

Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter – Autumn Terms 1 - 2017

'Groovy Greeks'

Much of our work this term will link with our topic studying Ancient Greece in order to really immerse the children. However, there are places now in the new curriculum where as a school we have decided the teaching will be more discreet to provide the best learning experience for the children. It is essential that by the end of year 4 children know their times tables; all 144 of them! We will practice regularly in school but your support at home is crucial. Knowing the times table fluently is a fundamental basis for the numeracy work they will undertake in the following years and underpin so many elements of numeracy. It would be amazing for as many of our children as possible to leave year 4 knowing all their times tables off by heart. There are some brilliant free resources online available to support this (see websites section below), as well as the good old traditional chanting or repetition methods!

Our expectations for home learning are set out below.

Overview

Greek Day – Monday 16th October – details to follow

Reading:

Please encourage your child to read regularly, **daily** if possible! This should be a balance of reading aloud and independently. We ask that you sign and/or comment in their reading record **at least 3 times a week** to support this- it does make a huge difference. Talking about the story, predicting what might come next and understanding the vocabulary is a very important part of the reading process, and your support is very much appreciated. The children have been encouraged to share their reading diaries for evidence of reading at home. Children can earn house points for reading 3 times a week with an adult.

Any parent volunteers to listen to readers would be very welcome! Books will be changed Monday, Wednesday and Friday so please ensure completed books are brought to school on these days (they should be in daily anyway).

Spelling:

Spelling lists and rules will be given out each Tuesday and tested on a Tuesday. Investigating rules in their reading books and from dictionaries helps to give the words a real life context.

Homework:

Homework will be given out on a Thursday and collected on a Thursday.

PE Kit

This should be in school EVERY day (if necessary washed across a weekend). It must consist of clothes and trainers suitable for indoor and outdoor lessons (we will aim to be outside come rain or shine). If your child has earrings please ensure suitable tape is in school at all times or they will need to be removed for the lesson.

Useful websites

<http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/Homework/greece/interactive.htm> - Great for children to research.
http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/ancient_greeks/ - children friendly site
<http://www.schoolsliaison.org.uk/kids/greecepot.htm> - Greek pot painting
<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/places/find/greece/> - Geographical information on Greece.
<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/7-11-years/times-tables> - and many more just google!

Books:

Usborne Interactive book on the Ancient Greeks.
Bishops Cleeve library has an excellent selection of books to support school topics.
Class reader – Charlotte's web

Science

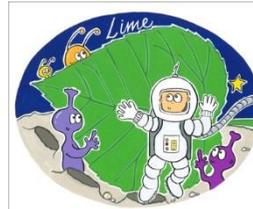
This term we will base our science around the question: 'Why is sound enjoyed by so many?'

The children will:

- identify how sounds are made, associating some of them with something vibrating
- recognise that vibrations from sounds travel through a medium to the ear
- find patterns between the pitch of a sound and features of the object that produced it
- find patterns between the volume of a sound and the strength of the vibrations that produced it
- recognise that sounds get fainter as the distance from the sound source increases



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Maths

In Year 4, we will build upon children's existing understanding of number and place value. Children will develop their mathematical understanding through reasoning and fluency in number. They will explore mathematical concepts pictorially and conceptually before embedding a deep abstract understanding.

The children will:

- Embed place value, with some children beginning to use decimal notation. Use this place value knowledge to help solve word problems.
- Understand numerical and pictorial sequences, extending them and completing missing parts.
- Be able to round numbers for their appropriate level.
- Learn how to compare number and use the greater than and less than and equal to symbols. ($<$ $>$ $=$)

Art/DT

Children will complete several art and DT activities as part of our topic. We will be making Greek pots from clay and looking and the repetition of Greek prints.

PE/Games

The children will have two hours of PE a week, with a focus on improving technique this term, starting with Hockey during outdoor Games, concentrating on passing and dribbling and moving towards match situations. Indoor PE will initially be Gymnastics building upon the skills learnt in in Year 3, moving on to Greek and Country dancing.

History

This will be a main topic focus this term whilst studying the Ancient Greeks.

The children will:

- Understand where the historical period of Ancient Greeks exists within a timeline and to use the terms BC and AD.
- Use various sources of evidence to try and work out what life would have been like in Ancient Greece and to research one of the key historical battles.
- Learn to question and interpret different sources of evidence to begin to consider reliability of these sources.

PSHE

This term we will be having weekly PSHE lessons, where we will focus on the unit 'New Beginnings'. We will be working to create a school community, with a strong emphasis on teamwork. Later in the term, we will look at self-awareness, feelings and how to express them, and knowing how to calm down and discussing strategies to help with this. There will be a KS2 assembly to reinforce the school's values (Belona. Aspire. Achieve) for each term.

English

Children will work on a spelling rule, punctuation and grammar (SPaG) focus each week.

We will continue to teach English using the whole school approach of 'Talk for Writing' in which we orally rehearse the stories we have read, create story maps to help us reproduce our own written versions of them and use this as a basis to invent our own stories.

We will begin with Monster poems and then a version of 'Hercules'. To finish we will invent a 'Teacher Pleaser'.

During our Literacy lessons, there will be many opportunities for speaking

RE

We will consider Judaism. Learning about Moses and the Ten Commandments, prayers and promises and an exploration of the symbols associated with this religion. The children will research the festivals associated with Judaism.

ICT

We will begin by ensuring the children understand how to use the internet safely and can competently use an internet search engine (like Google). We will progress into the new territory of computer programming using 'Scratch' to scaffold the children's learning.