

Kirkham Grammar Junior, Infant and Pre-School

Spring Term

J4 Curriculum Overview

English

In English this term, the pupils will take part in a formal debate which they will present to the rest of the class. The pupils will learn about how arguments are constructed and practise distinguishing fact from opinion, before looking at the language features of successful arguments. As a class, they will practise structuring arguments for maximum effect. They will look at the format of debates, presenting and performing their part in the debate. In our fiction unit, the pupils will explore and compare style in different genres. They will read the interactive eBook, *Fantastic, Funny, Frightening*, asking questions and developing their understanding of inference and the author's use of language, structure and presentation. They will use discussion and role-play to explore formal and informal language. Furthermore, pupils will develop editing, proofreading and peer-review skills. After exploring different genres, pupils will select their favourite and write stories for younger readers. In our poetry unit, the pupils move on to explore free verse poems, focussing in-depth on the work of two poets. The focus is on imagery and different language patterns. They will then write poems based on a model and present a free verse poem in letter form. The pupils will also go on an imaginary mission back in time to warn the people of Pompeii about the volcanic eruption. They will read an interactive eBook, locating key information in the text and creating an action plan. The writing tasks include creating an information leaflet and writing a non-chronological report using formal language. In vocabulary and spelling work this term, the pupils will focus on particular word patterns each week and complete a spelling test every Friday. Punctuation and grammar will be incorporated into our weekly English lessons and will include: abstract nouns, synonyms and antonyms, formal and informal language, and active and passive sentences.

Mathematics

In Mathematics, the pupils will begin studying ratio and proportion, looking at the relevant language and symbols, as well as solving problems involving fractions, scale drawing, scale factors and shape work. The pupils will follow this with a unit focussing on algebra. Within this unit, they will generate and describe linear number sequences, as well as expressing missing number problems algebraically and using simple formulae. In our fractions, decimals and percentages unit, the pupils will identify ways to convert between these different forms and use all four operations to solve calculations. They will also solve problems involving the calculation of percentages and the use of percentages for comparison and recall; they will use equivalences between simple fractions, decimals and percentages, including in different contexts. Finally, the pupils will study the perimeter, area and volume of a variety of 2D and 3D shapes. They will recognise that shapes with the same areas can have different perimeters and vice versa, and calculate the area of parallelograms and triangles using different methods. They will also calculate, estimate and compare the volume of cubes and cuboids using standard units.

Science

In our *Evolution and Inheritance* topic, the pupils will find out about how living things have changed over time. They will be introduced to the idea that characteristics are passed from parent to their offspring, but that they are not exactly the same. They will also learn that variation over time can make animals more or less likely to survive in particular environments (adaptation). The pupils will look at evolution and Charles Darwin's theory of natural selection, as well as palaeontologist Mary Anning's work with fossils. The pupils will study *Light*, recognising that light appears to travel in straight lines. They will use this idea to explain why shadows have the same shape as the objects that cast them, and that objects are seen because they give out or reflect light into the eye. They will also consider how we see things.

History

In History this term, the pupils will study The Tudors, focussing on two areas. Firstly, they will learn about the Tudor monarchs, comparing and contrasting their reigns, looking at how Henry VIII's desire to

have a male heir caused significant religious turmoil in England for decades, and the importance of Elizabeth I dying without an heir. The second half of this topic will focus on Tudor entertainment and exploration, including the Spanish Armada and Phillip II's claim to the English throne, as well as comparing and contrasting Tudor pastimes with Greek pastimes, and making observations about how daily lives changed during Tudor rule. In their study of *Early Islamic Civilisation*, the pupils will learn about the period of time directly after the death of the prophet Muhammad. This will include the study of Baghdad, the largest city in the world at this time. The pupils will also learn about the significant role of trade in the spread of Islamic culture and beliefs during this period.

Geography

In Geography, the pupils will study the world's biomes and climate zones. They will learn that biomes are a way to categorise the Earth's surface, and that these categories are based on climate patterns, soil types and the animals and plants that inhabit an area. They will find out more about terrestrial biomes and aquatic biomes, and that every part of the Earth's surface is a part of one or more biomes. They will also study aspects of the ten biomes: tropical rainforest, temperate deciduous forest, desert, tundra, taiga, grassland, savannah, marine, freshwater and ice. They will discover that climate is the average weather expected in a place, and that weather is the day-to-day conditions in a place. Finally they will learn that the Earth has seven zones of expected climate: polar, subpolar, temperate, tropical, sub-tropical, equatorial and sub-equatorial, and that biomes are directly linked to climate zones.

