

## YEAR 5 TERM 1 2009/10

Dear Parents

Welcome to Year 5! We hope you all had a relaxing holiday and your children are looking forward to their penultimate year in the Primary School. This is the first of three newsletters which will outline what we will be covering each term and notify you of any special events that may be taking place. There is so much information to pass on to you at this stage of the year that it's difficult to know where to start!

### 5H

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

### 5T

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

### 5TT

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

## **CURRICULUM**

### **Literacy**

As in the U.K. we will be following the updated National Literacy Strategy (NLS). This is a very structured programme which teaches: spelling strategies, spelling conventions and rules, vocabulary, grammatical awareness, sentence construction and punctuation, reading comprehension and writing composition using both fiction and non-fiction texts. This term focuses on:

- Novels, stories and poems by significant children's authors
- Play-scripts
- Poetry writing
- Narrative structure and style

In line with the Literacy Framework, reading skills will be developed during guided reading sessions and class reading. Guided reading sessions are concentrated half hour sessions where we work with a small group of children, hearing them read aloud, discussing and drawing attention to vocabulary, plot, punctuation and narrative style.

## **Numeracy**

We follow the Numeracy Framework in line with the U.K. It is another carefully structured programme which covers all aspects of numeracy including:

- Place value
- Addition, subtraction, multiplication and division
- Mental calculation strategies
- Money and 'real life' problems
- Fractions
- Handling data
- Shape and space
- Measures (length, weight, time, capacity)
- These topics are revisited regularly throughout the year for revision and consolidation.

If you would like to know how you can support your child's learning in numeracy please refer to the Key Stage Two Parent Handbook which may be found on the school's website [www.britishschoolmuscat.com](http://www.britishschoolmuscat.com)

## **Science**

This term we study two topics. The first topic is 'Earth, Sun and Moon', during which we will study the size, position and key features of the Earth, Sun, and Moon. We will briefly look at the Solar System and our planets role in it, and visit the PDO Planetarium to get a better picture of the Universe. The second topic will be 'Keeping Healthy', where we will look into how our diet and lifestyle can affect our bodies, and help the children understand effective ways to stay healthy.

## **Humanities**

Our topic this term asks the children to compare and contrast a typical town in the UK (Worcester) with Muscat, and then answer a series of key questions that focus on the similarities and differences. The topic combines both geography and history, as we trace the development of the two settlements over the last two thousand years, and study their main geographical features. We will also look at issues that affect their future development, such as the growth of tourism and potential changes to the environment.

## **Design and Technology (DT)**

Our DT projects this term include designing and building models of Muscat, planning a healthy food menu, and making healthy biscuits (please note that due to strict health and safety regulations, Mr. Turley is required to taste all biscuits made this term.)

## **Art**

The art topic this term will examine still life painting and drawing. We will be not only produce our own still life work but will investigate still life work from the various artists.

## **SPECIALIST SUBJECTS**

### **ICT**

This term children will be taught how to use an object-based graphics package to create, combine and manipulate objects. Later in the term they will use data bases and the Internet to seek out information.

### **Music**

This is a busy term for Year Five. They will study one main topic entitled 'Rhythm and Pulse'. This develops the children's ability to perform layered rhythmic patterns confidently with a strong sense of pulse. They will play African djembe drums and learn the significance of call and response drumming patterns. They will invent and improvise simple rhythmic patterns and be introduced to the role of the 'cue'.

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 and will give the opportunity for the children in Year Five to maintain the trophy they so deservedly won at the Al Bustan. It will be an exciting event and the children will be working hard throughout the year to improve their singing skills even further. 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 Carols by Candlelight.

### **French**

In Year Five there are two, 40-minute lessons per week, one of which is taught in sets to allow newcomers to integrate more easily to the French programme. The second lesson will be taught in class groups. All pupils will be using the highly acclaimed interactive program called 'Rigolo', which covers the four years of KS2. All four skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking are developed and this will be supplemented with games, songs and activities to engage all styles of learner. Topics for this term are 'Salut, Gustave!' which covers greetings, talking about brothers and sisters, saying what people have or have not, and what they are like, then 'À l'École' which teaches school subjects, likes and dislikes, the time and the school day.

## **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. (1 on each activity) Each block of activity will last for 6 weeks including an assessment. The activities for this term and the first part of term two will be, Athletics (to prepare for Sports Day) The Young Leader Award and Gymnastics. (Lesson 1 on a rotation basis) and Dance, Touch Rugby and Basketball (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.

## **HOMEWORK**

In Year Five, children should read every night. Ideally this should be a shared reading experience with an adult or older sibling. Reading books and personal organisers should be taken home and then brought back into school the following day. Encourage your child to record the title of the book and page number in their personal organiser.

We would like to ask parents to sign the reading record in the personal organiser when the book has been completed or when you hear your child read aloud. It would also be helpful if you could spend some time discussing the book with your child, (favourite characters, most interesting part, and so on), to check it has been read and thoroughly understood. Reading aloud to your child can also be a very beneficial experience as well.

A list of spelling words, rules and background information will be given out every Saturday, and children should learn these words each evening, ready for a test on Tuesday.

Emphasis will be placed on mental maths calculation this year, and the children will be given personal maths targets to learn as part of their homework, which will be regularly tested. We recommend;

- 10 minutes – numeracy passport
- 10 minutes – spelling / word level
- 20-30 minutes - reading

### **Equipment needed**

- A blue pen. Either a fine line fibre tipped pen, uniball or fountain pen
- Pencils (HB) – but no erasers on the end please as they smudge your work.
- A 30 cm ruler
- A good eraser
- Simple calculator
- Coloured pencils and sharpener
- Glue stick and scissors

Children, please try to pack your own things; it is good preparation for Year Five camp and you also know where your things are when you need them.

### **Year Five Camp**

Did you know that you have the chance to stay away from home, with all your friends (and a few teachers) for two nights and three days! Well in Year Five you can! As part of our studies on Oman in term two, we go to Ibra to learn about the Omani way of life, the Bedu, the Falaj system and the local architecture, as well as important life skills such as how to get on with one another and how to look after yourself. **The trip is provisionally scheduled for early February 2010.** More details will follow later.

### **Tuck Shop**

The tuck shop is open to children in Year Five 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.

I hope that this overview has given you a taster of life in our year group this term. We are looking forward to having an exciting year working with you all. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns or queries.

Further information about the National Curriculum expectations for each year group can be found at [www.nc.uk.net](http://www.nc.uk.net)

### **Diary Dates**

13<sup>th</sup> September – BSME Parents Meeting – 2:15pm (Multi Purpose Room)

15<sup>th</sup> September – Primary Meet and Greet Evening – (Main Hall and then 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)

5<sup>h</sup> Dec – Carols by Candlelight

Mr Turley (Year Leader)

Ms Helmore

Mrs Turner