



This document is designed to inform you of the learning planned for your child's next unit of inquiry. In addition we offer you some optional ideas for supporting your child at home.

Y3 Unit Overview

Where We Are in Place and Time

In our next unit, the Y3 students will be inquiring into the human and natural environment and how people adapt to and alter their environment. We will be focusing on the central idea **'Environmental and population changes have an effect on people'** and learning all about the causes and consequences that population changes have on people and the environment. Students will be developing their research skills when gathering information from a variety of first and second hand sources such as maps, surveys, direct observation, books, films, people and museums. Over the course of the next six weeks the students will become more effective inquirers, improving their ability to pose thoughtful and relevant questions. Students will be focusing on thinking skills in particular analysis (seeing relationships, cause and effect) and dialectical thought as they explore the unit from different perspectives.

You may wish to support your child at home in the following ways:

Developing vocabulary:



Key vocabulary used in this unit will be:

population, reasons, causation, change, environment, landscape, impact, consequences, adapt, perspective, history, past, present, future, lifestyle, patterns, fraction, numerator, denominator, sharing, equal

Please consider using your Mother Tongue to develop your child's understanding of these words.

Conceptual questions:



This unit will be addressed through the lens of **change**, **causation** and **perspective**. Over the next few weeks try to ask your child lots of questions to start discussion about how and why things change, what changes they have experienced and the causes for those changes. Also explore their perspectives about changes that have occurred in their lives such as moving house, moving schools, growing up etc. Spend time exploring cause and effect relationships such as what would be the effect if everyone had to use public transportation or if you won a million dollars.

Fun things to do together:



Explore different areas of Hong Kong from really condensed areas such as TST and Causeway Bay to areas with less people such as the New Territories. Discuss the differences in population and the reasons that people would choose to live there. Look at different countries and explore the size and populations. Discuss the differences and why they think the population is different. Would they rather live somewhere that has less people? Why? Why not? Discuss what the effect would be if 1 million people came to Hong Kong or if 1 million people left.

Look for action:



ACTION is a key element of the Primary Years Programme. We are always looking to see how children take their learning and apply it independently. This can take many forms - from a discussion about the Unit of Inquiry at home initiated by your child, role-play or even a request to bring a book or artifact in to school because it relates to the work we have been doing in school. Now that you know what the unit is all about please keep your eyes open for evidence of action and let us know! **Any action that you tell us about will be kept as part of your child's records.**





Alongside the key concepts, attitudes, learner profile attributes and action elements of the Primary Years Programme there is a body of knowledge that will be taught during the course of each unit. The main learning outcomes are outlined below for your reference. The children's understanding of each objective is assessed before each planned learning experience in order for us to pitch the work according to your child's ability and needs:

ENGLISH:

Students will read and demonstrate their understanding of inference – understanding what the author is meaning without explicitly saying it. In writing they will begin to proofread, edit and publish their writing and improve their planning skills through drawing and jotting their ideas. They will practice their writing skills by writing recounts and use descriptive language to create visual images for the reader. To develop listening and speaking skills, students will be using language to inquire, explain and compare.

MATHS

The main focus for our Number work will be around the concept of fractions. Students will read, write and compare fractions, use the language, find fractions of shapes, numbers and quantities along with adding and subtracting fractions and comparing improper fractions and mixed numbers. In Measure the students will estimate, compare and measure objects using standard and non-standard units of measurement for length. They will also be given opportunities to identify and describe relationships between units of measurement eg. 10mm is the same as 1cm. In Handling Data the students will be looking at changes in population.

SCIENCE and SOCIAL STUDIES

As students explore 'Human and natural environment' in Social Studies, they will work towards the following learning outcomes:

- How population growth has contributed to environmental changes
- Describe how peoples' activities influence places and the environment and are influenced by them
- The various ways people adapt to a changing environment
- People alter the physical environment by creating (buildings, roads, malls...)
- Explore where people and places are located and why they are there

In order to develop our social studies skills we will focus on formulating and asking questions about the past, the future, places and society as well as use and analyse evidence from a variety of historical, geographical and societal sources.

CHINESE

This term the topics of home, housing, location will be included in Chinese. We will have discussion on house moving, people and living environment. Link to the unit will be also made through general discussion on concepts of change, similarities and differences etc.

Your child will learn best of all when school and home work as a team. If you have any questions at all please do not hesitate to contact us.

