

# The American School in London

## Grade 1: Semester 1 Curriculum Guide

By the end of the first reporting period, these are the ideas, concepts, and skills your child will have learned. We acknowledge that all children learn at different paces, and that it takes the students different lengths of time to master skills and concepts. Your child's teacher will update you on their initial social, emotional, and academic progress at October conferences and provide a more formal report card in February.

### Approaches to Learning

Social skills and emotional development are essential for success. Grade 1 students create classroom agreements that support being respectful, responsible, and safe. Children develop new friendships, resolve conflicts constructively, and interact cooperatively with peers and appropriately with adults. Children are encouraged to be attentive listeners, participate in class discussions, and make relevant responses.

### Reading

Grade 1 students acquire and apply literacy skills through a balance of small group guided reading lessons, shared reading experiences, and independent reading of just right books. Children are encouraged to read fiction and nonfiction text with fluency, expression and increased comprehension.

### Writing

Our writing approach emphasizes creativity, building confidence in writing, and developing fluency. Children are given the opportunity to write, revise, edit, publish, and share both fiction and nonfiction pieces. We emphasize the connection between writing and phonological awareness through the study of letters, sounds, and words. This practice enables children to take risks in spelling. Children develop their handwriting skills by practicing proper letter formation and spacing.

### Speaking and Listening

In Grade 1, we expect our students to learn, practice and model effective communication skills. The students are given many opportunities to express their ideas, new understandings, and feelings. Active listening and speaking are encouraged every day.

### Math

The Grade 1 math curriculum is based on the Common Core State Standards and develops students' conceptual understanding of key ideas and mathematical reasoning and problem solving skills. This semester, students deepen their understanding of number and data. They also further their exploration of operations, computation and measurement. Students play games individually and in cooperative groups and use manipulatives to solidify their conceptual understanding. They are encouraged to use a wide variety of tools and strategies to solve problems and explain their thinking.

## Social Studies

Grade 1 students develop an understanding of their community and the world around them. In social studies, students celebrate diversity and learn accurate language for human differences through various activities. They will practice self-awareness, confidence, family pride and positive social identities.

## Science

In science, Grade 1 students participate in inquiry-based projects related to light and sound. Emphasis will be placed on asking questions to plan and conduct investigations into cause and effect. Students will apply engineering practices to design and construct a device to communicate over distances.

## Art

Grade 1 students are introduced to a variety of art techniques, art mediums and purposes in creating art. They learn about the elements of art starting with Line, exploring how lines can be used for creating patterns and designs as well as in creating more recognizable images after applying some drawing exercises. Other elements such as Shape, Color and Form are introduced through the study of artists, which helps to inspire students' own creative expression. Students have two, 50-minute lessons every eight days.

## Music

Grade 1 students develop their sense of pulse and rhythm through body percussion and untuned percussion instruments. Students are introduced to basic rhythmic notation and start using a reduced staff to read and write simple melodic patterns. Tuned percussion instruments such as glockenspiels, xylophones, and boomwhackers are used to develop students' awareness of pitch and timbre. Through listening activities, students learn about a variety of instruments and begin to explore musical character. Students develop their confidence and facility in singing and prepare for a winter concert which includes songs with dances and instrumental parts. Students have three 30-minute music lessons every eight days.

## PE

Grade 1 students practice how to move safely in personal and general space. They explore skipping, hopping, jumping, catching and balancing through individual and group games. Problem solving, risk taking and decision making skills are reinforced, as are respect and empathy. Students attend 30-minute lessons every other day.

## Spanish

Grade 1 students develop an understanding of basic Spanish through exposure to authentic language and learning about the culture of different Spanish speaking countries. Students listen to music and read alouds, participate in games where instruction is given in Spanish and interact with each other using high frequency words. Listening skills are at the center of the learning, while speaking may start to appear as short answers to basic language prompts. The program covers basic vocabulary for greetings, feelings, numbers, colors, school, family and body parts. Students have three, 30-minute lessons every eight days.

