

EDINBURGH STEINER SCHOOL: "AT A GLANCE" CURRICULUM OF THE LOWER SCHOOL

CLASS	HISTORY	ENGLISH	MATHEMATICS	ENVIRONMENTAL	STUDIES	FOREIGN LANGUAGES	GARDENING	EURYTHMY	RELIGION	HANDWORK	CRAFT	DRAWING	PAINTING	MUSIC	DRAMA	GAMES/GYM
1	Archetypal images revealed through the telling of FAIRY TALES	The LETTERS of the alphabet arise through stories and pictures. Simple WORDS. READING their own writing. Practice in speaking Poems with a strong rhythm	WHOLE NUMBERS Introduced through quantitative aspect. COUNTING in rhythm Roman Numerals and simple SUMS + - x ÷	Stories from NATURE involving gnomes, fairies and the elements. A wakening to the wonder of nature through observation. Seasons table	The Classroom. The Playground				Stories which awaken wonder, reverence & gratitude	KNITTING on 2 needles made by the pupils. Making a white lamb and other animals		FORM-DRAWING: Straight lines & curves, letters & patterns. Illustrations from stories using block crayons	WATER COLOURS on wet paper. Simple colour exercises using primary colours. Mood more important than form.	SINGING: pentatonic and other seasonal songs. Singing and action games. Clapping rhythms. Learning an instrument e.g. bamboo pipe or lyre.	Acting games. Children often perform a short play for parents. All words spoken by whole class.	Circle games
2	Legends of THE SAINTS, THE KING OF IRELAND'S SON: A Celtic Tale rich in archetypal images. FABLES of Aesop & La Fontaine	CURSIVE WRITING: Lower case letters WRITING, simple sentences of their own SPELLING - consonant & vowel blends, First CLASS READER, Speech & Poetry practice	HUNDREDS, TENS & UNITS. Whole number sums carrying and borrowing. TIMES TABLES learned through rhythmic chanting. Short multiplication, short division & mental arithmetic	More stories of animals, plants, birds and insects. A wakening awareness of the four seasons		FRENCH & GERMAN: Both languages taught orally for the first 3 years through songs, games, counting, plays, dialogues, seasonal poems, months of the year etc	Bulb planting, seed sowing, looking after the garden and seasonal activities	Movements in nature (wind, water) and movements of the soul (fairy tales). Straight & curved lines. The musical interval of the fifth		PLAIN & PURL KNITTING patterns involving 2 colours. Making a recorder case. Knitting gnomes	MODELLING: Exploring form in beeswax or plasticine. Subjects taken from nature or stories	Free-hand drawing of circles, squares, triangles, etc. Illustrating stories from Lain Lesson symmetry & mirror forms	Continuing "wet on wet" theme with the range of colours extended to include secondary colours	Singing, making a bamboo pipe and pipe-playing.	Fables may be acted out or plays based on the lives of the Saints. Still mainly choral but some individual speeches	Singing games. Long rope skipping. Beanbag exercises. Running, skipping and jumping
3	Biblical story of THE CREATION and other OLD TESTAMENT STORIES, e.g. JOSEPH, MOSES, DAVID	GRAMMAR: The parts of speech including noun, adjective, verb, adverb. Writing short compositions, punctuation, spelling rules, reading books chosen from class library	MEASURING: Practical tasks to do with weight, measure, capacity and time. Long multiplication, continued practice in tables, 4 processes, carrying & borrowing mental arithmetic	FARMING; the four elements, the cycle of the year, grains, soil and livestock. HOUSE-BUILDING: from caves to modern dwellings. Design and construction of a house. FISHING, MINING, field trips & practical work	Encouraging observation of the environment		Visit to local farm for planting, harvesting, ploughing etc	Movements from farming & house building. Scale of C and the major Interval of the third	Stories from and in the mood of the Old Testament. Stories with a practical theme	Knitting a hat with their own design using up to four colours. Rib knitting	Modelling in CLAY. Plasterwork using moulds	Above/below mirror drawings. Illustrations to Main Lesson themes using wax and water soluble crayons	Themes taken from Main Lesson topics. Forms emerge from colour. Colour perspective.	Singing and pipe playing. Music notation is introduced. Notes and rests. Instrumental lessons are encouraged.	Longer plays performed with many individual roles usually in verse	Balancing, tumbling, forward roll. Toy games with a story
4	NORSE MYTHOLOGY, HISTORY OF EDINBURGH	Past, present & future tense. The 8 parts of speech including conjunctions, pronouns, prepositions. Writing stories, letters and accounts from the Main Lesson	FRACTIONS: Factors and prime numbers, simple problems involving time, money, etc. Long division, FREEHAND GEOMETRY, mental arithmetic	THE HUMAN BEING AND THE ANIMALS: Man's relationship to the animal kingdom. Study of a number of animal species and habitats	GEOGRAPHY, HOME SURROUNDINGS, MAP MAKING, THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT and GEOGRAPHY OF EDINBURGH	Written work begins in French & German with basic GRAMMAR, verbs in the present tense, making their own reader & oral work	Seasonal activities	Alliteration exercises. Exercises with copper rods. The alphabet in Eurythmy. Rhythms, forms & new musical keys	Stories which highlight the polarity of good and evil.	CROSS-STITCH: Plotting & designing own mirror patterns & name. Making a pencil case. Hand sewing	Modelling animal forms & geometric shapes in clay. Clay sculpture.	Free-hand drawing of Geometric shapes. Drawing from direct observations	Animal forms arise out of the experience of colour. Themes from Norse Mythology & local geography	Singing rounds. All pupils learn to play the recorder. Music notation continues	A class play, often based on Norse Myths, is performed	Individual skipping. Balance exercises. Tumbling. Toy games with more advanced roles
5	MYTHOLOGY OF INDIA, PERSIA, BABYLON, EGYPT & GREECE. HISTORY OF THE GREEKS up to Alexander the Great	Active & passive voice Direct & reported speech Descriptive, report & letter writing using ink. Using a dictionary. Regular practice in reading, spelling, grammar, punctuation. Individual projects	DECIMALS, the 4 processes, problem solving. Calculations involving mixed, top-heavy & vulgar fractions Converting decimals to fractions and vice versa. Regular practice in basis skills	Further study of ANIMALS, including birds & insects. BOTANY: a comprehensive study of the plant kingdom	GEOGRAPHY OF SCOTLAND: The land & its people. THE BRITISH ISLES	Continuation of GRAMMAR: verbs in past, present and future tense. Vocabulary and oral work. A background in Ancient Greek is sometimes given	Timetabled GARDENING lessons begin. Growing annuals from seed. Pupils learn to tend their own plots	Movement & forms based on the ancient mythologies. Copper rod exercises. Musical keys practised & extended	The legend of King Arthur is often a theme for the year	Knitting a pair of socks on 4 needles	Cuneiform & hieroglyphic script on clay tablets. Greek vases, oil lamps etc. Fired in kiln. Mosaic work.	Styles from different mythologies incl. Greek and other forms. Plants.	Forms become more defined. Extended range of colours used. Light & dark, plants & seasonal themes	Part-singing begins. Music theory. Recorder playing continues. Class orchestra starts	A class play may be performed. Regular practice in clear articulation	Greek sports: running, jumping, discus, javelin, wrestling. Juggling
6	HISTORY OF ROME: the Republic, the Empire. The life of Christ, the spread of Christianity and the rise of Islam. MEDIEVAL EUROPE	Conditional sentences punctuation, spelling & sentence structure. Writing - descriptive, narrative & characterisation, business letters and reports. Regular BOOK REPORTS. Longer poems & ballads. Project work	MONEY PERCENTAGE incl. Interest, profit & loss. GEOMETRY: construction of precise forms using compasses. AREA, average, ALGEBRA, directed numbers (-1 etc). Regular practice in basic skills, tables, mental arithmetic	SCIENCE PHYSICS: sound, light & heat. GEOLOGY: a study of the mineral kingdom, water cycle, etc	DIFFERENT PEOPLES OF THE WORLD. EUROPE	GRAMMAR: verb cases, simple reading texts, poems, songs, dialogues & conversation. A background in Latin is sometimes given	Growing vegetables, soil preparation, composting & digging	Geometric forms. New rhythms, forms, poems & musical pieces. Evolutionary sequence. The octave gestures for musical intervals	Stories from the four gospels or other stories related to the life of Christ	Hand sewing & embroidering a handwork bag. Designing & sewing a felt animal	WOODWORK: convex & concave forms: carving an egg, spoon & a bowl	Geometric drawing using compasses. Precise work which can be enhanced by careful use of colour	Contrasting moods of 4 elements or different climatic regions of the world. Exploring art from different ethnic cultures. Maps	Part-singing and the Lower school choir. Recorder playing. School orchestra. Music theory with text book	Improvisation & drama exercises may be done, leading to a whole class production. Lighting and costume design explored	Team games. Aerial skills. Gymnastics. Pre-sport preparation
7	THE AGE OF DISCOVERY & THE RENAISSANCE, THE REFORMATION: Biographies of men and women from this time e.g. Jeanne d'Arc, Marco Polo, Leonardo, Luther	Grammar review, compound sentences, clauses comprehension & summaries. Writing in prose and poetry in a variety of styles based on the theme of WISH, WONDER & SURPRISE. Longer poems and projects	ALGEBRA: solving equations and using formulae. GEOMETRY: theorem of Pythagoras. Other theorems in Geometry. Area of basic shapes incl. Circle, squares & square roots and number powers	PHYSICS: Heat, sound, light, electricity & magnetism. CHEMISTRY: combustion, chemical transformations, acids & basis and salts. The lime cycle. HEALTH & NUTRITION	Another continent e.g. Asia, the AMERICAS. ASTRONOMY: observation of the heavenly bodies and their movement	Revision and extension of GRAMMAR and vocabulary. Poetry (ballads), stories, plays and conversation skills	Landscaping projects around the school grounds. Environmental projects	Contrasting moods based on theme of "wish, wonder & surprise." Basic elements of Eurythmy are moulded into an artistic whole	Biographies showing the strength and compassion of the human spirit in challenge and adversity	Using hand-operated sewing machines moving on to electric sewing machines. Making a garment of own choice. Design & pattern making. Introducing different crafts or revisiting previously learned crafts	WOODWORK: Construction work. Accurate measuring, cutting, simple joining & fixing. Making practical objects & wooden toys	Introduction to Perspective Drawing: an appreciation of harmony, scale & proportion	Themes from the Renaissance as well as Nature	Class singing. Lower school choir. Orchestra or recorder groups. Music theory. Biographies of composers. Music projects.	Improvisation. Speech & articulation exercises. Whole class production.	Team games e.g. Basketball, hockey, table tennis, gymnastics
8	THE REVOLUTIONS: English, French & American. Industrial THE TWENTIETH CENTURY	Summary of Grammar. Appreciation of different literary genres and styles. Metaphor and Simile. CLASS 8 PROJECT: An in-depth study on a subject chosen by the individual, including an oral presentation.	3-D construction of GEOMETRIC FORMS incl. PLATONIC SOLIDS, VOLUME & SURFACE AREA. Simultaneous equations, ration and proportion, elementary statistics, graphs & loci	PHYSICS: Heat, sound, light, electricity & mechanics, pneumatics and hydraulics. PHYSIOLOGY: the circulatory system & muscles. ANATOMY: study of the human skeleton	Other continents e.g. AFRICA, AUSTRALIA. World Geography	Preparation for CLASS 8 EXCHANGE: a 6/7 week cultural exchange with a French or German speaking Steiner School	No timetabled Gardening lessons in Class 8	No timetabled Eurythmy lessons in Class 8			WOODWORK further construction work. Mortise & tenon joints. Making lamps and/or small tables	Constructions using laws of perspective. Exact drawing of 3-D solid geometric forms	Various techniques and media are explored e.g painting on glass, coloured inks etc		Preparation & performance of CLASS 8 PLAY: a full length production of e.g. Shakespeare	Basketball, badminton, hockey, table tennis, volleyball, dodge ball, gymnastics.