Mandarin Chinese overview for Semester two, 2014.

**Years Foundation, 1 & 2**

The topics covered for Year Foundation, 1 and 2 students in semester 2 include:

- Introduction of Chinese Pinyin System
- Names of family members
- Different food and Chinese songs

Cultural studies include the Duanwu or Dragon Boat Festival. The Duanwu or Dragon Boat Festival falls on the fifth day of the fifth month of the Chinese lunar calendar, which is celebrated to commemorate an ancient patriotic poet named Qu Yuan. For thousands of years, Duanwu has been marked by eating Zongzi and racing dragon boats. Zongzi is a kind of pyramid-shaped dumpling made of glutinous rice and wrapped in bamboo or reed leaves. Duanwu is also known as the Dragon Boat Festival, because dragon boat races are the most popular activity during the festival, especially in Southern China.

**Years 3 and 4**

This semester the students in Year 3 and 4 learn basic vocabulary for introducing family members using Mandarin Chinese. They revise numbers in Mandarin Chinese and will practice simple self-introductions. Students also participate in the recitation of rhymes and songs. They will also continue to learn the Chinese Pinyin System and participate in Chinese character writing.

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**Years 5 and 6**

The topics covered for Year 5 and 6 students in semester 2 include:

- Chinese Pinyin System
- Different family members
- Chinese songs
- Character writing practice
- Functional classroom language

Year 5 and 6 students also embark on a variety of online learning resources which use animations and interactive links to show how characters are constructed from basic components. Students can use it to explore character structure and see connections between character forms, sounds and meanings. The focus is on 'cracking the code' of the character-based writing system, not on teaching specific characters or words. These online resources help develop pre-literacy and early reading skills for Chinese through simple games. The focus is on active learning through analysis and interaction rather than simply memorisation.