

9US 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.

Food Technology

In Food Technology pupils will be exploring foods with an African theme and developing our independence skills.

Art

This term art will take place in the Art Room with Mrs Lloydlangston. Pupils will be working on the whole school theme, 'Africa'. They will explore and draw masks and patterns before concentrating on the African landscape and Ndebele painted African huts. They will work with colour mixing and application, using different tools to create effects and the layering of back, mid and foreground. Pupils will design and build a Ndebele hut in 3 dimensions to put in the foreground of their final piece.

Computing

Pupil will use ICT across the curriculum, however within their computing lessons they will focus on:

- E-safety and staying safe online
- Using educational programs
- Data Handling - Collecting and adding information to databases.

Science

This term we will be exploring 2 different topics. The first is 'Light' where pupils will be exploring different light sources, how shadows are formed and how light travels. The second topic is 'our bodies' where we will be focusing in particular on identifying internal and external body parts, exploring our senses and how our external and internal senses are important for our survival. There will also be an overarching theme of inquiry and investigation.

Humanities

Our humanities focus is Africa this term. Pupils will be focusing on Geography this term, exploring the similarities and differences between the UK and Kenya. They will be preparing to meet our visiting teachers from Nairobi. In R.E pupils will be learning about Christianity and what the bible tells us about Jesus.

How is my child's progress being recorded?

All pupils are continuously assessed using SOLAR, which breaks down P Levels into small steps, so that we're able to track progression through each level.

Music

In Music pupils will focus on performing using traditional African instruments and singing African songs. With a focus on beat and rhythm, pupils will also explore African dance and create movement sequences of their own. We will continue our African theme as a whole-school focus up to the end of term, and share our progress in Chadsgrove's Christmas Shows in December.

Maths

In Mr Dill-Russell's group, we will be looking at counting, partitioning and calculating. We will look at counting out a specified number of objects in every day situations. We will learn to make sets on request and to recognise that, when counting, the number of objects in a set is not affected by their size or position. We will also be doing some simple addition using practical scenarios.

Mr Newman's group will be developing the four main areas of Maths with 8 small (2 week) units. In addition and subtraction we will be developing our ability to add and subtract 10s and 1s using physical resources. In multiplication and division we will be developing our understanding of halving, with extensions looking at thirds and quarters.

PSHE

Pupils in 9US will continue to have 'Options' on a Friday afternoon. They have the opportunity to make new option choices this term. Choices this term will include science club, aerobics, rebound therapy and book club. Our Positive Mental Health theme will focus on recognising our strengths and understanding the importance of making decisions to make us healthy. In our relationships lesson we will be looking at helping others and will be organising a fundraising event to support our partner school in Nairobi.

P.E., Swimming and Fitness

P.E this year is on a Thursday. During the first half of the term pupils will be develop their skills in various Table Games. The second half term the focus will be New Age Kurling.

Swimming will be on Wednesdays. Pupils will be working towards individual targets. Please send a labelled towel and swimming costume.

Forest School

Pupils will experience weekly sessions in our outdoor 'Forest School' environment, with a qualified Leader. These will take place on a Monday. Please ensure that your child has appropriate outdoor clothing.

English

Pupils are split into sets for English, all of whom will follow the same curriculum, personalised to their needs. The literacy focus for this term "World Literature and Poetry". Pupils will explore the narrative in traditional African short stories and poems, drawing inferences such as characters, feelings, thoughts and motives. The group will have a dedicated reading lesson which will include listening to African folk stories, reading appropriate level books to an adult and will participate in guided reading sessions.

Pupils in Group 5 will do an additional poetry unit, exploring different styles of poem and having a go at writing their own.

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

How can parents and carers support their child's learning?

Please use the Home-School books to communicate any useful information or interesting news about your child. Please provide any snacks for your child for break times, if appropriate. If you have any concerns, please feel free to call us. (If we can't come to the phone, we will call back as soon as we are able to.) THANK YOU!