

# Kirkham Grammar Junior, Infant and Pre-School

## Autumn Term

### J1 Curriculum Overview

#### English

Our work in English starts with non-fiction, delving back in time to Ancient Egypt to try to answer the *Big Question*: 'Was Tutenkhamen Killed?'. We will use the eBook to learn about who Tutenkhamen was and why he is remembered today. We will investigate some suspicious circumstances surrounding his death, looking at the key figures who were involved and who might have had a motive for killing him. At the end of the unit, we will write a report delivering our verdict on the case. We will then move on to fiction, exploring a chilling ghost story called *Storm*. We will explore the characters in the story, the dilemmas that they face and also predict what we think will happen. The writing tasks involve planning and writing a description of setting, and planning and writing a conversation using direct speech and correct punctuation. In relation to grammar, we will look at: conjunctions of time, place and cause (e.g. when, before, after, while, so, because); subordinate clauses; clause co-ordination; preposition of time (e.g. before, after, during, in, because of); adverbs of time (e.g. then, next, soon, therefore) and manner (e.g. kindly); expanded noun phrase tenses - present and past progressive; tense consistency; statements, commands and exclamations. In relation to punctuation we will look at: capitals for names and sentences; full stops; questions; exclamation marks; apostrophes for contraction; commas in lists; prefixes to make nouns: super, anti, auto; plurals; suffixes -ment, -ness; consonants and vowels. Handwriting lessons will encourage pupils to write using a neat, joined handwriting style with increasing accuracy and control. In vocabulary and spelling work this term, the pupils will focus on particular word patterns each week and complete a spelling test every Friday.

#### Mathematics

In Mathematics, we will start the year reviewing some of the topics from last year, starting with weight, volume and temperature. We will then move on to our J1 work, starting with Place Value within 1000, exploring 3-digit numbers in depth. Pupils will begin with learning how to count in 100s. They will learn that a 3-digit number is made up of 100s, 10s and 1s, and they will be able to represent this in many ways, for example on a place value grid with counters or in a part-whole model. They will extend the number line to 1000 and know where different numbers lie. They will compare and order 3-digit numbers as well as count in 50s. The next topic is *Addition and Subtraction*. Pupils will explore addition and subtraction gradually, beginning with adding and subtracting 1s, until, by the end of the unit, they are adding and subtracting 2-digit numbers. This unit prepares pupils to understand these calculations in formal methods, though the focus is on making decisions regarding the parts and wholes of numbers, and on justifying the accuracy of mental methods where appropriate. Moving on to *Multiplication and Division*, this unit builds on recognising equal groups. Three lessons are spent exploring in depth each of the times-tables that pupils need to know in J1, encouraging rapid recall. Pupils are reminded of the difference between equal sharing and equal grouping, and then move on to look at when division problems may have a remainder of sorts. Although a full understanding of remainder is not essential in J1, pupils do need to have a basic understanding of it. There are lessons that focus on problem solving, and using the bar model to represent simple one-step multiplication and division problems. This reinforces multiplication as repeated addition. Pupils then move on to solve simple two-step problems that involve all of the four operations.

#### Science

Our first topic in Science is *Rocks, Soils and Fossils*. In this topic pupils work scientifically on a variety of investigations and longer tasks to learn about rocks. This topic covers the properties and uses of rocks, the rock family, soils and fossils. Next comes *Food and Our Bodies* in which the pupils work scientifically on a variety of challenges and longer tasks to learn about food and their bodies. This topic looks at where animals get food from and why it is important, in addition to learning about skeletons, muscles and joints.

## History

In History, we start by exploring the Stone Age, including the Paleolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic period. We will find out when the Stone Age occurred and how people lived during this period. We will look at Stone Age tools and weapons, hunter-gatherers and finally explore clues from the past. We will then move on to explore the Bronze Age and finally the Iron Age. After half term, we will be investigating the Roman Empire. We will look at how the Empire spread across the world, and we will look in more detail at the influence of the Roman occupation of Britain. We will also explore the various sources of evidence we can use to build a picture of what life was like at this time.

