to our history topic, the Tudors. The children

will also have the opportunity to look at and write their own play scripts. The children will look at information books in order to improve their research skills and by the end of the term; all children will have researched a chosen topic and presented it to the class. We will continue to focus on key skills in writing, such as the choice of vocabulary, using connectives, openers, the correct use of punctuation, (VCOP) to improve our sentence structure and to be more aware of our audience. Reading comprehension will continue to be taught through group reading and the discussion of shared texts. The objectives for guided reading each week will be placed in your child's personal organiser for you to refer to when reading with them at home. Spellings will be sent home weekly and the children will be encouraged to use a variety of different methods to learn them.

### **Numeracy**

Teaching will cover the objectives in the National Numeracy Strategy and build on the skills learned in Year Three, both for calculating mentally and on paper. This will include practising recall of number facts, doubling and halving numbers, counting on and back, consolidating the children's understanding of addition and subtraction, solving problems involving time and handling data. We will also be extending your child's use of these skills through mathematical and scientific investigations. Following our numeracy passport, targets for mental maths will be sent home with the children for them to practise.

### **Science**

There are two topics covered this term in science; 'Moving and Growing' and 'Solids and Liquids'. We will begin by looking at how we move and grow. Children will have lots of opportunity to partake in practical activities linking to numeracy including measuring and comparing their limbs to each other, other children across the school and adults. If you have any X-rays at home then send them in, we would love to borrow them for a short while.

We then look at solids and liquids, in particular the properties of each, what happens when they melt and freeze and methods for separating mixtures. Throughout the term we will continue to develop the children's scientific enquiry skills and introduce them to the '7 Steps to Super Science'.

### **History**

Our topic this term is 'Tudors and Explorers' and we will begin our unit of work by looking at timelines including each child's own timeline. We move on to work on family trees focusing on your family tree. The children will be taught to apply their skills to the Tudor timeline and Tudor family tree. We continue work by looking at life in Tudor times and their exploration. The children will make comparisons with life then and now. This interesting and exciting topic offers many cross curricular links including drama and role play.

### **Art**

This term, our art work will link closely with our history 'Tudors' topic. After some initial work on key colour mixing skills we shall move on to 'Portraits'. The children will study famous artists of the Tudor period in addition to investigating how patterns can be identified as permeating throughout all areas of the Tudor life. Children will have the opportunity to use collage materials to recreate some of these designs, adding their own personal 'twist' to their finished pieces.

## **Design & Technology**

Our focus for the term is textiles. The Tudor period is used as our stimulus. We will be developing the children's design and sewing skills by making Tudor money containers. Please be warned we will be asking for lots of helping hands at this point and don't worry you don't have to be an expert!

## **SPECIALIST SUBJECTS**

### **ICT**

This term children will be taught to use some of the many features of a word processor to help them match their work to their audience. They will manipulate text in a variety of ways, exploring short cuts available in the word processing software. Children will also obtain graphics from a variety of sources such as the Internet and our Intranet.

### **Music**

This is a busy term for Year Four. They will cover one main topic entitled 'Grouping the Beat', and a shorter unit 'Tudor Tunes' which will enhance their understanding of the Tudor topic that is covered in class. During this topic they will prepare music to perform in their Tudor assembly. In 'Grouping the Beat' the children will explore the importance of 'the beat' in music. The children will be introduced to the basics of beating time, understanding time signatures and learn how to tell the difference between a waltz and a march. They will revise the basics of standard notation that was covered in Year Three in readiness for the 'Return of the Recorder' topic in term two.

Following the success of the 'Last Choir Standing' concert in June, (RO 1,000 was raised for various charities in total and the children's enthusiasm for singing was fantastic to see), I thought it only right and proper to have another one! This will once again be held towards the end of term three. It will be an exciting event and the children will be working hard throughout the year to improve their singing skills. There will be a series of lessons at the beginning of this term to capture their enthusiasm and identify the best features of choral singing. Watch this space for the date and time of this event!

Towards the end of the term they will take part in some short assessment activities as well as prepare for the Carols by Candlelight on December 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **French (Modern Foreign Languages MFL)**

Year Four have two 30-minute lessons. They will encounter the recommended topics from the National Curriculum Framework for MFL using the highly acclaimed interactive program called 'Rigolo', which will take them right through French. All four skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking are covered and this will be supplemented with games, songs and activities to engage all styles of learner. Topics for this term are 'Encore!' which revises key grammar and vocabulary from Year 3, describing people using adjectives and nationality and 'Quelle heure est-il?' which teaches the time and when you do certain activities.

## **PE**

The children will have two, one hour PE lessons this year. The children come to PE as a whole year group and are taught each of the activities in their individual classes, by three members of staff. (one on each activity) Each block of activity will last for six weeks including an assessment. The activities for this term and the first part of term two will be, Athletics (to prepare for Sports Day) Striking and Fielding Games and Gymnastics. (Lesson 1 on a rotation basis) and Dance, Touch Rugby and Netball based skills, using Bench Ball as the game. (Lesson 2 on a rotation basis)

## **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.

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.

## **COMMUNICATION**

If you have any questions about the curriculum, or any other area concerning your child's progress, please arrange a meeting with the class teacher. Brief queries can usually be answered via a note in the personal organiser, or at the start of school. However, for a more in-depth discussion, it is usually best to arrange a time after school through Mrs. Doyle in the Primary School Office. In order to strengthen Home – School communication, it is important that you speak to your class teacher directly in the first instance. We are always pleased to discuss your child's progress with you, so please don't wait until a concern becomes a problem before speaking to us.

## **HOMEWORK**

In Year Four the children have homework four times each week and for 30 minutes a night. There is no homework on a Wednesday though occasionally during the term we may send home a longer project for the children to complete, for example, making something, completing research or a talk homework. They will be given extended time to complete the task. The daily homework consists of:

- 10 minutes reading
- 10 minutes numeracy passport or maths facts
- 10 minutes spelling practice

## **Equipment needed**

Each day your child needs to bring their reading book and personal organiser as well as the appropriate kit/equipment for their specialist lessons.

- One pencil case
- Coloured pencils – no felt tips please!
- HB pencils
- Sharpener
- Eraser
- Glue sticks
- Roller-ball pen - no biro's please!
- An old named shirt or apron for art and design technology lessons

**Please make sure items are named.**

## **Tuck Shop**

In accordance with the School's healthy eating policy, the tuck shop is open to children in Year Four for the first 10 minutes of first break on a daily basis. This facility is intended to supplement your child's lunchbox and we would ask for your support in monitoring the amount of money brought in to spend. Thank you.

Many parents come to school to help with a wide range of activities and your help is always appreciated. If you are interested in helping in school, in any way, please let your child's class teacher or class link know.

We look forward to working with you this year and are grateful for all your support. We hope to see you at the Meet and Greet evening on the 15<sup>th</sup> September.

## **Diary Dates**

15<sup>th</sup> September – Primary Meet and Greet Evening – (Main Hall and classrooms)  
27<sup>th</sup> September – Grandparents Day  
1<sup>st</sup> Nov – Parent / Teacher Consultations (KS1 & KS2)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Nov – Parent / Teacher Consultations (KS1 & KS2)  
22<sup>nd</sup> November – Tudor Assembly  
5<sup>h</sup> Dec – Carols by Candlelight

Kind regards

Miss Dellman (Year Leader)  
Mrs Murray  
Miss Léger