

11US Upper School Curriculum Newsletter



Autumn Term 2019

The development of the **curriculum** is the **whole school focus** for this year.

The teaching of **reading** will be the focus during this Autumn term.

'**Africa**' will also be a focus for all pupils this term, as we prepare to welcome teachers from our partner school in Nairobi for a week in November.

Art

Pupils will be working on the whole school theme, 'Africa'. They will begin with observational drawing of African artefacts before experimenting with pattern and colour. They will look at adornment and jewellery in traditional African dress. They will then start to think about recycled materials and how they could use modelling skills to create individual sculptures of faces (including Jewellery). These will be based mainly on recycled milk bottles or old paintbrushes.

Science

11US are in sets for Science this year.

All groups will be exploring 'Animals including Humans', looking at topics such as keeping our bodies healthy, skeletons and muscles, reproduction and growth, exploring our senses and grouping animals.

Pupils in Mr Newman's group will also be studying earth and space.

Mrs Hockey's group will be exploring light and mirrors.

Mrs Khambay's group will be learning about the seasons.

Music

In Music this term pupils will focus on performing using traditional African instruments, singing songs and completing a range of composition tasks linked to the musical 'Anansi Saves the Village' - a story about the effects of the slave trade on a West African village, with the music featuring traditional Ghanaian songs and percussion rhythms. We will continue our African theme as a whole-school focus up to the end of term, and share our musical progress in Chadsgrove's Christmas Shows in December.

P.E., Swimming and Fitness

P.E. takes place on Mondays.

The focus this half term is Polybat. The pupils will be learning to maintain a rally, serve and apply rules of the game.

The second half of the term the pupils will be improving their New Age Kurling skills and, in particular, tactical play.

Swimming will be on Thursdays. Pupils will be working towards individual goals. Please ensure that they have a named swimming costume and towel each week.

English

The literacy focus for this term: "World Literature and Poetry".

In Mrs Nolan's English group pupils will explore the narrative in traditional African short stories and poems, drawing inferences such as characters' feelings, thoughts and motives.

All groups will have a dedicated reading lesson which will include listening to African folk stories, reading appropriate level books to an adult and participating in guided reading sessions.

Some pupils will have their phonics and high frequency word knowledge extended using a multi-sensory approach.

Pupils will also explore different types of poetry and have a go at writing their own as part of our work around National Poetry Day.

Pupils will continue on individual reading development using Lexia as well as using their own reading books.

Mrs Taylor's English group will be looking at the African tale of 'Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters' (John Steptoe) and discussing the cultural differences as part of our whole school focus.

Mr Roger Dill-Russell's group will be developing their awareness of poetry and having a go at writing their own. They will also continue to practice and develop their individual reading skills.

Relationships

Pupils in 11US have a weekly lesson to focus specifically on 'relationships', which enables pupils to cover topics that might not otherwise be covered in subject lessons. This term we will be focusing on 'personal development'. We will explore personal goals and carefully monitor and celebrate progress together. Pupils will also have the opportunity to explore these areas further during Reflection Time and throughout class-based Curriculum Days.

Computing

This term pupils will focus on E-safety. Pupils will identify friends, identify personal information and evaluate websites and access online safety activities.

Food Technology

This term pupils will be learning about different foods/meals from Africa whilst continuing to develop our independence skills.

Humanities

During the first half term your child will be learning about the county of Kenya, to prepare them for the impending visit from the Kenyan teachers and also giving them a knowledge about Kenyan wildlife and culture. This will then be followed by learning about the rain forests of Africa, including the weather, animals and impending destruction of habitats.

Maths

Mrs Evans' group will be following our new Hamilton Maths Scheme this year. They will be looking at place value in number to 1000 and apply the skills learnt to money. Pupils will use a variety of methods to add, subtract, multiply and divide. They will describe and name 2D shapes and recognise and complete lines of symmetry.

Mr Newman's group will be developing their addition and subtractions skills, focusing on place value and tens and ones resources. Your child will focus on mental addition and subtraction within 10 and 20, utilising those skills to add and subtract bigger numbers. Within the multiplication and division units your child will develop their use of halve and quarter language and apply methodology to halve and quarter numbers.

Mr Dill-Russell's group will be developing their understanding of size and space using comparative and superlative language as well as measuring using standard measures.

How is my child's progress being recorded?

The children will be working from the National Curriculum, modified and differentiated to their individual needs, and will be assessed using the P scales and SOLAR.

Each child will follow their own personalised Individual Education Plan with their own set targets, which will be reviewed and monitored.