

## YEAR 4 TERM 2 2009 / 2010

Dear Parents

Welcome to Term Two! We hope that you have had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday. We wish to welcome all our new families to Muscat and to The British School. We hope that the following information about the curriculum and Year Four routines will be helpful and informative.

### 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**

In literacy we will continue with our creative writing strand and revisit our work on settings and characters. We shall be exploring this through the work of Gerald Durrell and his book, 'The Fantastic Flying Journey'. We plan to use the spectacular setting at the Oman Dive Centre (O.D.C.) on our residential trip as a stimulus for writing creative and both metaphorical and figurative poetry. In addition, the children will be looking at non fiction texts, recapping the key features of these and writing their own text to develop their persuasive arguing skills and defend their opinions. VCOP (Vocabulary, Connectives, Openers & Punctuation) will remain a focus as we develop the correct use of apostrophes and adjectives in their writing.

### **Numeracy**

The children will continue to develop their numeracy skills, with the emphasis on numbers, but covering other topics such as money, shape and time. Children will be extending the work they covered last term, especially in measure as we link it to our science topics. Later on, we will combine data handling skills with our ability to use graphs and statistics to present a point of view in oral debates. The numeracy

passport will continue being sent home every week and we appreciate the help and support you are giving your child.

A good website for further numeracy activities to support your child's passport target is: <http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/maths/>. To extend your child's problem solving skills we recommend: <http://nrich.maths.org/public/index.php>.

### **Art - Journeys**

In this exciting unit the children will produce mixed-media work. They will have the opportunity to develop their drawing, painting and print-making skills. They will learn about artists, craftspeople and designers who communicate their ideas through signs and symbols. Our 'artist study' will be Marc Chagall and the title of this work is 'The Journey.' If you have any examples of art work depicting a journey, we would greatly appreciate it if we could borrow them. We will also focus on the history behind the Aboriginal journeys and link this to an actual journey using aboriginal symbols at the O.D.C. Once again, if you have any Aboriginal resources we would love to show them too.

### **Science – Habitats / Electricity**

This term, the children will continue with their solids and liquids unit before moving on to the two exciting topics of habitats and electricity. They will be looking at how to sort living things in a variety of ways, different habitats and the organisms that live in them. We will investigate how animals and plants are adapted to their habitats and food chains. When studying electricity we will build on and develop the children's previous learning to look further at conductors and insulators, they will learn to recognise important electrical components and both construct and draw circuits using circuit symbols. We will cover the safety issues surrounding electricity and how to make bulbs brighter and / or dimmer and the affects of resistance on a circuit. This unit comprises of lots of investigative work, and the emphasis will be on planning and collecting the evidence to support our findings. We will be developing their understanding of how to create fair tests.

### **Geography – Coastlines and Water**

The children will be covering a topic based on coastlines, how they evolve and mankind's impact upon them. This topic allows us to take advantage of our local environment, the beaches and coastlines. Our residential trip to the O.D.C. will be the basis of this topic. We will start the topic by concentrating on mapping skills and symbols. Using these, we will draw Ordnance Survey style maps of the O.D.C. and of Rustaq Fort. These symbols create an excellent link between our Art and Geography topics this term. In the second part of the topic about water, we will learn how important it is and how it affects our lives. This will link to our home school initiative project on saving water.

### **Specialist Subjects**

#### **ICT**

This term children will continue to use ICT to develop images. Using the Internet, a paint program and digital camera they will learn that pictures can be assembled by repeating patterns. Later in the term children will develop branching databases and learn that yes/no questions can be used to divide a set of objects into sub-sets and

that a sequence of yes/no questions can identify an object. They will learn that a tree diagram can be used to organise information.

### **Music**

For the first part of this term the children will begin to learn how to read music and play the recorder. There will be certificates they will work towards ranging from Bronze, Silver and Gold. Those children that are already learning an instrument outside school will receive extension work and be encouraged to play for us in class.

The second topic 'Exploring Descriptive Sounds' develops the children's ability to create, perform and analyse short descriptive compositions that combine sounds, movements and words.

The children will also be encouraged to continue to work towards their recorder certificates at home.

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

### **French**

Year Four will be working on the ninth and tenth units of the scheme 'Rigolo 1'. In Unit 9, 'Les Fêtes', they will be learning about festivals and dates, talk about presents at festivals, count from 31 to 60 and give and understand instructions. In Unit 10, 'Où vas-tu?', they will learn about French cities, give and understand basic directions and talk about the weather. They will supplement the interactive material with worksheets to practise the four skills of reading writing, speaking and listening.

### **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 school assembly time to support classroom activities.

Throughout the term we will continue to 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 feel free to 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. 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 'talk' homework. This term it will include a project involving saving water and making a sea defense model. They will be given extended time to complete the task. The daily homework consists of:

- 10 minutes reading
- 10 minutes numeracy passport
- 10 minutes spelling practise

### **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
- HB pencils
- Sharpener
- Eraser
- Glue sticks
- Roller-ball pen
- An old named shirt or apron for Art and D.T. lessons

### **Tuck Shop**

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 only intended to supplement their snack and we would therefore ask for your support in monitoring the amount of money brought in to spend. Thank you.

### **Events This Term**

**ODC Parent Meeting – Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January**

Mid-Year Reports sent home – 26<sup>th</sup> January

KS2 Sports Day – 27<sup>th</sup> January

Parent Teacher Consultations – 31<sup>st</sup> January and 2<sup>nd</sup> February

KS2 Enrichment Day – Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February

ODC Trip – 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> February

KS 2 Swimming Gala – 29<sup>th</sup> March

Easter Egg Competition – 30<sup>th</sup> March

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to seeing you at Parents Evening and remember if you have any Aboriginal Art work we would love to borrow it for a short while.

Kind regards,

Miss Dellman (Year Leader)

Miss Léger

Mrs Murray