

January 2019

Dear Parents,

This letter is to keep you informed about some of the work that the children will be doing during the Spring Term. The children have made a great start to this term already and they are an absolute pleasure to work with.

Creative Curriculum - What the Ancient Greeks did for us?

This Term our topic is 'What the Ancient Greeks did for us'. Within this theme the children will be learning about ancient and modern Greece through studying a range of different curriculum areas. Initially the children will study the geography of the country; this will include identifying the surrounding countries, neighbouring seas and oceans and making links to longitude and latitude bearings. The children will also have the opportunity to use ICT to research what Greece is like today and will then present their findings in small groups. The history and the legacy of the Olympic Games will also be explored through comparing the ancient games with the modern Olympic Games of today. As creative designers, we will be learning to use different artistic techniques and specifically chosen colours to create Greek pottery as well as developing Greek masks to convey emotion in a story. Throughout the theme, we will also be focusing on a range of well-known Greek myths and legends such as Hercules, King Midas and the story of Pandora's Box. There will also be many other Greek activities for the children to enjoy, including the chance to develop their musical talents through composing pieces of music for a Greek play. We hope that the children are as excited about the theme as we are! Be sure to ask them about the topic as it progresses!

English

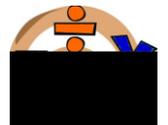
During this term, the children will continue to cover a range of different reading and writing genres whilst developing their understanding of grammar and punctuation. Initially the children will be reading, comparing and analysing a range of Greek myths and legends. This will give the children a good basis to be able to retell their own Greek tale. Following this, the children will have the opportunity to write for a different purpose and audience by constructing their own information text documenting 'Greece Today.' Later in the term, the children will study a well-known poet, comparing and critiquing their poems.



Throughout the spring term, the Year 6 children will also have extra revision opportunities built into English & mathematics lessons in readiness for the Statutory Assessment Tests (SATs) that all Year 6 children nationally will sit between Monday 13th May and Thursday 16th May. Before then, of course, we intend to give you further information about these tests and answer any questions or concerns that you may have. There will be a Year 6 SATs parents meeting on Thursday 24th January at 6pm until 7pm- talking through and explaining the Year 6 SATs process.

Mathematics

Throughout the term, the children will cover work including place value of numbers and in particular will develop a greater understanding of decimal numbers and be able to identify the value of different digits. They will learn more about fractions decimals and percentages as well as solving problems involving ratio and proportion. Underpinning this work will be a continued focus on developing and refining methods of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division using formal written methods.



The children will also continue to examine the properties of 2D and 3D shapes and develop vocabulary associated with these. In particular, children will learn about symmetry, measuring angles and finding the area & perimeter of shapes. Across all areas of maths, the children will have the opportunity to apply their understanding in investigations and through problem solving activities, often in real life situations.

Science

In Science this half-term we will be learning about Electricity and the Human Body.

In the Electricity unit, children will learn to represent circuits using symbols in diagrams, as well as learning about two of the most important scientific inventors in this field - Thomas Edison and Nikola Tesla. Children will get to develop their understanding of what electricity is and how to measure it and will be conducting their own investigations alongside making their own torch.



In the Human Body unit, children will build on their knowledge of different systems within the body. They will research the parts and functions of the circulatory system and will focus on how nutrients are transported around the human body. Children will also explore how a healthy lifestyle supports the body to function and how different types of drugs affect the body.

Religious Education - RE

In R.E children will start by learning about the beliefs of Christians and humanists, looking at the different codes that they use to live by and to be a 'good person.' Children will investigate these ideas further by using art to express religious ideas and architecture. They will also explore how people express their spiritual thoughts through art.

Physical Education - PE

In PE, we will have the opportunity to work with specialist coaches once a week. This term, activities will include outdoor team games and health and fitness, these will generally take place on **Mondays and Fridays**. To ensure that the children always have their kit for lessons, we suggest that they bring their appropriate kit to school on a Monday and take it home to be washed on a Friday. Can we remind you that children are required to wear a white t-shirt and dark coloured shorts or a track suit. Please ensure that children have an extra pair of socks in their PE bag. Earrings must be taken out or covered, and as in school, long hair must be tied back. If the weather is cold, they will also need appropriate footwear which must be different from the shoes that they wear for the remainder of the day. Can we please ask parents/carers to support this vital area of the curriculum by helping children to bring the correct changes of clothes to school for these sessions.

Personal, Social and Health Education - PSHE

Our Jigsaw themes this year are 'Goals and Dreams and 'Healthy Me'.

Children will be thinking about: personal and academic goals and targets; aspirations and dreams for the future; the importance of living a healthy and active lifestyle, and body image and personal health.



Homework - Year 6

This term, the children in year 6 will be receiving weekly homework in both Grammar and Maths. To this we will be providing every child in Year 6 with a clearly labelled English Grammar and Maths Revision later this half term. These books will be used both to support class work, and as homework activities so vital that they are brought into school regularly. When homework is set from these books, the pages the children will need to complete will be clearly indicated, along with the date that it needs to be completed by. Homework will be set on a Friday and the books must be handed in by the following Wednesday. If you find that your child is struggling with any of the activities, please do not hesitate to contact us.



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Year 6 will also be set weekly spellings to learn on a Friday. These will be tested on the following Thursday or Friday and are often linked to the KS2 word lists set by the government. A full copy of the word lists will be sent home again later this half term. Any opportunities to practise and look at these words, alongside consolidating knowledge of maths time's tables up to 12 x 12 would be very beneficial to your children. The termly POWer Project for theme will be handed out, but for Year 6 this is optional due to the additional homework set in grammar and maths.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Mr Thomas and Miss McCarthy

Years 6 Teachers