## Geography

In Geography, we will start by exploring maps of the world. We will learn about the imaginary lines that criss-cross the globe including the equator, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, the Prime Meridian and the lines of latitude and longitude. We will be learning about Europe, including some of the countries, the population and physical features such as rivers and mountains. We will also be looking at the effect of weathering on the landscape.

## Computing

This term we will be completing two units of work. Firstly, *We Are Programmers*, which introduces the pupils to Scratch. This is an online coding application which they will then use to create their own animations. The second unit, *We Are Bug Fixers*, again uses Scratch to teach the pupils how to find and then correct bugs within code.

## Religious Education

In the first half term, pupils will explore the meaning of signs and symbols. They will find out how symbolic food can be used to remember important events, and explore and interpret religious metaphors. They will learn more about religious beliefs, ideas about what a God is and how they can be experienced in different forms, including symbolism. They will learn about some common symbols within a place of worship. In the second half term, they will learn about Diwali. This will include the events and meanings in the story of Rama and Sita. They will learn about the diya and why they are important in the Diwali story. They will explore preparations for Diwali and rangoli patterns, as well as how Hindus celebrate at home.

## Design Technology

Pupils will design, make and evaluate two projects utilising a variety of tools. This will form part of a cross-curricular theme. In the first half term, we will link with History and make a cave scene from shoe boxes. In the second half term, linked to the Christian celebration of Christmas, pupils will make a wooden Christmas tree involving measuring, sawing and problem solving.

## Art

In the first half term, pupils will learn about Abstract Art as a modern form of art, where the picture or sculpture produced does not represent images of our everyday world. They will learn that works of art have lines, colours and shapes, but that the artist is not intending to represent objects or living things. They will learn about 'colour field painting' which began in the 1950s. They will learn about famous artists known for creating abstract art such as: Wassily Kandinsky (1866–1944); Russian painter Piet Mondrian (1872–1944); Dutch painter Henry Moore (1898–1986); English artist and sculptor Sonia Delaunay (1885–1979); French painter Mark Rothko (1903–70); American painter Jackson Pollock (1912–46). In the second half term, they will study the artist Wassily Kandinsky in more detail, understanding the process, emotions, media and materials used, as well as the visual language. Pupils will explore the techniques used practically.

**Music**

Pupils will learn about the features of a ballad. They will learn how to convey the emotion of the song 'Space Oddity' by David Bowie, and progress to writing the lyrics of a ballad. They will listen to and analyse a range of ballads. In conjunction with this, pupils will develop the basic technique of playing the ukulele, such as plucking and strumming.

**Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education  
including Relationship and Sex Education**

In the first half term, pupils will consider 'Being me in my world'. They will look at how to make others feel welcome, and how to make School a better place. They will think about other pupils' right to learn, and the feelings of others. They will continue to develop an understanding of looking at things from a different viewpoint i.e. empathy. In the second half term, pupils will celebrate that everyone is different, discuss bullying, and what to do if they witness it. They will consider the importance of being kind, and giving and receiving compliments.

**Spanish**

In Spanish, the pupils will learn important facts about Spain. They will practise meeting and greeting people, giving their name and saying how they are feeling. They will learn about the pronunciation of the five vowels and the silent 'h'. They will use numbers 1-12 orally and written, and give their age. They will learn the colours both orally and written. They will describe an object's colour, using the correct position of the adjective, and say what their favourite colour is. They will develop strategies for learning new vocabulary. They will learn about the Christian celebration of Christmas in Spain.

**Physical Education, Games and Swimming**

Pupils will take part in a variety of sporting disciplines. Indoor Athletics - developing health-related fitness, including jumping, running and throwing; Dance - performing dances using a range of movement patterns, theme-related shapes and action to a 32-count routine; Invasion Game Skills - improving understanding and skills involved in a variety of team sports; Gymnastics - linking movements and balances together; Hockey - developing stick skills to control and pass the ball, improve tactical awareness, and understanding attacking and defending principles; Netball (girls) - improve throwing and catching skills to be able to use a variety of netball passes, introduce playing positions and game awareness to develop game play; Rugby (boys) - learning the new age grade rules and developing basic rugby skills such as passing catching and evasion; Swimming - to improve water confidence to be able to travel in different directions, developing stroke technique and aquatic breathing; Football - improving understanding of the game and developing ball skills.

KIRKHAM  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL