

Primary 4 Class
Academic Year 2012 – 2013
Term 1
English Subject
P4E

Topics and Schedules – **Update 15 August 2012**

Please refer to the table below to guide you through the term:

Week	Topics	To Note
1-6 (Fantastic Animals)	Information Reports Direct and Indirect Objects Subject-Verb Agreement Suffixes Use of Encyclopedias	Spelling Tests every Wednesday. (18 & 25 July) Topical Review 1 (Unit 1 Topics) A&E1: Information Report <i>Topical Review 2 (Unit 1 Topics)*</i>
7 & 8 (I am Special!)	Diaries Compound sentences Adverbial Phrases Use of Dictionaries	Spelling Tests every Wednesday. (1 & 8 August)
8 & 9 (Fossils & Dinosaurs)	Connectors Quantifiers Online Research	Spelling Tests every Wednesday. (15 & 29 August) Topical Review 3 (Unit 3 Topics) A&E2
10 ~ Term 2 (Poems Tell Stories Too)	Narrative Poems Possessives Phrasal Verbs Prefixes Saying Verbs Reciting Poetry	Spelling Tests every Wednesday. (12 September) Topical Review 4 (Unit 4 Topics)

Activities and Dates above might change or be modified, with due notification.

Dear P4E Parents,

Class Update

The students were hard at work on reviewing the concept of **Direct and Indirect Objects** and on studying **Suffixes** these past two weeks.

Although their text book focused on the **suffixes –ous, -ful and –less**, the students were quite excited over the whole idea of **root words and the affixes** that it seemed to be a good time to expand their knowledge of affixes, their meanings and how these additional letters can change words and how they are used.

It was very amusing and exciting to figure out what the root words of different words were – and it was quite a delight to watch them learn that prefixes and suffixes can sometimes be both present in words they think have only one (ex monotonous – students were yet unaware of prefix mono-) and that some words which sound like they have suffixes do not have root words to match (ex scrumptious and delicious).

To fuel their excitement in learning something new and to strengthen their understanding of the concepts of root word, prefix and suffix, we played a few games online. Here are links to the sites we used in class:

Jelly Fish game

Students were informed that the label "root word" is sometimes interchanged with "base word."

http://www.sadlier-oxford.com/phonics/5_6/fishtanks1/fishtanks1.htm

Suffix Matching Game

Students match words with suffixes to their meaning or a phrase describing the word.

<http://www.oswego.org/ocsd-web/match/dragflip.asp?filename=kderittesuffix>

*Quite loud and startling intro music, best to have volume down real low.

For students who want to review their spelling notes on adding suffixes, here's a game we haven't played in class but will definitely be beneficial for their revision:

Fish 'Em Up!

http://www.missmaggie.org/scholastic/fishemup2_eng_launcher.html

Here is a link to a site with a wealth of information on affixes and root words:

First School Years - <http://www.firstschoolyears.com/literacy/word/other/prefixes/prefixes.htm>

*Some of the charts I sent home came from First School Years.

To make learning a bit more dynamic in class, apart from completing worksheets and focusing on class discussions, we also made suffix books for the three suffixes we focused on. The children were quite challenged by the third set which required them to fill in the boxes of words on their own. It was not easy to find words with the suffix -ous, even after filling in their HW on this same suffix. The students, however, rose to the challenge and completed their books today. Do ask to have a look at these books as the children thoroughly enjoyed assembling them and designing their book covers.

Also, please encourage them to use these Suffix Books as they practice writing sentences that include the words in the words cards stapled to their Suffix Books. They have been tasked to write at least one sentence for each word on a piece of paper, choose their six favourite sentences from the ones they wrote and write these sentences on the lined area in their Suffix Books. This will make more sense once you've seen the books they brought home.

As for those who left early for their break, don't worry, your books are waiting to be made as soon as you arrive back to school.

All these activities were geared towards building a solid foundation on understanding root words, the impact of affixes and the wealth of words we find when we utilize these words and word fragments. A solid understanding of this concept will make future lessons on prefixes and more suffixes easier for the students to comprehend. It will also assist them in building vocabulary and in understanding words they do not know by checking if it is a root word with an affix and, if it is one, what the combination means.

Topical Review

The results of the TR1 last **6 August 2012 (Monday)** were released last 7 August 2012. The students were asked to bring their TRs home for their parents to look through and sign. Some students came back with unsigned TRs. These have been kept awaiting release after the Lebaran Holiday.

The TR showed a need to review Direct and Indirect Objects for some students. As a class, however, they show strength in understanding subtle nuances in sentence meaning as most of them identified which singular collective nouns were considered singular subjects and which ones needed verbs in their plural form. This was as much an exercise in logic as it was in grammar – and they all did quite well.

Holiday Homework

Primary 4 students' holiday homework this break is in the form of a booklet entitled **"My Vacation Journal."** Its primary objective is to encourage students to write regularly for a set short period of time so as to lead them towards the habit of writing regularly. Its secondary objective is to introduce Unit 2's composition lessons on Diaries and documenting everyday life.

**Please note that the "My Vacation Journal" holiday homework is not confined to students who are leaving the country over the holidays. Students who will stay in Jakarta are also encouraged to keep a journal on how they spent their days. However, students who will not leave Jakarta are exempted from completing the "Before My Vacation" and the "After My Vacation" pages at the beginning and end of the journal.*

I have attached a few files to ensure that all students have copies of all learning tools released in the last two weeks. Please find the following attached to the email this comes with:

1. 02 P4 Term1 Chart Suffixes_ous_ful_less
Each student has three of this ws. One for each suffix. Some of the answers for these charts are in attachment 03 PPT 3 Suffixes (-ous, -ful, -less)
2. 03 P4 Term1 PPT Suffixes_ous_ful_less (reviewer)
3. 04 P4 Term1 WS Suffixes_ful_less
4. 05 P4 Term1 "My Vacation Journal"
In case your child did not receive one before leaving for the break, please find the attached pdf to print.
5. 06 P4 Term1 Vacation Journal Guide
6. 07 P4 Term1 James and the Giant Peach Activity Book
A part of this compilation was given to the students a couple of weeks ago (6 August) to re-ignite their interest in the class book. I have attached the full pdf file in case you would like to have additional activity sheets with you. This is OPTIONAL and need only be printed and used if you would like your child to complete the activity book.
7. We downloaded Our First Years word lists for -ful and -less for our English files. Here are the links for your convenience:
-ful Word List
<http://www.firstschoolyears.com/literacy/word/other/prefixes/resources/-ful%20word%20bank.pdf>
-less Word List
<http://www.firstschoolyears.com/literacy/word/other/prefixes/resources/-less%20word%20bank.pdf>

Our next TR is scheduled on 30 August (Thursday), after the Lebaran break but will be re-scheduled to 5 September (Wednesday) to comply with our Wednesday scheduled English assessments. My apologies for re-scheduling it again.

As always, you may reach me through my email if you have any questions or clarifications: chiesipin@nh.piagetacademy.org.

Cheers,
Chie