

# The American School in London

## Grade 1: Semester 2 Curriculum Guide

By the end of the second 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.

### Approaches to Learning

Social skills and emotional development are essential for success. Grade 1 students continue to follow classroom agreements that support being respectful, responsible, and safe. Children continue to resolve conflicts constructively, interact cooperatively with peers, interact appropriately with adults, and deepen current friendships. Children are still 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. Having studied narrative and opinion writing in the first part of the year, our writing work continues with an exploration of realistic fiction and informational writing. 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 editing skills by practicing proper letter formation, punctuation, spacing, and correct use of capitals.

### Speaking and Listening

In Grade 1, we expect our students to continue to practice and model effective communication skills. 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 aligned to the Common Core State Standards, with an emphasis on sense making, reasoning, problem solving, and flexible thinking. This semester, students continue to deepen their understanding of place value, operations and measurement. Students work both independently and with peers to develop their reasoning skills through a range of games and activities, and use manipulatives and models to solidify their understanding and represent their thinking. In addition, daily math routines continue to support instruction and reinforce mathematical ideas.

## Science

In Science, Grade 1 students participate in inquiry-based projects related to life science with a focus on life cycle. Emphasis is placed on asking relevant questions, making predictions, observations, investigations, and explanations based on recorded information.

## Social Studies

In Social Studies, Grade 1 students develop an understanding of their community and the world around them. This semester students learn to expand their understanding of community, develop interviewing skills, and gain a greater awareness of the roles that we all have in supporting each other within our school.

## Spanish

This semester, Grade 1 students will continue to work on securing their listening skills and using Spanish to share basic information about themselves. Some of the vocabulary words we will use in the class include parts of the body, clothing, foods and adjectives.

## PE

The Grade 1 PE program is focused on creating opportunities for movement challenges. The children practice visual tracking skills such as striking with a short-handled implement, throwing, and catching individually and to a target through the use of different size balls. Through cooperative games, the students become increasingly aware of how their bodies respond to exercise and practice positive social interaction. In swimming, they begin to further explore and be comfortable in the deep end. By the end of the year, we encourage the children to swim 25 meters without touching the floor.

## **Art**

This semester, Grade 1 students continue to explore color, form, shape and texture to form the basis for their expressive work. They make, evaluate, create and complete projects that represent their personal preferences and style. Students look at the relationship between their learning in art and other subjects to create a visual work that connects to topics, such as a community project. Students also investigate and use observation in preparation for making a work of art, understanding that people from different places and times make art for a variety of reasons.

## **Music**

This semester, students continue to develop their understanding of rhythm and metre through basic rhythmic notation and Dalcroze-inspired dance activities. Students complete individual and collaborative composition projects and create a listening diary in response to a variety of different musical styles. Students also participate in a summer concert for which they learn multiple songs and choreographies.