Computing

In Computing this term, the pupils will produce a class magazine using desktop publishing tools. They will source, write, edit and combine images and text from a range of sources. After that, pupils will use a blogging platform to explore issues related to social media, including how to decide whether information is reliable or not, showing respect and tolerance when responding to others' views, and discussing online bullying and how they should respond to it.

Religious Education

In RE, the pupils will study the topic *What is the Qur'an?* looking at this central religious text of Islam. They will study why this text is important to Muslims, what it teaches about God, how it influences the behaviour of Muslims, how Muslim children learn about the Qur'an and how significant it is to Muslims today. In *Expressing Faith Through the Arts*, the pupils will recognise that expressing faith involves feelings and emotions, find out how music can be a form of religious expression in many religions, understand how colour can be used to express religious feelings and ideas, and how art can be sacred and spiritual for believers. They will also discover how Islamic art helps Muslims to worship, and how drama is used to reinforce important teachings and stories in religions.

Design Technology

The pupils will use the computer graphics programme *2D Design* to create a disc with their name and the School crest on, followed by a clock with a character etched into it. They will then use acrylic paint to add colour to the etched sections of their disc and clock, including numbers on the clock face. They will use a line-bender to create a stand for their clock and add a clock mechanism.

Art

The pupils will study *Surrealism*, focussing mainly on the work of the Spanish painter, Salvador Dali. They will consider the surrealist artists' view that the way to find out about truth in the world was through the subconscious mind and dreams, rather than through thinking logically. The pupils will look at the use of dull and bright colours to give emphasis, and the use of automatism (performing actions without control or without conscious knowledge). They will also study Dali's use of everyday objects to symbolise various themes in his paintings.

Music

The pupils will be preparing for their production *Ye- Ha!* in May 2023 and will develop their singing technique; they will learn to keep in time, and they will work on musical notation and rhythm. Mad Dog McNut and his gang are running wild and Wilbur Hubbard, the cowardly cook at the Fourdoor Saloon, lands the job that no one wants - Sheriff of Splodge city. Luckily for Wilbur, Billie-Jo Brisket and her faithful steed 'Lightning' roll into town to lend a hand and suddenly the race is on to save the town. It's a rootin' - tootin' tale of crazy cowboys, barmy baddies, masked heroes and hidden gold! *Ye-Ha!* mixes comical characters, a side-splitting script and sparkling songs in a musical

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

This term the pupils will continue to follow the *Jigsaw* PSHE programme, firstly by exploring the topic *Dreams and Goals*. This unit focusses on the pupils' aspirations, how to achieve their goals and understanding the emotions that go with this. In the second half of the term, the pupils will study *Healthy Me*, during which time the pupils will focus on keeping themselves safe and healthy through the topics of drugs, exploitation, gangs, emotional/mental health and managing stress.

French

In French, the pupils will be introduced to French cursive writing. They will learn how to form the letters and write sentences themselves, copying an original text. They will retrieve their previous knowledge on the pronunciation of the alphabet and learn more about French pronunciation, in particular, the twelve most commonly used phonemes in the language. They will prepare a presentation about themselves, retrieving information from topics covered in the language over the last few years. To assist them, they will complete a booklet, and then learn their presentation, to deliver to their class.

Physical Education, Games and Swimming

During the Spring term, our J4 pupils will be taking part in: *Gymnastics* – they will perform balances with a partner, bearing their weight, travelling on apparatus and performing sequences in pairs or groups; *Dance* – they will further develop performance skills, working together to create, rehearse and perform a group sequence. They will dance in a variety of different styles and techniques and be able to recognise various styles. The pupils will enhance timings and transitions (levels, timings, and speed) to make the routine exciting and interesting to the audience; *Swimming* - they will further develop stroke technique in front crawl, breaststroke and backstroke to ensure smooth transition between strokes with rhythmical breaths. They will continue to improve swimming fitness, swimming 25 metres in all three strokes. They will develop an increased awareness of water safety, and awareness of the dangers in water, developing personal survival skills; *Indoor Athletics* – the pupils will develop physical, health-related fitness, including jumping, running, and throwing; *Football* - they will improve team play this term and develop individual skills; *Rugby* - our pupils will improve technical skills, for example rucking and tackling, and develop game understanding; *Hockey* – they will further develop stick skills to perform a range of skills to eliminate players in attacking and defending situations. They will develop an enhanced knowledge of the game including formation and tactics, applying these in different game situations. They will also gain game experiences to reflect upon and execute skills to fully understand the game; *Netball* – our pupils will enhance their array of passing skills, developing pass selection at different distances. They will further develop knowledge of the game, improving awareness of rules, positional play and tactics; they will reflect upon game play, developing set skills for playing position, for example shooting, marking and centre passes.