**Tianjin Rego International School: Year 1 Curriculum Letter Spring Term 2011** 1

 Greetings:

Hello, and welcome to the second term at Tianjin Rego International School, Year 1! We hope that this will be an exciting time of continuing progress and achievement for your children.

Class Routines:

Children are encouraged to put everything in its proper place throughout the day,

and to look after their own belongings. This starts with them bringing in their homework folder and water bottles and putting them in the work boxes.

Children’s homework folders: please continue to check these and their homework diaries daily for messages from the teacher or school and remove them. Feel free to use homework diaries to communicate to the teacher in any event.

Equipment: Please make sure that everything a child has is named. This is especially the case for PE and swimming equipment.

Lunches:

There are a wide variety of options. The children are encouraged to try different foods, if buying school dinners, and to eat salad with every school meal.

Homework

The school policy is for about 20 minutes, 3 days a week. Homework generally consists of worksheets or tasks for maths, science and phonics practice, and children are given a spelling worksheet every week, with vocabulary to build up their stores of words.

**General points:**

Time should be allocated to do homework with the child. Adult support is vital,

but please allow the children to do as much as they can independently.

The children should read with adult support, every night.

Planned absences require written notification.

Children must bring their P.E. kits and change into them at school. This is to stay clean and healthy. Every Monday, children should arrive in full PE kit (including PE T-shirt) and with their school uniform in a bag. On Thursdays, children should bring full swimming kit (including goggles, sandals, swimming hat and towel).

We would be grateful if you could discourage your child from bringing in toys or cards to school as these can get lost, broken or left in the playground at times and this causes much heartache.

**Curriculum**

In this term, which lasts for ten weeks, the following aspects of the curriculum will be covered.

Literacy

Topics: this term, the children will learn about using labels and captions, what

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alphabetical order is and how to use a dictionary. They will explore fantasy stories in reading and writing exercises to stimulate creativity and expand their vocabulary and storytelling skills, and learn about writing poetry.

Reading:

Uses a mixture of the ‘look and say’ method (flashcards and sight vocabulary),

Phonics recognition (recognition of letter sounds). Begin to add expression to voice when reading aloud.

Guided reading- a more formal method of teaching, where a group of children

read the same book under the guidance of the teacher.

Writing:

Free expressive ‘writing’ to develop imagination and break down inhibitions.

Correct formation of letters (in lower case and numbers).

Even though it is important that they learn to spell High Frequency words, it is

essential that the children continue to develop their ability to sound out unfamiliar

words confidently. This is achieved through the teaching of phonics.

Speaking and listening:

Confidence in speaking is continually nurtured.

Listening skills are developed in the children throughout the year.

Children are encouraged to and assisted in learning English.

Numeracy

The children will continue working through the British National Curriculum for Year 1, which involves five areas of mathematics, cycled through to explore the following areas, among others:

Mental Maths.

Addition and subtraction within 50 and beyond.

Money, recognize coins of different values, find totals, give change and work out

how to pay using smaller coins.

Measure, capacity using standard units.

Shape, halves, symmetry and patterns.

Time, hour and half hour, introduction to quarter hours.

Simple graphs and problem solving activities.

ICT

• Once a week the children visit the computer suite to learn basic keyboard skills, using the painting program, Power Point, Clip Art and Publisher. I.C.T is also used across the curriculum to support and enhance other subjects; the children will become familiar with all aspects of computer use through lessons in different subjects.

• In this term, children will learn about using computers to label and classify.

Science

Sorting and using materials:

• The children will learn to identify common materials.

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• They will describe the properties of common materials, such as strength, flexibility, waterproofness and magnetism.

Growing Plants:

• The children will learn the names of different types of plants, and of different parts of plants.

• They will be introduced to the first elements of biology, with lessons in growth, change and feeding, and will learn to identify, name and sort plants.

Art

Investigating materials:

• In concert with the Science topic of materials, in Art lessons children will learn about the properties of materials such as paper, card, foil, shells, and other materials suitable for creating art with. Children will learn about properties of materials and will create art with materials in a number of different contexts.

Design and Technology

Fruit and Vegetables:

• Children will learn how to design a fruit salad, with reference to tastes and appearances.

• Children will learn to evaluate their designs for effectiveness and success.

Geography

The geography topic for this term is: “How can we make our local area safer? “

Become familiar with the local area around the school.

Understand traffic and other safety problems.

Appreciate how to keep themselves safe.

History

The history topic for this term is “Homes”.

Learn about basic features of houses and homes in the past.

Learn about common household items of the past and how they relate to common household items of today.

Contrast features of Victorian English houses with nineteenth-century Chinese houses.

P.E.

During Key stage 1 pupils build on their enthusiasm for movement, using it to explore and learn about their world. They start to work and play with other pupils in pairs and small groups.

By watching, listening and experimenting they develop their skills in movement and coordination, and enjoy expressing and testing themselves in a variety of situations.

• Focus this term:

• Continuing the development of hand eye coordination, and health and fitness understanding through team games and movement activities.

• Developing team work skills and confidence in working with others.

 Building confidence as they progress in their skill development of basic swimming strokes and water based skills, such as floating and submerging.

 Continue to develop PE specific language commands and the pupil **Tianjin Rego International School: Year 1 Curriculum Letter Spring Term 2011** 4

understanding of these words.

Music:

The children will continue learning to sing, to understand music and to play musical instruments in weekly lessons with Miss Packer.

They will learn about rhythm, pitch, tone and the names of different musical instruments.

Chinese:

Children will continue to study Chinese with Miss Helen. This study will include speaking and listening in Chinese, and the study of reading and writing Chinese characters. In addition, children will learn about Chinese Festivals such as Chinese New Year, their significance and cultural practices.

Personal, Social and Health Education (P.S.H.E.)

Resolving conflicts: the children will learn how to handle conflicts, including rivalry, jealousy and anger, in peaceful manners. Children will learn about conflict resolution in personal relationships, in the school, in the wider community and in the global community.

People Who Help Us: the children will learn, in this PSHE unit, about people in the community who help us. These include nurses and doctors in hospitals, police officers and fire officers.The children will learn about how and why to help others in different situations.

After-School Activities

Children are provided with a range of after-school activities, lasting from 3.30 to 4.30. For Year 1, these are:

Monday: the children will have a choice of two clubs to attend:

1. The Key Stage 1 ICT Club (Mr. Kohll): fun learning computer games, played at their own level.

2. The Key Stage 1 Games Club, run by Mr. Simpson, will consist of indoor and outdoor sporting activities.

Tuesday: House Activities. During this time, children engage in preparation for or participation in competitive House Activities, divided into the TRIS Houses of Phoenix, Pegasus and Dragon.

General Comments

I’m happy to say that we had a very good first term, with several new arrivals through it, and with the children making good progress in academic subjects, extra-curricular activities and social development. We are now looking forward to many weeks of exciting activities and progress in all areas during the coming weeks. We hope that you and your child or children will enjoy the Spring Term.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Kohll.