



Year Five Curriculum News - Autumn 2009

Dear Parents

Firstly, I hope you have had an enjoyable summer holiday. At our first assembly I welcomed all the pupils and adults who work and learn here, hoping they settle quickly to the new school year and find it both enjoyable and successful. Our Year Five pupils all look very smart in their uniform and it is a delight to see them enjoy this next step in their education.

Thanks to suggestions and discussions by our Home School Partnership we are changing the format of our Parents Evenings, a letter will follow soon. On 13th and 14th October we are offering two nights of appointments between 4pm and 6pm, when you will be able to talk with your child's class teacher on pastoral and academic matters. Academic information will have been passed on by subject teachers, and examples of your child's work will be available. The school will also be open for parents on 15th October from 4pm to 5pm when you are welcome to look around classrooms and meet some staff on an informal basis.

Due to our changes in timetable and staffing we are also making some changes to our Parents evenings in January and February. For parents of children in Key Stage 3 (Years 7 and 8) there will be no change; 5 minute appointments with subject teachers of your choice. For parents of children in Key Stage 2 (Years 5 and 6) there will be longer appointments with your child's class teacher who again will be supplied with an account of academic progress from subject teachers.

I trust that you will enjoy and be informed by the following newsletter. We are all looking forward to a term of hard work, achievement and enjoyment. Please contact us if there is any matter you wish to discuss with us about the education and welfare of your child.

Yours sincerely

David Watson.

English

All children will have access to the library in Orchard at least once a week. There will also be a list of spellings to learn once a week. There will be study of narrative writing along with reading comprehension using George Layton's *The Fib and Other Stories* and *The Snow Spider* by Jenny Nimmo. Poetry study will include *The Magic Box* by Kit Wright and the children will write a selection of poems themselves. Certain dramatic conventions using play scripts will be discussed and used. ICT will be used including a teaching and learning resource called Knowledge Box.

Maths

This year pupils will be following the Primary Framework for maths. Over the term pupils will cover the following five blocks of work.

- Counting, partitioning and calculating
- Securing number facts, understanding shape
- Handling data and measures
- Calculating, measuring and understanding shape
- Securing number facts, relationships and calculating

Homework will be related to the topic being covered at the time. Assessments will take place during the term. Some of the pupils who are particularly strong in maths will be given the opportunity to take part in the Primary Maths Challenge, a national competition run by the UK Maths Association.

The Primary Framework is designed to teach a core curriculum largely through whole class interactive teaching. To ensure that both teaching and learning of mathematics is as effective as possible, pupils are taught in ability-banded groups.

Science

Year 5 pupils will be studying a wide range of topics throughout the year. This term starts with pupils making a lot of noise in the **Sound** topic. They will be finding out how sounds are made (as if they didn't already know!); pitch, volume, sound waves and how we hear. We will then go on to study **Keeping Healthy**, looking at the body, food, activity and healthy life styles.

Humanities

Our children are studying the Tudor period, beginning with 1485 and the Battle of Bosworth. Lessons will concentrate on the living conditions of both rich and poor. Work covered will move on to the Border Reivers and some local history.

Life skills

In Life skills pupils study units of work covering material from Religious Education, Personal and Social Education, Citizenship and, in KS2, Information and Communications Technology.

During the year, pupils will cover six units of work. These will cover subjects such as relationships, rights and responsibilities, bullying and environmental issues as well as looking at aspects of Christianity and introducing other faiths such as Judaism to prepare children to live in a multi – cultural society.

We will begin with a unit entitled "Myself". The pupils start by focusing on themselves, what makes them happy and how they relate to others. They then go on to talk about looking after themselves with issues such as personal safety in the home, in the swimming pool and with fireworks, and planning safe routes to school. In RE this term we will be looking at Judaism.

ICT



In Year 5, the students have one dedicated ICT lesson each week. This term they will be introduced to the computer system at HMS and then start a unit on graphical modelling. In this unit they will learn how to use Word to produce images and visual models. They will learn the key differences between an object-based programme and a paint package and understand that visual models can be used to identify patterns and relationships.

French

At the start of the term pupils will learn to greet others and introduce themselves, building on the work they may have done at their first school. They will then learn to understand and respond to classroom instructions in French and learn to talk about their own equipment to include the use of colours. They will learn to use the French alphabet, count and use numbers up to 31 and say when they have a birthday.



The activities related to this work will be varied – to include oral and group activities, games, songs and raps designed to stimulate and maintain pupils' interest and to promote self-confidence in language learning skills.

Art and Design

In the first term for Year 5 we will look at the wide range of graphic media that students will use in their time at Hexham Middle School. We will look at the work of a range of different artists and will develop observational drawing skills. We will look at the use of colour and texture and will hope to develop students' ability to control art materials.

Textiles technology

This year the technology course covers textiles and the pupils will be making a card for a celebration. This introduction to textiles will enable them to learn the safety aspects of working with textiles and how to handle basic equipment. They are going to design and make an embroidered card for a

celebration using various stitches. The pupils will do research into different celebrations and use the Internet to find information about appliqué stitches.

Technology

Pupils will be making wind chimes. They will explore and use many varied materials such as aluminium, MDF, clay, bamboo and plastic in developing a chosen design for their own wind chimes based on a theme. Opportunities to access the Internet will be integrated into the project to look at existing examples alongside several chimes on display in the technology room.

Music



Year 5 pupils start the year with a project called **Using Percussion Instruments**. This project lasts for the term and introduces pupils to classroom percussion instruments: their sound, appearance, names and how to play them creatively in performance. The project includes a class performance of a percussion piece called **Haunted House**, which is always very popular. Pupils will play a few short tunes using tuned percussion.

We also take a look at Programme music (i.e. music which paints a picture or tells a story), in particular *The Carnival of the Animals* by Saint – Saens. We also learn about the sections of the orchestra and enjoy performing various songs and rounds.

Physical Education

There will be two lessons of PE each week in Year 5. The pupils will cover areas involving general games skills plus the more traditional sports of rugby, football, netball and swimming.



Also during the course of the year there are plans to introduce volleyball. Each class will have swimming lessons for half a term. We will need parents to help walk the children to and from the pool – any volunteers? For PE, the pupils will need to have some outdoor trainers and also some hockey/football/rugby boots or shoes suitable for use on the school field.

Homework

In Year 5 pupils will generally receive two sets of homework each week based around Mathematics and English. Occasionally pupils will bring home tasks that are related to their current topic for additional work to be done. This may involve the pupil researching a particular aspect but this will have always been started in class.

On evenings when no homework is set, pupils are expected to do some reading and/or learn multiplication tables. Pupils have a reading record book that needs to be filled in both at home and school regularly.

The amount of time spent on homework will vary from pupil to pupil but should generally take 30 minutes.

Reading

Pupils are encouraged to take library books home so that they develop good reading habits. On days when homework is not set, or pupils do not have homework to complete, they should be encouraged to read for at least half an hour.

We would also love to welcome into school any adults, subject to security checks, who would like to hear children read. Let your child's class teacher know if you wish to come into school to help in this way. Thank you.

