

In this issue:

Every Year Group has chosen a continent as their focus for the first few weeks.

Year 3: Africa



Year 4: South America



Year 5: China



Year 6: Australia



Curriculum Enrichment Newsletter



October 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the new school year at The Godolphin Junior Academy and our very first curriculum enrichment newsletter.

The Autumn term is always an exciting time, with pupils keen to impress their new teachers and begin their journey in the new academic year. To make this journey stimulating and enriching from day one, The Godolphin Junior Academy has introduced 'The Around the World' theme. This has allowed the children to broaden their subject knowledge and skills through the fun-filled cross curricular projects.

The Godolphin Junior Academy is committed to providing the children with an exciting, challenging and purposeful curriculum which provides continuity and progression. Our aim is to prepare children for 'jobs that don't even yet exist, technologies that haven't yet been invented, to solve problems we don't even know are problems yet.'

The school curriculum, for The Godolphin Junior Academy, combines all the learning and other experiences the school has to offer.

To start the new term pupils at The Godolphin Junior Academy have been studying the different countries and continents of the world. The children have experienced a wide range of activities which have provided them with positive and valuable learning experiences. The children have explored the different landscapes, and cultures found across the world and have some wonderful art work associated with their chosen continent.

The project has projected the school's ambition and pursuit of excellence and we look forward to continuing our journey to further success.

Ms A Probert
Executive Principal

Year 3: Exploring Africa

As part of our whole school countries topic, Year 3 have thoroughly enjoyed learning about Africa through our cross curricular links with Art, Geography and English. Within Art the children have had the opportunity to refine some of the core artistic skills such as painting, blending and line art. This was completed through the use of a variety of different art mediums and different teaching strategies. They explored and created African masks, discussing its importance and its significance and representation of different masks for different moods and purpose. We explored Kente cloth patterns and colours and recreated these by painting lines and dots and weaving together the patterns to create a Kente cloth effect. We also explored silhouettes and recreated some amazing sunsets. The children have produced some high quality art work, some of which are currently on display on the year 3 Africa display.

Throughout the project, the children have been working collaboratively with their peers. This has helped develop their team work and communication skills. The project has not only been interesting and engaging, but has also developed the children's ability to identify that Africa is a continent with many countries within it.

This was further reinforced with our English Unit, in which we built on our skills of research and writing non chronological reports. We read and explored the creation story 'The Fire Children' which linked in nicely with PSHE and the fact that we are all special.

The children have been highly motivated and engaged with the topic that they have been covering.



to question is to grow

Year 4 – Exploring South America

South America, here we come! Year four began their learning journey with the fun and excitement of a flight to Viru Viru International airport in Bolivia, South America. We made passports, boarding passes, packed our suitcases and headed to check in. After check in, we were taken to the departure lounge where we read magazines and travel brochures as we waited for the departure gate to open. When we got the call we were very excited and headed towards the aeroplane (the hall). Some of us got to sit in first class where there was more leg room and the food and drink was exquisite. The safety talk showed us where the exits were and what to do in the case of emergency. What followed was a wealth of knowledge about the history of South America from the cultural attaché and the places to visit from the media officer as we enjoyed our on-board snacks and drinks. The flight ended as the captain talked us through the landing which was very loud, yet smoothly done!

In class we researched and learnt about the countries in South America. Each class studied in depth three countries each and the skills taught focused on in- depth exploration using the geographical language of human and physical features, looking at maps and using ICT. We looked for key information such as population, currency, food, industry and traditional clothing. Using our new found information we made posters, wrote postcards to family, made non-chronological reports, mini books with key facts and wrote letters home. We also studied various South American artists and created art work in their styles. The animals from the rainforest came to life using tissue paper, pastels and paint! We even joined the Brazilian carnival and made masks and head pieces using jewels, feathers and brightly coloured paints.

Year 4 had the best time ever learning about South America!



Year 5: A journey to China

Year 5's have thoroughly enjoyed the topic and had many opportunities to explore art in this unit.

Children were able to locate China and neighbouring countries on maps and using atlases. They studied the geographical features and some of the human features of the country.

They also learnt about the ancient art of Chinese Calligraphy. Children practised the 8 strokes and replicated marks and characters using black paint on different types of paper with increasing accuracy.

They learnt about the Chinese New Year that is celebrated in the month of January. Following instructions, they were then able to make Chinese lanterns.

They learnt about the Chinese dragon and wrote a range of interesting poems from acrostic to free verse.

In our narrative unit, children read and understood the story, The Three Golden Peaches through drama and story models which helped them to rewrite the story.

Children followed instructions to make their own Tangram which is an ancient puzzle with 7 pieces. Using these pieces they made Chinese animals of the zodiac: dragons, sheep, cat, rabbit etc.

Children had many opportunities to explore art and used a wide range of media such as pastels, pencils and paints. They have painted Chinese blossoms on fans. Through close observations of patterns in blue pottery children created their own designs and painted on rolls of paper and paper plates. They experimented with textures and used tissues and paints to create backgrounds for displays.

Finally, the children learnt about the terracotta soldiers that were discovered in pits in China. They then created their own terracotta soldiers using clay.



to question is to grow

Year 6 CELEBRATES AUSTRALIA!

This term, Year 6 have taken a whistle stop tour of Australia. Take a few moments to read about the key skills that our children enjoyed learning about.

What a fantastic opening to Australia – the land down under!

We discovered how the Aboriginal people thought the world had been created. All of our children immensely enjoyed reading and rewriting their own version of 'The Rainbow Serpent'.

On the geographical front, Year 6 discovered the various states that make up the land down under. They also learnt about the dynamics of each state with respect to the fact that each state has its own capital.

Our children discovered the scientific reason behind the destruction of the Great Barrier Reef – the home to countless species of aquatic animals. They understood that if we do not pay stringent and urgent attention to this prodigious natural resource; then countless future generations will have missed out. Pop into school to check out our amazing displays!

