



3rd January 2023

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! I hope that you have had a restful winter break.

We have lots of exciting learning planned for the term:

Our big question this term is 'What did the Ancient Greeks do for us?'

**Class novel:** *The Jungle Book* by Rudyard Kipling.

**English:**

We will start off by using Maz Evans' '*Who Let the Gods Out?*' to explore mythology and time slip narratives. This will also link to our History topic this term of 'The Ancient Greeks'. We will focus on incorporating speech into our writing to advance action and develop character and ensure that we are punctuating our speech accurately. This unit will culminate in writing our own time slip narratives based on a time period or alternative/fictional world of the children's choice. In reading, we will develop our written answers, particularly focusing on inference using point and evidence. All pupils will continue to focus on the grammar skills needed to become better writers. We will embed reading skills and SPaG knowledge into our units. We will practise spellings daily and handwriting several times each week.

**Maths:** We will be continuing with our Fractions unit, where we will consolidate our understanding of the 4 operations by applying them to fractions before learning about fractions of amounts and solving problems with fractions. Following this, we will develop our understanding of fractions by exploring the connection between fractions, decimals and percentages. We will continue to do daily arithmetic practice using formal methods and frequent times table sessions to develop fluency and recall.

**Science:** In science, we will start with our unit of 'Animals including humans', where we will explore and observe the changes in human beings from birth to old age. We will compare life cycles of different animals and look for patterns in gestation periods. After this, we will move on to forces, where we will investigate gravity, air resistance, water resistance, and friction.

**PE:** This term, we will develop skills in badminton and dance. PE will take place on a Thursday afternoon.

**RE:** We will start by exploring Christianity through the question - 'How do people decide what to believe?'. This will allow us to develop our understanding of the Church. We will investigate the Apostle's Creed and identify key beliefs and values within the declaration. We will also use the Holy Trinity to explore diversity within Christianity and the importance of being respectful of difference. Following this, we will focus on Islam, where we will explore beliefs using the question 'Why is the Qur'an so important to Muslims?' to guide our learning.

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**Geography:** Our geography will be closely linked to our history this term. We will use the topic of Ancient Greece to develop our geographical skills, including the use of maps, atlases and globes. We will also develop our locational knowledge, particularly focusing on European countries.

**History:** This term, we will be learning about Ancient Greece, using the question 'What did the Ancient Greeks do for us?' to guide our enquiries. This topic will allow us to develop our understanding of democracy and we will also focus on the historical skill of identifying cause and consequence. We will start by analysing a range of sources to gain information about the Ancient Greeks before focusing on key aspects of Ancient Greek life, including leadership, architecture, and mythology, to help us compare life then to our lives today.

**French:** Our topic 'Qu'est-ce que tu portes?' will develop listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. We will use bi-lingual dictionaries to find the meaning of words and we will recap and extend our learning about adjectival agreement. At the end of the topic, the children will write a script for and perform their very own fashion show in French.

**Art:** In art, we will be linking our learning to our history by exploring architecture, including that of the Ancient Greeks. We will develop our skills in drawing and designing.

**DT:** In DT, we will start with a study of a famous fashion designer, linking to our learning in French. We will also explore the environmental and ethical issues linked to the fashion industry. Following this, our learning will be centred on 'structures'. We will use our architecture unit in art to help us understand the importance of aesthetics in design and to also apply our knowledge of forces within our science unit to ensure that our structures are fit for purpose.

**Computing:** We will start with exploring Vector drawing and creating digital images. We will also develop skills in 3D modelling, where we will plan, develop and evaluate 3D computer models of physical objects.

**Music:** In music, we will start with a unit focused around developing our understanding of 'Dynamics, Pitch and Texture'. We will appraise music based upon these three elements and identify why composers make certain choices in their compositions. We will then use this understanding to compose our own pieces and perform to the class. After this, we will explore the importance of music within religion, focusing on the Hindu festival 'Holi'.

**PSHE:** We will develop our understanding of living in the wider world through the exploration of the pros and cons of the internet. We will develop media literacy and digital resilience. We will also focus on economic well being, including how to look after money and the link between finances and mental health, linking to the current economic situation.

### **PE kit**

Please ensure that your child has their PE kit in school at all times.

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### **Outdoor learning**

We will be taking our learning outdoors often so it would be useful for your child to have a pair of wellies that can be kept in school at all times.

### **Snacks**

Children can buy toast at breaktime for 20p a slice. They can also bring in a piece of fruit from home.

### **Homework**

This term, we will be focusing on key skills in maths and English, both in class and for homework. We would be very grateful if you would support your child at home with the following:

**Daily reading** - All children should read a quality text of an appropriate level that they bring into school each day and take home each night, completing their reading record daily. We ask that everyone reads for a minimum of twenty minutes each day. Reading records will be checked daily and if not completed, children will be supported with their daily reading at the lunchtime reading club.

**Weekly spellings** - These will be set on Monday and tested each Friday. A spelling letter will be given out in the first week.

**Times tables** - These should be practised regularly at home; knowing these is crucial and the expectation of the national curriculum is that all children should know their times tables up to 12 x 12 by the end of Year 4. This means being able to recite times tables i.e. 0 times 5 is 0, 1 times 5 is 5, 2 times 5 is 10 etc. and knowing related division facts i.e. 0 divided by 5 is 0, 5 divided by 5 is 1, 10 divided by 5 is 2 etc. We will test times tables each Friday in school.

**Maths and Reading** - The children will be set a page of short questions from each book to complete for homework. This will be set on a Tuesday and is due in by Friday.

If you would like to speak to me about anything at all, please do not hesitate to contact me either by email, by phone or in person at the beginning or end of the school day.

Best wishes,

Miss Whinnett

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