



Head Teacher: Mrs D Reynolds - BSc Hons QTS NPQH

Aim High

Never Give Up

Follow Your Dream

Lead By Example

December 2014

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you all have a wonderful holiday and make the most of the 2 week break. I look forward to seeing you all in 2015!

MAIN LEARNING THEME – China

Our theme for the first half term is China. To launch our theme we will be having a China day in Year 3. During the day children will experience some Chinese dance, do some Chinese writing and also look at and do some Chinese art. For this day I would like children to come into school wearing something red. This will be on **Tuesday 6th January 2015**.

During the theme we will be looking at where China is in comparison to England. We will also be learning about the different cultures within China and how they have changed through history. We will be considering the importance of animals in Chinese traditions, especially in terms of Chinese New Year. There will be a big focus on the 'Shang Dynasty' and how this has affected China's modern culture.

The key vocabulary we will be learning as part of this curriculum is listed below:

China, Chinese, Continent, Asia, Population, Currency, Endangered, Dynasty, Priest, Inscription and Legacy.

ENGLISH

Language and Literacy is due to restart on the first full week back. As a year group we will be looking at *Poetic language and word play*. We will be focussing on tongue twisters, riddles and nonsense poems. Some of the key words children will be learning about are; **repetition, alliteration, rhythm, rhyme, imagery and onomatopoeia**. If you have any poetry books at home, or access to the internet, it would be good for the children to have had a look at some of the different types of poetry before we start the unit. Another part to this unit involves looking at *Explanations*. This will focus on different water cycles.

Here is a list of wider reading materials linked to the unit:

The Works – Paul Cookson

The Works 4 – Pie Corbett and Gaby Morgan

Funky Chickens – Benjamin Zephaniah

Children who are part of Read Write Inc. will continue on this programme. Children are assessed regularly and change groups and adults as part of progressing through the programme. We will inform you when your child moves groups, or moves into our Language and Literacy programme.

MATHS

In maths we will be having a focus on *Time*. It would be very useful if you could start looking at time around the home and discussing time with your child. We will also be starting to revisit some of the themes that we have already covered in Year 3, starting with *addition and subtraction* looking at mental and written methods, to include some numbers with decimals in. This will be linked to our topic as much as possible.

Children across school will continue to work regularly in small groups on our Assertive Mentoring programme for maths.

PARENT/CARER INVOLVEMENT

As our focus next term is on China, we would be very grateful for any parents or carers to come and share any experiences they have had related to China. This could be from a visit you have made to the country, talking about how you celebrate Chinese New Year in your community or anything relevant to the theme.

As part of our theme I would like to invite you to a Chinese New Year celebration in Year 3 on **Wednesday 11th February 2015**. We will be having a traditional celebration in the classroom, where we will be serving traditional food which we would love to share with you.



HOME LEARNING

The Power Project for this theme is called **Chinese New Year**. There will be an A4 page sent home in January, outlining the different things that children can do towards this project. As always, the Power Project is optional. The Power Project should be returned by **Wednesday 11th February 2015**. As well as this, on a weekly basis children will be taking home a piece of English and Maths Home Learning each week. This will be sent home on a Wednesday and will be expected to be returned the following Wednesday.

VISITORS

As part of our theme we are hoping to invite a member of the community to bring in some samples of Chinese food for the children to taste. A letter will be sent home when this is arranged.

PE

Indoor PE will continue to be taught on a Tuesday morning and we will be doing Outdoor PE on a Thursday afternoon. We require every child to have a full kit brought in on a Monday every week, with it being taken home on a Friday. **NO jewellery is allowed** during PE sessions, with any earrings that are unable to be removed to be covered by a **plaster provided from home**.

The PE kit required is as follows:

- Plain White T-Shirt
- Black or Grey Shorts
- Plimsolls or Trainers
- Tracksuit bottoms for Outdoor PE

BREAK TIME SNACK

As your child is now in Key Stage 2 they are no longer provided with fruit at break time. Children can bring a snack from home and it must be a **healthy snack**, such as fruit. Please remember that Norwood is a nut free school.

SCHOOL MEALS

A hot school meal is available each day for your child's lunch. Please make payments by using ParentPay, our secure online payment system. Please contact the school office if you are experiencing any difficulties with ParentPay.

Mr K Burnham
Class Teacher

Mrs P Sprouse
Teaching Assistant

Mrs Z Fenwick
Teaching Assistant

Mrs J Dunkley
Teaching Assistant

Mrs D Reynolds
Head Teacher

