



Greasby Infant School pioneers Mandarin for all!



Since 2007, Chinese teaching and learning has become intrinsic to Greasby Infant School and we are delighted that, during the current academic year, we are now able to extend our provision even further.

This year sees the introduction of Mandarin for all pupils in Foundation 2, Year 1 and Year 2. With the support of our local Confucius Classroom, Calday Grange Grammar School, it has now been possible to incorporate lessons on a regular weekly basis for everyone in the School.



Children singing their Mandarin Tiger song, Liang zhi laohu at the local church fete.

Our aim has always been to ensure that children in our school and members of the local community have a greater awareness and understanding of the country of China, its geography, history, culture, music and traditions through sharing activities and celebrating our knowledge and successes.

To this end, the school has been committed to developing Chinese teaching and has ensured that funds have been allocated to purchase resources, including a variety of Chinese instruments to support the delivery of Chinese teaching and learning.



Chinese wood blocks, Guzheng and Hulusi.

The range of activities which have taken place to date are now being extended to involve the whole school and the wider community. This will also benefit children's listening skills, awareness of the wider world beyond their immediate experiences, improved cultural awareness and, above all, enhance self-esteem and promote a love of languages and learning.



Chinese Calligraphy

Paper Cutting



The Chinese lessons include Mandarin speaking and writing, songs and rhymes, Chinese culture, music, art together with the history and geography of the country.

Specific festivals are celebrated throughout the year and these are shared with the wider community through a range of activities such as concerts, music festivals and exhibitions.

Celebration concert. children shared their Chinese work with their parents and families.



Children performing their Chinese songs at the Deeside Music Festival.



The importance and impact of Chinese teaching was recognised by Ofsted, stating that “Cultural development is outstanding. For example, during the inspection, Year 2 children celebrated the Chinese New Year by singing in Mandarin, making Chinese lanterns and playing Chinese musical instruments.”



Chinese lanterns and ribbon dancing.



It is not only in Mandarin that we are making significant developments – Greasby Infant School now offers Mandarin plus another modern foreign language (French or German) for all pupils as part of their creative curriculum. The School now employs an MFL specialist teacher to coordinate and develop its international dimension. Headteacher, Jo Hall, is firmly of the belief that “language learning has to begin at the earliest possible age and should be an entitlement for all children.”

To mark the developments in foreign language learning, the School is planning an “official” opening of their newly designated MFL centre in the New Year. A Chinese Arch is being commissioned (and made in house by the school caretaker!) for the opening ceremony. A great way to begin the Chinese New Year festivities and to celebrate the wonderful linguistic and cultural opportunities available for all our children at Greasby Infant School.